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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfiwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable Maniok Thompson, Honourable John Todd.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

Oh, God, may your spirit and guidance be in us as we work for the benefit of all our people, for peace and justice in our land and for the constant recognition of the dignity and aspirations of those whom we serve. Amen.

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 124-13(5): Strategic Plan

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide Members with an update on the Department of Health and Social Services' strategic plan, Shaping Our Future: A Strategic Plan for Health and Wellness.

During the next few years, the people of the north face historic change. Shaping Our Future provides a framework for the governments of Nunavut and the Western Territory to develop effective and sustainable health and social services systems that will meet people's needs now and well into the next century.

This plan results from the department's strategic planning activities over the past 18 months. Creating the plan involved extensive consultations by boards and the department with the public, non-profit groups, associations and other departments. Shaping Our Future identifies the challenges to improving health and well-being. It provides a framework for making improvements to the delivery and management of services. Over the next few years when two new governments are developing, the plan will provide a focus on our most pressing health and social issues.

During our consultations, we heard from people across the north about what is important to them. We heard about their expectations and needs and about how we can improve the system. We also heard that we cannot wait to make changes to improve the health of our children, youth, families and communities. Mr. Speaker, we must address health and social issues today. Many people stressed the importance of fair and equal access to services. They want to take greater ownership of personal and community issues, supported by government.

The system must be managed so that basic health and social needs can always be met. The system must place the needs of individuals and families first. Mr. Speaker, services should be coordinated and integrated so people get the services they need when they need them.

Shaping Our Future is a commitment to make improvements where they are needed and to keep the things that are working well.

The plan focuses on three areas:

1. increasing partnerships between different agencies at all levels to provide better services;

2. involving all of the government in improving health and well-being by dealing with the underlying causes of health and social problems, such as

-low income and education,

-unemployment,

-poor lifestyle choices,

-addictions,

-abuse, violence and crime,

-inadequate housing and environmental pollution; and finally

3. improving the network of programs and services.

The plan will be distributed to MLA's, boards, departments and interested agencies over the next few weeks. A summary of the plan will be available to the public at their local health and social services office or from their board. The plan will also be posted to the department's world wide web.

We will, Mr. Speaker, collaborate with our partners to move this plan into action. Some work is just

beginning. For example, we are developing a Mental Health Strategy and a Health Promotion Strategy to address coordination and gaps in service delivery for these areas.

Other work is well underway. Health Suite and the Child Welfare Information System are two new information systems that will improve our management and use of the information we collect. These new systems will be installed once new computers are available in local and regional offices.

These activities highlight the department's commitment to improve health and well-being as well as our public system of programs and services. These activities show that we are prepared to act on the directions spelled out in our strategic plan.

The work that went into this plan and the work that continues will allow a stable start for the two new governments. In the

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future, we need to keep our commitment to the people by keeping health and social issues a government priority. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to working with the public and our partners to meet the needs of northerners with innovation, cooperation and collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will table a summary of Shaping Our Future: A Strategic Plan For Health And Wellness. For further information on the plan and related activities, I invite Members to visit the display set up in the Great Hall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 125-13(5): Joint NWTAM/MACA Municipal Finance Review

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise Members today of the progress that has been made on the Municipal Finance Review. This review is being done by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, in partnership with the NWT Association of Municipalities. Members may recall this was an initiative highlighted in MACA's 97-98 and 98-99 business plans.

Mr. Speaker, community governments have raised concerns with the current provisions of MACA's funding programs. The NWT Association of Municipalities also requested this review in a resolution at their 1996 Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday the NWT Association of Municipalities and MACA presented the first two public consultation documents to community governments at the association's annual general meeting in Hay River. I will be providing copies of these two documents to Members of this Assembly today. The first document is called the Municipal Finance Review portfolio. It is intended to be a consultation primer and provide stakeholders with a brief overview of the issues, components, possible outcomes and consultation schedule. The second document is called Part 2, Building Key Concepts. It discusses issues that are important for early consideration, before proposals to revise existing funding arrangements are fully developed. In September a third document called, Understanding the Funding Distribution Options, will present stakeholders with proposals for a new financial relationship with community governments. It will also include analysis of how these possible changes could affect the funding available to each community and their financial bottom line.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all Members to take the time to review these documents and discuss them with their constituents. Any comments, concerns or other feedback from Members would be very much appreciated. In addition to consultations with community governments, a number of other stakeholders will be consulted by MACA and the Association. These include band councils and Metis locals, the Office of the Interim Commissioner, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other First Nations organizations.

Mr. Speaker, consultation on the Municipal Financing Review will continue through to mid-December. Then the feedback and advice received will be combined. Final proposals will be developed for joint recommendation by the association and the department for presentation to the two new territorial governments on April 1, 1999. It will be up to the two new governments to decide when and how these recommendations might then be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 126-13(5): Memorandum of Understanding, Partners in Compliance Program

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise this Assembly that a number of productive discussions have recently taken place between my department and the Alberta Department of Transportation and Utilities. With the participation of the Regulatory Reform Secretariat and the Minister responsible for the Regulatory Reform Secretariat, the focus of these discussions has centred on the areas of regulatory harmonization and the reduction of barriers to trade for the motor carrier industry. The aim is to provide a seamless program between the two jurisdictions with the goal of increased highway safety, a smooth flow of goods across borders and ultimate cost benefits to our consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the first step toward harmonization with Alberta was taken on May 29, 1998 when Premier Don Morin signed a Memorandum of Understanding on my behalf for the Partners in Compliance Program. The Partners in Compliance Program started as a joint and innovative program between Alberta Transportation and Utilities and the Alberta Trucking Association in 1995. Under the program, transportation carriers, including truck and bus operators, commit to a high level of compliance and safety performance based on a system of benchmarks reporting and general monitoring.

Carriers who participate in this voluntary safety program are rewarded with a number of operational and administrative

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considerations, such as reduced random inspections and less paperwork, in return for their increased commitment to highway safety. Government benefits from greater regulatory compliance, improved highway safety and the ability to refocus enforcement efforts and resources on those carriers requiring greater attention.

Mr. Speaker, the signing of this agreement means greater cooperation between Alberta and the Northwest Territories, as this program expands to include the Government of the Northwest Territories and the NWT Motor Transport Association. It is seen

as the first step toward national and international participation in the Partners in Compliance program.

I am pleased at the cooperation shown between Alberta and the Northwest Territories and further, Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to implement a program aimed at improving motor carrier safety through the cooperation, trust and good judgement of responsible carriers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson

Minister's Statement 127-13(5): Sport North Annual General Meeting

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, on May 23rd and 24th the Sport North Federation held its Annual General Meeting in Yellowknife. Representatives from 32 territorial sport organizations, along with recreation leaders from across the Northwest Territories attended the meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the delegates made preparations for the future of Sport North. The delegates formed Nunavut and Western Caucuses. They discussed the future of Sport North for the Western Territory and the creation of Sport Nunavut for the Nunavut territory. The Western Caucus reviewed how Sport North is currently organized and considered recommendations for the future.

The Nunavut Caucus supported an interim constitution and bylaws, which form the working documents that will guide the creation of Sport Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut delegates elected an Interim board to work on incorporating the Sport Nunavut Federation as a society. The Interim board is expected to submit a draft Sport Nunavut proposal to the Interim Commissioner, to me and to the Nunavut Deputy Minister of Community Government, Housing and Transportation. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, Sport North will continue to represent the territories until the founding Sport Nunavut meeting is held. Sport North will also work with the Interim board to ensure a smooth transition between the two sport organizations. Through the combined efforts of Sport North, the territorial sport organizations, community

governments and MACA, more northerners are benefiting from sport programs than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, this will be an exciting year for all partners involved in sport across the territories. The challenge today is to continue the development of sport programs for our children and youth at the grassroots level, while preparing and planning for the future. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will continue its support by providing healthy lifestyle choices and recreation activities to all northern residents. We are committed to:

-providing the necessary sport and recreation facilities to communities,

-fostering the development of sport and recreation programs throughout the territories,

-assisting Sport North in carrying out its mandate, and

-helping to make Sport Nunavut a reality.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 494-13(5): Improvements Needed to Workers' Compensation Legislation

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about the Workers' Compensation Board. The NWT is the only jurisdiction where the Workers' Compensation Board can sue on behalf of a third party. That is not possible in any of the other provinces, to my understanding. For example, in Igloolik recently, the Workers' Compensation Board investigated a construction accident under the NWT Safety Act and then laid a complaint to courts under the same act. Subsequently, the company was fined \$60,000. Employers pay the Workers' Compensation Board dues on behalf of the workers, but if a company is hit with a third party liability, then that company is going to start buying third party liability insurance, and the costs will be passed on to the general public in the Northwest Territories. In other words, costs will escalate for construction and so forth, but for the company and its employees, it is a game of double jeopardy, Mr. Speaker. On the one hand, they help

pay the assessments, but in the event of an accident, the company and its individuals will, in all likelihood, have to be superassessed for several years to recover the money that was paid out. Also now, Workers' Compensation Board turns around and sues the same company or individuals as a third party. In other words, the company and individuals are penalized both ways. I understand also, Mr. Speaker, that in the event that there are dollars recovered, it goes into the general fund of the Workers' Compensation Board and not to the individuals. Mr. Speaker, I have to leave the House for a period of time, but if I return in time during item 7, written questions, I will be presenting written questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 495-13(5): Concerns with the State of the Collective Bargaining Process

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MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned with the current state of negotiations with the UNW on the new contract. I question the government's insistence on tying the pay equity issue to the collective bargaining process. Mr. Speaker, if, as the government insists, the signing of a collective agreement without dealing with the pay equity issue leaves the government in a precarious legal quandary, how were the last four or five collective agreements signed off by this and other governments?

I understand, Mr. Speaker, the fiscal reality that is driving the Minister of Finance to push for the acceptance of the combined settlement. It is, as he said, Mr. Speaker, an affordable northern-made solution to the pay equity dispute, but I can also appreciate, Mr. Speaker, the UNW's hesitation to sign off on a pay equity methodology that they have serious reservations about. It appears, Mr. Speaker, that both sides in the dispute are unwilling to compromise. However, Mr. Speaker, I believe that if the pay equity issue is separated, we could at least move on the collective bargaining, which is, as I understand, close to being completed.

The union must keep in mind that the days of unlimited government funding are over, and the pay equity dispute must be settled at a reasonable cost. The services this government provides to the public cannot be compromised any further than they already are. The union would garner little public support or sympathy should a settlement be imposed on the government by the proposed tribunal and government services have to be cut back as a result. There is no benefit to union members if the settlement of pay equity dispute results in cutbacks to the quality of education and health care that they and their families receive.

Mr. Speaker, the Finance Minister has a job to do, to resolve the pay equity issue with the best interests of the constituents that we represent kept in mind. The union executive also has a very understandable job to do, protecting the interests of their membership that they represent. There is no doubt in my mind that the strategic position of the Finance Minister to tie pay equity to the collective bargaining process was predetermined to get the pay equity deal done.

I believe that the \$40 million, however, that is on the table is sufficient to resolve the dispute. The union might not believe that the money is correctly apportioned to deal with the pay equity dispute, but they should at least be willing, Mr. Speaker, to work with this government to resolve this issue. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Hay River is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Do we have any nays? Mrs. Groenewegen, you have unanimous consent.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, both sides must move. The union must be willing to at least look at the proposed Hay Job Evaluation System, and the government must be willing to attempt to address the concerns that the union has with the government's proposed solution to the pay equity dilemma. Failing that, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I think the government should show good faith and separate the pay equity issue from the collective bargaining process and, if necessary, go to an independent binding arbitrator. If the Minister is confident that the \$40 million is a fair and equitable

solution to the pay equity problem, then he should have no problems with this.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is simple. We have to get this pay equity issue off our plates before division complicates this matter even further. We have to broker a solution that is affordable to the government and fair to union members without impacting on the already stretched services that this government provides to the general public. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the union and the government to get back to the table, so we can all get to work on improving the lives of the residents of both of our future new territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 496-13(5): Mackenzie Delta Tourism Promotion

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of tourism, in particular, in the Mackenzie Delta. As you may all be aware, Fort McPherson is the first community that is seen after travelling the Dempster Highway and the Yukon by tourists. The residents of Fort McPherson feel that they act as ambassadors for the rest of the Northwest Territories due to the impression that is left with tourists once they arrive. Mr. Speaker, I feel this matter has to receive the attention of this government, so that we do promote tourism, especially in the Mackenzie Delta region and when it comes to being ambassadors for the rest of the territories.

Mr. Speaker, the Mackenzie Delta seems to pale in regard to the amount of money that is being spent, especially from the Yukon government when it comes to tourism. In regard to our neighbours in the west, the Yukon spends in the range of \$30 million on tourism a year and yet we are lagging when it comes to hosting people from other territories and other parts of the world. Mr. Speaker, the people in the Mackenzie Delta feel that an initiative such as hosting individuals through programs such as the Northern Most Host Workshops, additional tourism training dollars and initiatives to improve how to deal with tourists and how to access tourism dollars to assist in developing the tourism industry for the Mackenzie Delta.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I would like to ask this government if they cannot access more dollars for such an important initiative and look at the long term viability of this business and develop the appropriate infrastructure that is going to be needed to develop such an important industry. Mr. Speaker, I, for one, feel that this initiative is important enough that the Mackenzie Delta should receive its own tourism planning officer to work for the three Mackenzie Delta communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 497-13(5): Recognition of Inuvik Teacher, Rosie Albert

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize the dedication of one of Inuvik's finest teachers, Mrs. Rosie Albert. Mrs. Albert began employment as an Inuvialuktun instructor at Sir Alexander Mackenzie School on January 7, 1985. She teaches Inuvialuktun to the grades one to six classes at SAMS. For the Inuvialuktun Program, she made all her own class materials and did her own resource development until 1996, when publication on the Inuqatigiit was finished.

In addition to teaching the Inuvialuktun language to her students, she also teaches them other skills such as how to make muqbarak (which is Inuvialuktun for bannock) and beading. Mrs. Albert's muqbarak is famous in the Delta as everyone loves her delicious bannock. Many of her students have gone home with her bannock and beadwork and to proudly show their parents their own work.

Mrs. Albert and Mrs. Bella Kay also host a feast for their students and parents at Christmas time. When asked, her coworkers had this to say about Mrs. Albert: Rosie is always there for anyone who wants to learn Inuvialuktun. She does not laugh at you when you make a mistake. She loves teaching the students and has a lot of patience. Despite her arthritis, Mrs. Albert walks to and from school every day without complaint.

Mrs. Albert is famous for her many hilarious stories about the delta from long ago. She also has helped

some adults in Inuvik to keep current on language because, as one person says, "Rosie refuses to speak to me in English because she knows I understand Inuvialuktun, so when she speaks to me, it is never in English."

Mrs. Albert has shown incredible dedication to her work by not only developing her own materials and resource development but by teaching her students other skills as well. She has shown a strong commitment to the preservation and promotion of the Inuvialuktun language.

Mrs. Albert will be retiring from her position as Inuvialuktun instructor at the school. Her last day will be June 26, 1998. Her funny stories, her famous muqbarak and her ready smiles will be missed by all at the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, most notably, the students she has taught to take pride in their language and culture. I would like to thank Mrs. Albert for all the hard work she has done for the students, the parents and for the school. I wish her a happy retirement. You deserve it, Mrs. Albert. Quyanini.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 498-13(5): Decision to Establish the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to rise and speak briefly on the decision to strike a Boundaries Commission and the debate that took place in this House yesterday. It was a very interesting debate, and it was a lesson relearned for me of the fluid nature of the politics of this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the firm ground I thought I was standing on turned out to be a piece of melting ice that disappeared under me faster than food in the Members' lounge. I now have a better understanding of how the Captain of the Titanic felt after he clipped that iceberg. Very clearly, this is an important debate, and a significant decision has been made in this House, which I accept and support. I would encourage people of the western Northwest Territories to take full advantage of the opportunity to appear before the commission when it appears in your community to make your views known on the type of government, and concerns you may have in

regard to government and suggestions for any improvements. I will also look forward to having this motion passed in the House tomorrow that will allow us to initiative the commission so that it may get on with the important duties it has before it in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement 499-13(5): Inuvialuit Submission on Proposed Park Boundaries

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling the submission by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Paulatuk Community Corporation and the Inuvialuit Game Council to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage as part of its review of Bill C-38, a bill to establish the Tuktot Nogait National Park. As Members will recall, in February of this year the various Inuvialuit organizations requested a review of the boundaries of the proposed park to take into consideration new mineral information arising from an aeromagnetic survey flown last fall. The Government of the Northwest Territories agreed to that request, making five of the six signatories willing to consider a change.

The possibility for a review was foreseen under Section 22.1 of the Park Agreement which allows any party to request that the other parties to the agreement review any matter. Unfortunately, the federal government did not see fit to accept this request. In fact, what Ottawa did was to speed up consideration of this bill even though no legislation has been forthcoming to create the Aulavik National Park on Bank's Island, a park which was agreed to several years before the Tuktot Nogait Park agreement was signed.

As the submission covers all the necessary points, I will not repeat them today. However, I do believe one issue of importance to all northerners must be underlined. That is the matter of one set of rules for land and parks south of the 60 and a different set north of the 60. As Members may be aware, Parks Canada just approved a large increase in the number of visitors and hotel facilities permitted in Banff National Park. In effect, this has just shrunk the size of that park significantly. I wonder if the Inuvialuit had

Canadian Pacific Hotels as a partner and their land was located closer to Banff and Lake

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Louise, would the decision on their request be any different? Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Nunakput is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? Mr. Steen, you have unanimous consent.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, honourable Members. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would urge all Members and all concerned northerners to read the material carefully which will be tabled as it contains important lessons for the economy of the north and the lack of respect for aboriginal land claims settlements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 500-13(5): Northern Lights as a Tourist Attraction

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on my colleague, Mr. Krutko's statement today on tourism, I would like to share with you a news article that was printed in The Weekly Telegraph, which is a paper published in London, England. The article, in their May 14th issue, found under their international news section was entitled, "Chasing the Canadian Light Show of Love" and was written by Robert Uhlig of Yellowknife.

I would like to read this brief article, Mr. Speaker.

The northern lights season is ending in Yellowknife, Canada, the self-proclaimed aurora borealis capital of the world, ending the annual pilgrimage of thousands of Japanese honeymooners who hope their marriages will be blessed under the celestial light show. As summer approaches, a last consignment of Japanese tourists has flown in to view the aurora before the nightly display ends. Since Christmas, 40,000 have

arrived in Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories, 350 miles south of the Arctic Circle. Each night they travel 30 miles to search the sky for the astronomical phenomenon that used to occur over northern Japan. Japanese tradition says a child conceived under its glow will have good fortune. However, over the past 40 years the magnetic North Pole has moved northwards and the lights are no longer seen over Japan. Newlyweds wishing to continue the tradition, fly to Canada. The aurora occurs when the earth's magnetic field interacts with solar wind, particles coming from the sun.

Mr. Speaker, it is nice to learn we are worthy of such international attention, especially when it is positive and promotes the North. Tourism is important to the North and I would like to thank Mr. Uhlig for writing this article and for The Weekly Telegraph for this free advertising. I hope we can attract even more tourists next year than the 40,000 who have come our way this past winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statement. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 501-13(5): Recognition of Iqaluit Pages

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Pages who have been with us all week. Tiena Rose will be obtaining her grade 11 next fall in Bolivia. Tiena is also the student council vice-president of Inukshuk High School in Iqaluit and has been eyeing your Speaker's chair.

Charlotte Kusugak is a relatively newcomer to Iqaluit via Rankin Inlet. On her way over to Yellowknife, half of Rankin's population turned out at the airport to say, hi to her.

Meghan McKenna is a very quick study. She was able to do an on-the-spot evaluation of the Members at a moment's notice. She would make an excellent clerk. Watch out Mr. Hamilton, perhaps I should say, John Quirke.

Heather McGregor is a very strong soccer player and her presence will be missed next year by Inukshuk High School because Meghan will be going south to further her studies.

Allison McKury is one of the few Pages who has the love of her uniform. She will also be attending school in the south next year.

Jonathan Levy says he would never involve himself in politics because he would not be able to stay awake long enough. Perhaps he is trying to tell us something.

Kipinik Eegeesiak, better known as Kip, is another page who has trouble staying awake. On the first day in the visitor's gallery with the sun beaming down, he had an afternoon nap. Way to go, Kip.

Mr. Speaker, the Page Program is an excellent opportunity to allow our young people an excellent view of politics. I would like to thank all the billets in Yellowknife and Legislative Assembly staff, Canadian Airlines, again, for giving me a good rate to bring all the Pages from Iqaluit and the Sergeant-at-Arms and Eliza Kingdon, who is in the gallery and again has taken on the job of chaperon for the Pages, and to you, Mr. Speaker, for the continuing good work and, hopefully, for hosting a lunch for us tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 502-13(5): Concerns With the Collective Bargaining Process

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MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the issue of the bad state of affairs between the UNW and this government. In reviewing the final proposed settlement brought forward by our government, I feel it is more than fair and equitable, so hopefully, progress can be made on it. The UNW is taking a strong stance on the issue of pay equity and rightfully so. However, they seem not to be too interested in what their membership is saying. I have talked to number of staff members in my riding and am happy to say, most are pleased with the offer and I hope the union will listen to its membership. As I have stated previously, in this day and age of tight budget restraints and cutbacks, we must all cooperate to ensure our staff and membership is the main party that wins in the end. Our staff is, our most important asset. They should have this contract negotiation

settled, so life can go on and everyone can concentrate on the other just as important issues that are currently at hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 503-13(5): Ending of the NHL Hockey Season

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make an emergency statement on behalf of a significant proportion of my constituents. Mr. Speaker, there is a little less than a month left in the NHL Hockey season and I am worried about the potential ramifications for the people of the territories who cannot face the week without their Saturday night fix. One positive thing is, at least with the elimination of all of the Canadian teams, there will be no threat of an NHL players' strike this year.

On a sad note, Mr. Speaker, it has been five years since a Canadian team won the Stanley Cup, which believe it or not began its life as the emblem of Hockey supremacy in Canada. Of course, the lack of Canadian teams left in the hunt for Lord Stanley's Cup has actually saved the lives of a few Fox Network Sports Executives. If there were three Canadian teams left, I am sure that there might be a few very nervous Network Executives wanting to fall onto their swords, so to speak.

I am brave enough to ask the question, Mr. Speaker, can adequate Constitutional debate continue in this country without Don Cherry having his Saturday night soapbox? I am sure that there are a few members of the Quebec National Assembly who are convinced that the stiff collars Mr. Cherry wears have cut off the circulation to this brain.

Mr. Speaker, I also envision that there are Reform Party members who have adopted Don Cherry as the poster child for the politically challenged. Personally, I think, Mr. Speaker, the new beard that Mr. Cherry is sporting makes him look like a slightly demented version of KFC's Colonel and that the only reason he wears the collars is to hide his red neck. In any event, Mr. Speaker, this Member's statement is starting to make about as much sense as a back-checking Swede or Don Cherry, getting a fleur-de-lis

tattoo. I will end on a serious note. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for High Arctic is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? Mr. Barnabas, you have unanimous consent.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues, for allowing me to conclude my statement. The hockey playoffs in Canada have always been a time to get together with your friends, have a little party and cheer on your favourite team. If you are going to drink, please leave your vehicle at home, walk or take a cab. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question 542-13(5): Termination Benefits for Laidoff Employees

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by the honourable Member, Jake Ootes on May 26th on the termination benefits for laidoff employees.

During the period when the Government of the Northwest Territories was restructuring, an employee in the Personnel Secretariat, Department of the Executive was designated and tasked with overseeing the administration of termination benefits of laidoff employees. The central specialist was in this position for the time that the government was undergoing major downsizing in the number of staff.

In September of 1997, individual departments assumed full responsibility for all aspects of layoff administration. The Personnel Secretariat was available to provide advice and assistance during the transition to ensure consistency across departments, revised guidelines and procedures for layoffs have been implemented. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I would like to remind the Members when they are addressing other Members that they do not use their first name. It is either Mr. Ootes or the Member for Yellowknife Centre. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I have the pleasure of recognizing my mother-in-law and father-in-law. They have five children. Their second is my wonderful husband. They also have 19 grandchildren and grandchild number three is graduating from St. Patrick's High School on Friday. They are here for Jordan's graduation. I also would like to recognize my two lovely sisters in the gallery today, Joanne and Janet. Thank you.

--Applause

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MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to recognize my CA in Yellowknife, Ms. Atsinak Bishop. She is also a lay leader at Holy Trinity Church here in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to also welcome to the gallery, Janet Ostler. I thank Janet for her tips on successful yard sale bargain hunting in Yellowknife. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Pat Thomas and all the other people who have not been recognized at this time. Welcome to the Assembly.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 621-13(5): Request to Slow Legislative Progress of Bill C-38

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is in relation to my Member's statement on the Tuktut Nogait National Park. For whatever reason, the federal government feels compelled to rush Bill C-38, through legislative procedures. My question is directed to the Premier, in the interest of fairness, would he consider requesting the Government of Canada to slow down consideration of Bill C-38, sufficiently for a thorough review of the area in question to be undertaken as was foreseen in section 22.1 of the agreement by the Inuvialuit, Canada and the GNWT?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 621-13(5): Request to Slow Legislative Progress of Bill C-38

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Renewable Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is ill today. He is not available to answer this question, so I will try my best. Our government is on record as in support of the Inuvialuit people to review that park and the boundaries in the Inuvialuit land claim area. Our government is on record that we ask the federal government to reconsider the moving ahead with this bill until they look at reviewing the park with the Inuvialuit people and our government as well. I am on record as the Premier of the Northwest

Territories, who represents the Northwest Territories people as saying, let northerners decide what happens in the north. I will be pleased to forward the Member's arguments to the federal government requesting them to slow down on the bill which affects this park and once again, listen to what northerners have to say. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 621-13(5): Request to Slow Legislative Progress of Bill C-38

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Inuvialuit people in my riding, I wish to thank the Premier and Cabinet, in general, for the support they have shown on this particular situation. As I have stated earlier, for whatever reason, the federal government feels compelled to rush this bill through the House. It may require, at this point in time, a fairly urgent call from the Premier to the federal government in the very near future, to have an effect before the bill is actually passed. I request again, would the Premier consider doing it in the next few days?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 621-13(5): Request to Slow Legislative Progress of Bill C-38

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, the government is very quick in responding to the majority of the concerns raised in this Assembly. As Members know, we do have very effective and efficient staff in our offices upstairs watching these procedures, so through those processes I will request my staff immediately to contact the Department of Renewable Resources and Economic Development to pen a letter immediately for my signature to the federal government, so that within an hour or two I can fax it off. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 622-13(5): Ardicom Digital Network Contract

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of FMBS in relation to the Ardicom contract and the digital network. I am getting continuing concerns from the local Internet service provider in Fort Smith on this particular contract and the fact that Ardicom is not meeting its deadlines and they are running in direct competition to local service providers. They are downgrading the services that were initially supposed to be part of the contract. The government has not, in fact, followed up on the situations and concerns arising from the meetings this winter that were held with the local service providers. Could the Minister indicate, at this point in time, what is the status of the Ardicom contract and the digital network in terms of having the deal signed and them complying with the terms and conditions? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

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Return To Question 622-13(5): Ardicom Digital Network Contract

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be fair to say, there has been a continued concern expressed, not only by some of the community-based providers of communications, but also others within the constituency at large. My staff has had numerous meetings with NorthwesTel and impressed upon them the need for them to move aggressively and meet the deadlines that we have set. If my memory serves me correct, the deadline I had said at the time was we would have this whole system up and running in the majority of the communities by April 1, 1999. Certainly, that was the intent. I do not have before me an up-to-date record to provide my colleague as to where we have successfully or unsuccessfully concluded the digital communication network system, but certainly the intention is and the direction I have given to my department is to put the right kind of pressure and to work in coordination with NorthwesTel to achieve that overall goal of having this communication system up and running by April 1,

1999, in all communities within the territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 622-13(5): Ardicom Digital Network Contract

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In addition to the missed deadlines, there is the issue of Ardicom, in fact, downgrading from fibre optic cables to the existing telephone systems and copper lines and running in direct competition to local service providers contrary to the indication that was given earlier on when this whole project and contract was initiated. Could the Minister, in fact, speak to those concerns? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 622-13(5): Ardicom Digital Network Contract

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of where that is occurring, but if it is, I think I can probably say I would be disappointed. I do not want to prejudge whether, in fact, that is happening. All I can tell you is that I fundamentally believe a year, a year and a half ago that we would be the anchor tenant, in respect to this communication system and that we would get it up and running. If ever there was a place that the advanced state of the art digital communication system would work, it would be in a country like this. I will check with my staff and see what the status is and if there has been any attempt to downgrade or to give us any less than what we requested, then I will take the appropriate course of action to correct that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 622-13(5): Ardicom Digital Network Contract

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the fundamental issues arising out of this contract is through the back door, the government, NorthwesTel and Ardicom consortiums are, in fact, being given a monopoly and the use of government money to go into communities and undercut local businesses, which I do not think was anybody's intent. Could the Minister also undertake to have his officials look at that very serious consideration? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 622-13(5): Ardicom Digital Network Contract

HON. JOHN TODD:

I know in the previous discussions that were brought to my honourable colleague and my colleague from Inuvik as well, there was some concern about the impact of this overall digital communication network. There was some concern how it would impact upon the local Internet service providers. Again, I would hope that in the discussions that were undertaken with my department's officials and the community providers that we had reached some accommodation here that would not impact on their services. I will have to be brought up-to-date on this issue to determine if, in fact, there is validity to my colleague's question and if there is, I will take the appropriate action necessary to correct it. I will also look into some of the concerns he has expressed with respect to the technology because if we are getting any less than what we have asked for, you have my assurances corrective action will be taken. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 622-13(5): Ardicom Digital Network Contract

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that response. Could he also add to his list the fact that apparently there was no follow-up from the initially very fruitful gathering of the service providers, Ardicom and government people in Yellowknife, though it was promised? I have forwarded a detailed letter of the concerns to the Minister as of today. Could the Minister commit to

responding to me in as timely a fashion as he could to the itemized concerns in that letter when he has an opportunity to review it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 622-13(5): Ardicom Digital Network Contract

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will make every effort to do that. I would again, suggest, I am not up-to-date on this file as of today. I will look into it. There were supposed to be ongoing discussions that were to take place. Now, in any debate, of course, you never satisfy all of the people all of the time. Sometimes, hopefully, you satisfy some of the people, some of the time. It may be a situation like that. As we speak, Mr. Speaker, I am sending a note to my office to get a full briefing tomorrow morning. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 623-13(5): Support for Mackenzie Delta Tourism

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier regarding my Member's statement on the ability of communities to take on more responsibility in regard to tourism and looking at developing tourism plans and the tourism infrastructure in the communities. Mr. Speaker, regarding my Member's statement, I mentioned the amount of money that is spent in the Yukon for tourism, but in the Northwest Territories, especially in the Mackenzie Delta, we seem to be lacking in the amount of resources that is acceptable for the communities that I represent. I would like to ask the Premier through the Community Empowerment Initiatives of this government and also looking at the possibility of accessing funds from this government, to develop a position for the Mackenzie Delta communities to promote and develop tourism business plans and look at the long term capital for the three communities so we can develop the tourism industry in the Mackenzie Delta. Is that a possibility? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 623-13(5): Support for Mackenzie Delta Tourism

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that there are groups in the western Arctic working with the Arctic Tourism Association or something similar to that. I do not understand the local level of tourism and how it works, where the funding comes from, but I will be pleased to take that question as notice and I will have the Minister respond to the Member directly as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 624-13(5): Lump Sum Payments for Seniors

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Charles Dent. I understand by combining payments to seniors that there will be a lump sum payment for the seniors. In the smaller communities, most of the seniors do not have bank accounts and I understand that the lump sum payment will be directly deposited into their accounts. How is the Minister going to pay the people who do not have a bank account in the smaller communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 624-13(5): Lump Sum Payments for Seniors

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is understanding that in the smaller communities a combined cheque would go out, intended to provide direct deposit in those communities where available. Combined cheques will be an option so that the seniors will be able to receive a cheque which combines the benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 624-13(5): Lump Sum Payments for Seniors

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, why is there a lump sum payment to these seniors in the small communities? Because in small communities, a lump sum payment is not acceptable. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister make weekly payments to these seniors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 624-13(5): Lump Sum Payments for Seniors

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now seniors have to wait for two separate cheques. They have to wait for old age security and the senior citizens' supplementary benefit. One benefit is a federal benefit. The other is a territorial government benefit. Today, both governments are sending out cheques on a monthly basis. One reason for combining the cheques is to reduce the stress on those seniors who would wonder when the second cheque was going to show up. Both payments would show up at the same time, if they choose a combined cheque. If they choose direct deposit, they would appear in their bank account on the same day every month. Another reason, Mr. Speaker, is that we would save a considerable amount of money on postage, envelopes and handling. Instead of sending out two cheques to each recipient, we would only have to send out one. Obviously, the more we can keep down the costs of administration, the more money we have to put into other programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 624-13(5): Lump Sum Payments for Seniors

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do have a concern on lump sum payments. Mr. Speaker, the lump sum payment is going to be a one time payment only to the seniors. Why not divide it into weekly payments because they are going to get one whole pay cheque? Why not divide it so that seniors will get cheques every week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Further Return To Question 624-13(5): Lump Sum Payments for Seniors

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are delivering one cheque per month right now. We cannot afford to deliver four cheques each month. It would be too expensive. The extra cost would have to be taken from other programs in order to pay for the increased administration costs. Right now, seniors are receiving two cheques. Sometimes they arrive on the same day, so they get the same amount of money. What we are offering to do is to put the cheques together. By

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the way, Mr. Speaker, we consulted with seniors across the north, and while some did express some of the concerns the Member has raised in this House, an overwhelming majority supported the idea of having their cheques combined and seeing one cheque combining both the territorial and federal benefits. Mr. Speaker, we are following the wishes of the large majority of seniors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 625-13(5): Discussions Regarding Nunavut Civil Servants

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in response to a written question I had asked on an update of the UNW negotiations to date between the UNW, the OIC and the GNWT and the status of the employees after division. I did not have a strong level of comfort from the response. I am wondering if the Minister could update this House on the current situation regarding the negotiations that have gone on between these three parties on the employees in Nunavut after division. My question would be for the Minister of FMBS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 625-13(5): Discussions
Regarding Nunavut Civil Servants

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if my honourable colleague could clarify. Is he talking in relation to the current collective agreement and how we are going to bridge that after April 1, 1999 just so I can give him the clarity he has requested?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Picco, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 625-13(5): Discussions
Regarding Nunavut Civil Servants

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Minister is correct. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 625-13(5): Discussions
Regarding Nunavut Civil Servants

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, of course, we have to get through the first situation we have and that is to try to get the current collective agreement approved by the membership. I have said, I am sure to the point where all of you are perhaps tired of hearing, that I am hoping it will go to the membership and I am confident the membership will give it the kind of vote that is necessary. My understanding of the situation is that whatever collective agreement is in place at the time is transferrable over to the new Nunavut government and that the conditions, et cetera, will stay the same until such time as the collective agreement expires and a new collective agreement is negotiated by a new government, a new finance minister and a new minister responsible for the FMBS. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 625-13(5): Discussions
Regarding Nunavut Civil Servants

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the UNW has requested to participate by conference call on this matter between the parties, the OIC, the UNW and the GNWT. I am wondering if that conference call has actually taken place yet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 625-13(5): Discussions
Regarding Nunavut Civil Servants

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am not aware whether a conference call has taken place or not, Mr. Speaker, but I can assure my colleague that all parties, particularly the UNW, who has got a responsibility, an obligation, to represent the interests of the unionized members, or the civil service, will be intimately involved, as will the management team, as will the Interim Commissioner's office. It is certainly our desire to bring all parties to the table, if you want, to reach whatever steps are necessary to bridge the collective agreement so that, hopefully, will be in place now and bridge to the new government on April 1, 1999. I am fairly confident, Mr. Speaker, that will occur.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 625-13(5): Discussions
Regarding Nunavut Civil Servants

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the concern from the UNW and the employees themselves has been their status after March 31, 1999, and the collective agreement is one part of that. I am wondering if the Minister of the FMBS can give assurance or a level of comfort to our employees who are currently working for the GNWT that, indeed, they will still be in place after March 31, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Can I ask the Member to rephrase his question, please?

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the collective agreement, hopefully, that will be signed over the next few months, will give some assurance that the members of the bargaining unit and the employees working for the Government of the Northwest Territories would be covered under that collective agreement. I guess the concern is, within that collective agreement, is there any assurance that the Minister can give that those employees working today for the GNWT will be working for the new Nunavut government after April 1, 1999? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 625-13(5): Discussions Regarding Nunavut Civil Servants

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HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is an old question that we have answered a number of times. The answer is yes, all employees who are currently under the collective agreement, and are not under the collective agreement, who are working in Nunavut on April 1, 1999, will be transferred to the new Nunavut government, period.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 626-13(5): GNWT Position on Gender Neutrality Issue

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Chairman of the Financial Management Board. Mr. Speaker, the UNW has said that it will be able to put the GNWT offer out to its membership when it is satisfied that the job evaluation system is gender neutral. It also says that it would be satisfied of this if the issue was put to a three-person panel of experts with the GNWT choosing one representative and the UNW choosing another representative. The Minister has made it clear that he does not intend to meet the

UNW's request. The Minister has said it is too late because the UNW has already conceded, in collective bargaining, that the system is gender neutral. My question for the Minister is, whether or not there have been any concessions so far, what does the Minister believe the government stands to lose if he agreed to put the job evaluation system before a panel of experts, as the UNW has suggested?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 626-13(5): GNWT Position on Gender Neutrality Issue

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not think it is a question of what anybody has got to lose. I think it is a question of people's rights. The management team has a right to put in place a job evaluation. That is our right. A job evaluation system, we think is fair and we think responds to the needs of our membership. We have done that, and I say categorically today, in the bargaining unit, they agreed that the Hay Plan was gender neutral. They are not denying that. I did not see any press release this morning saying they were denying that. I see no need to go to a third party to determine if it is gender neutral if both parties have agreed it is gender neutral. What I see a need for is both parties to work through some of the problems that may be within the Hay Plan Evaluation. I see no need to move forward in that respect. We gave the UNW every opportunity, every opportunity to participate in this Hay Plan Evaluation System. They agreed to do that at one point by sending a memorandum. For whatever reasons, and I do not question them, they chose then not to participate. I see no point in going to a third party at this time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 626-13(5): GNWT Position on Gender Neutrality Issue

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the UNW has not indicated that the Hay system is not gender neutral, but the way it is being proposed to be implemented here is not gender neutral. Be that as it may, would the Minister not agree that the important issue is not whether the UNW has already conceded that the Hay

system is gender neutral, but that the more important issue is that this matter be resolved as quickly as possible?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 626-13(5): GNWT
Position on Gender Neutrality Issue

HON. JOHN TODD:

I could not agree more, Mr. Speaker, that we need to move quickly to resolve it. That is why I have consistently said, let the people decide. Let them go through the democratic process of a vote for this collective agreement and this pay equity issue that has been long outstanding. At the end of the day, that is where we should be heading. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 626-13(5): GNWT
Position on Gender Neutrality Issue

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on May 12th, the Canadian Human Rights Act, was amended. I have had a look at the amendments. I believe this means that this issue will be going to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal which could take up to a year with its workload and with the UNW's proposal, I believe, it would take about two weeks to conclude as both parties would have 20 hours of representation being made. In this light, it seems as though the UNW's tribunal would be over in two weeks. Is it not more preferable to do it through the UNW's suggestion rather than the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 626-13(5): GNWT
Position on Gender Neutrality Issue

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but my position is clear. I believe that we have an agreement that the Hay Plan

Evaluation is gender neutral. What we have are some problems within it, where two parties should work it out. I am sorry I cannot respond in a positive way for my honourable colleague. My position stands at this time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 626-13(5): GNWT
Position on Gender Neutrality Issue

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Finance Minister agree that it is preferable to conclude this matter in the matter of a month rather than up to a year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 626-13(5): GNWT
Position on

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Gender Neutrality Issue

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am confident we can conclude this matter very quickly if we put it out to a vote to the membership, who are our constituents. I am reasonably confident we will get the response that we want. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 627-13(5): Ardicom Contract Concerns

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier, my colleague from Thebacha, questioned on the Ardicom contract. I would like to follow up on that. Concerns are being raised from within my community in the area of Ardicom and the work it is doing, especially when it comes to how different government departments are putting out tenders and the tenderers are lining up with the kind of equipment that Ardicom is putting forward. It is already making a decision that the local providers are not qualified or do not have the

proper equipment. My question to the Minister of FMBS is, if this is the case, will he be looking at it and making sure that local providers are given an opportunity to take part in the opportunities as they present themselves? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 627-13(5): Ardicom Contract Concerns

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was the intention of this government to put the overall, territorial-wide digital communications systems into place that was state of the art which would move us into the 21st Century and answer the concerns, the issues and the efficiencies of government, particularly at the small community level. There is no question there are some minor problems with respect to Fort Smith, Inuvik, and I think, Iqaluit. We will try to take those into consideration. I am not sure, to be very candid to my colleague, that we can be all things to all people in this initiative. Certainly, we will make a considered effort, and as I said to an earlier question, I want a full update tomorrow morning. I am just getting a briefing note as we speak to determine, if, in fact, the concerns raised by colleagues have some validity and I do not mean that offensively, and if there is some substance to the concerns that have been raised. If there is, and if there is some way we can resolve it, we will. This digital communications system is not going to be without its glitches and it is not going to keep everybody happy, unfortunately. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 627-13(5): Ardicom Contract Concerns

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister look at the program, then that this government offers? We see it in privatization initiatives, and in a number of other ways this government has dealt with contracts to establish private businesses in small communities. In this

case, it looks like we are doing the reverse. We are helping to build a monopoly. If the concerns, once he looks at it, will he address those concerns to ensure that private, local providers will have an opportunity to take part in the business that this government gets involved with? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 627-13(5): Ardicom Contract Concerns

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes. I will do the best I can with respect to this initiative and see if, in fact, we can involve the three areas of concern and two specifically, Fort Smith and Inuvik. I am saying to my honourable colleague, I understand those concerns and it is certainly not our intent to develop monopolies, but the Ardicom bid was the successful bidder in a very important territorial-wide digital communication initiative. We will do the best we can, at the end of the day, hopefully, we will be able to accommodate Mr. Zupko's interest in Inuvik and other people's interests in Fort Smith. We will certainly make a considered effort. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 628-13(5): YCI Inmate Allowances

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo. I would like to know, when inmates are incarcerated in YCI, could the Minister tell us what allowances they receive financially? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 628-13(5): YCI Inmate Allowances

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I recall correctly, the allowances are minimal and they are paid to inmates who work in the correctional centre's

kitchen or in work areas outside. They have recently been adjusted downwards, I believe. They range from \$1.50 to \$5.50 a day per inmate, depending on the work being done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 628-13(5): YCI Inmate Allowances

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister have the annual budgeted amount for that particular item, inmate allowances? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 628-13(5): YCI Inmate Allowances

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HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have the exact figure here with me, but I can generally say that it is a minimal amount, if you look at the total cost of correctional facilities and incarceration costs across the board. I can find out the figure and provide it to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 628-13(5): YCI Inmate Allowances

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when inmates from the Northwest Territories are transferred to southern institutions, are the amounts paid in other jurisdictions similar to what is being paid by the Government of the Northwest Territories to inmates? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 628-13(5): YCI Inmate Allowances

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I am not sure of the answer to that question. In fact, if I could clarify what these monies are used for. One, they encourage inmates to work. What little monies they receive allow inmates to buy things like personal hygiene products like toothpaste, tobacco, pop, et cetera, with the small amounts of spending money. When I provide the Member with a picture of the total budget, it will also provide the Member with the information on whether these similar amounts or any amounts are paid for by other jurisdictions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 628-13(5): YCI Inmate Allowances

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary to the Minister is, I understand that inmates, quite a number of inmates in this institution carve and produce carvings. The money they generate from those carvings, are they allowed to keep it or does it go to the institution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 628-13(5): YCI Inmate Allowances

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is, they keep the dollars they make from producing products like carvings in the correctional centre. I would also say, that there are restrictions on who is allowed to take on this activity and there are also restrictions on how much work is carried on and which days of the week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 629-13(5): Community Development Specialist in Inuvik

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. It is in regard to the community development specialist position at the Inuvik Regional Health Board. What direction does the community development specialist have in relation to community say in which programs they want to develop in their communities or what type of alcohol and drug initiatives they want to take on? What is the process that is being used? Does that person go into the communities and take direction or do the communities submit proposals to the individual? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 629-13(5): Community Development Specialist in Inuvik

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot say right now because I do not know specifically which individual the honourable Member refers to in respect to community development. I do not have the staff lists of the Inuvik or any of the boards with me. I am certainly willing to discuss it with the honourable Member and find out that information for you. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 629-13(5): Community Development Specialist in Inuvik

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to the role of the different specialist positions, there is a regional alcohol and drug specialist at the Inuvik Regional office, what role do they play with regard to community development of alcohol and drug initiatives happening in communities? Do they also take direction from communities? Do they just tell communities, this is basically what you get to run your

alcohol and drug programs and that is the end of it? What role do they play in the development of community input in deciding what is right for the communities or for the regions?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng, two questions.

Further Return To Question 629-13(5): Community Development Specialist in Inuvik

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you are speaking of the regional alcohol and drug specialist, then I would anticipate that individual would work with the communities in the development of their programs - the expectations of services for the clientele in those communities would be delivered - and in trying to coordinate some of the alcohol and drug needs that possibly could not be addressed at a local level nor on a regional scale, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

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Supplementary To Question 629-13(5): Community Development Specialist in Inuvik

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, do the regional specialist positions have the authority to allocate funds to communities with regard to proposals or basically the submitting of proposals to the Regional Health Board? Is that decision made by the board itself or does the specialist have lump funds which they basically submit to communities for projects by proposals?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 629-13(5): Community Development Specialist in Inuvik

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it would depend on what specific proposals would be coming forward. If it had to do specifically with alcohol and

drug program requests, some of the funds in the regions are identified on an annual basis and there may be some regional funds for delivery of services that are held back at the regional headquarters level and in that circumstance the alcohol and drug specialist would certainly have some input into evaluation of proposals that came forward for providing those services of a regional nature, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 630-13(5): Departmental Digital Equipment Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on my earlier questions on the Ardicom dealings with this government, would the Minister for FMBS look into any of the contracts the different departments are putting out with regard to equipment in setting up their departments in the communities with specific types of equipment and will look at, and see, if, in fact, that we are moving ahead in a way which limits local providers opportunity to provide a service? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 630-13(5): Departmental Digital Equipment Contracts

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will look into that matter along with the others which have been raised today in the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 630-13(5):
Departmental Digital Equipment Contracts

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform me as to when we might be able to look forward to

receiving some answers to the concerns that have been raised here today?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 630-13(5): Departmental Digital Equipment Contracts

HON. JOHN TODD:

I have already arranged for a briefing tomorrow morning from my staff, so, hopefully, I will try to get back to my honourable colleague as quickly as I can. I think I have demonstrated to him over the last two or three years that we do the best that we can and give him the information he requires to try to satisfy his constituency. I am not promising that is possible. In any situation, as I said in the response to Mr. Miltenberger's question, sometimes you can satisfy some of the people some of the times but you certainly cannot satisfy, in this job, all of the people, all of the time. I wish we could.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 630-13(5): Departmental Digital Equipment Contract

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we have all learned the hard way that many people get left behind and do not get what they want in this government. My question is, with the impact that this contract can have on local service providers who have invested much of their own money into this, could and would this government look at their losses if the contract that was set up, put this person out of business, who has invested much of their own money into this? Would this government look at dealing with those providers on the level which would see them being compensated for their losses? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 630-13(5): Departmental Digital Equipment Contract

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not want to get into a long debate with my honourable colleague, but I could tell you that I did not appreciate his comment, first of all. Secondly, I have a responsibility that goes beyond Inuvik. That is one responsibility. There is responsibility for the communities that require digital communication systems. They do not have the sophisticated infrastructure that Yellowknife and Inuvik, et cetera, do. That is what I am trying to say here. This digital communication system was supposed to be territorial wide. It was never the intention of the system to take away from the private sector that is out there doing its best. If anybody, given my background, I am not about to suggest for one minute, we are trying to take away from the private sector. What I am saying is, in this digital communication creative initiative that we put forward a year and a half ago, it is there to service all of the constituency from Inuvik to Pond Inlet. I will do whatever I can to try to resolve the issues that Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. Floyd Roland have raised. I am qualifying it at the same time by saying I do not know today whether I can satisfy all the people all the time on this issue, period. That is what I am trying to say. Now, I will do the best I can. I do not know what more I can say.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

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Question 631-13(5): Board Memberships After Division

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, in eight months or less, the two territories will divide. We have many boards and agencies that supply service to both territories. We have board members who sit on those boards who have the interests of both territories at heart when they are making decisions. Can the Premier advise on what the government is planning to do with board members on these various boards and agencies at the time of division? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 631-13(5): Board Memberships After Division

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That whole issue is under review by the Division Secretariat at this time, but I believe we will have boards that represent the Nunavut area, and there will be board members from that Nunavut area. We will have boards that represent the new Western Arctic area, and the members on those boards will be residents of the new Western Territory's area. We will have some boards that will represent the two new Territories, and it will be a mixture. Every case has to be looked at individually. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 631-13(5): Board Memberships After Division

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Premier is, do I assume from his comments that on April 1st, board members who are presently serving boards, serving all of the Northwest Territories, will serve one jurisdiction and another, and there will not be overlaps of residents from Nunavut or the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 631-13(5): Board Memberships After Division

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There may be some overlaps. That is why the Divisional Secretariat is reviewing that whole issue of boards, and I did make a mistake in my previous answer, Mr. Speaker. There will also be some board members and some boards that reside in southern Canada as well, and their expertise is needed on some of the boards in the Northwest Territories or the Nunavut territory. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 631-13(5): Board Memberships After Division

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier provide a list of the boards and agencies who will have members who may be residing in the opposite territory or in southern Canada come April 1, 1999? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 631-13(5): Board Memberships After Division

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be happy to share that information with the Members once the Division Secretariat has reviewed it to find out how these boards will be established and which new boards will be established, and then I will pass that information on to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 632-13(5): Coordinator for the Keewatin Pilot Project

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a press release by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs concerning the Keewatin Pilot Project, the Kivalliq leadership was calling on the Department of MACA to provide a coordinator position to assist them in the process of the Keewatin Pilot Project formulation so they could facilitate it further along. I am wondering if that position, which is being identified by the Keewatin leaders would that be an internal position or someone from their own staff or are they going to hire an outside person? Are they going to dedicate new funds for hiring that person? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 632-13(5): Coordinator for the Keewatin Pilot Project

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just received the resolution a few days ago. We are just considering the position right now, so I cannot give a definite answer at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 632-13(5): Coordinator for the Keewatin Pilot Project

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity, along with Mr. Erasmus, to attend part of the meetings on the 26th and 27th of May here in Yellowknife. I am wondering, at the outset of the meeting, there was some discussion with concerns raised by myself and some other Members of this House and also by NTI. I wonder if the Minister could update us, at this time, if those concerns raised by the president of NTI and some of the other participants at the meeting were laid to rest and, indeed, have been dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 632-13(5): Coordinator for the Keewatin Pilot Project

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HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

I am sure the comments were made at the meeting. I was not there all of the time. It was a time for everybody to say whatever they liked, and I am sure everybody just did that, and their concerns were addressed at the meeting, all the parties. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 632-13(5): Coordinator for the Keewatin Pilot Project

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, are there still some concerns then, from other groups, other vested interests in the Nunavut settlement region to the

Keewatin Pilot Project as presented? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

I will rule the question out of order. I would like to tell the Member from Iqaluit that the Member started with a question regarding a position, whether it was internal. He then went into a different item and again to a different item. They are all new questions, so I must rule those questions out of order. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 633-13(5): Status of Aurora Funds

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Aurora Fund, Mr. Todd. It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that both of the Aurora Funds have been fully subscribed. Can the Minister give us an update on if these funds have been reloaned out to northern businesses or at what stage they are at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 633-13(5): Status of Aurora Funds

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleague is correct that both the Aurora Fund I and Aurora Fund II have been fully subscribed. I will not go through a dissertation of what fully subscribed means and my definition of it because I tried that before with Mr. Ootes. I am sure Mr. Henry understands fully what I said at the time. The Aurora Fund is currently sitting with, I think, somewhere around \$6 million or \$7 million. As the applications come forward, the management team, which is an external team outside of the territories, provides their recommendations to the board of directors and we approve these loans. That is kind of where it sits right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 633-13(5): Status of Aurora Funds

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was a little short on information. It is not normally like the Minister. Can the Minister help us out by telling us how much the funds were subscribed for? How much money has been lent out to northern businesses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 633-13(5): Status of Aurora Funds

HON. JOHN TODD:

You know that old saying, Mr. Speaker, once bitten, twice shy. I want to make sure I give my honourable colleague a full dissertation on the Aurora Fund because, if you remember, the last fiasco with respect to...I will provide, Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleague over here with a full detailed presentation on the Aurora Fund status with respect to where the fund sits, how much we have in escrow and if he requires, to whom the loans go to. I would be only too happy to do that as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Point of order. Mr. Picco.

POINT OF ORDER

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the inference by the honourable Minister of Finance when he was responding to the Honourable Mr. Henry was that this Member was not honourable. He said this honourable Member. That was the inference. My point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that if there is anyone who is honourable in this House, it is myself.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. There is no point of order. The Member for Keewatin Central has identified the honourable Member from Yellowknife South. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 633-13(5): Status of Aurora Funds

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you and Mr. Todd for correctly identifying me as an honourable Member.

--Applause

MR. HENRY:

My question to the honourable Mr. Todd is, in the event of a default in some of the loans, and these things do happen in any type of business, but in the event of a default in loans the Aurora Fund has made, who or what institution would be responsible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 633-13(5): Status of Aurora Funds

HON. JOHN TODD:

First of all, my understanding of it is there is no deemed default right now, I believe. I want to remind everybody again, this Aurora Fund does not have any government financing behind it. If you remember, what we did is, we asked for \$380,000 worth of seed money to move the thing forward, which was repayable. I believe they have done that. If there was any default, the loser, in fact, would be the fund itself, which would then be the bank, which is Pacific Western, who is backing this fund. There would be no liability. I believe that is what Mr. Henry is looking at, no liability of this government should a loan that the Aurora Fund has given be in default. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Final

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supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 633-13(5): Status of Aurora Funds

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think it is important that be reiterated, by the Minister, that this government is not at fault. I think it is important the investors should be aware of that, given the makeup of the group who is making the decisions on these

loans are deputy ministers and Ministers of this government. I would like the Minister to reiterate again, if he would, if it is factual that even under those circumstances, this government is not responsible for other than the \$380,000 this House approved, as seed money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 633-13(5): Status of Aurora Funds

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I said it, but I will reiterate again today, \$380,000, I believe, has been repaid, but I will double check that. The important thing I want to say again is that the decisions to recommend a loan are not made by deputy ministers and are not made by Ministers. I specifically structured the fund that way to ensure there was no political interference in who got loans. The fund is structured in such a way that there is an investment committee, made out of three external people in the investment community, who recommend to the board what should go and what should not go. There is no, repeat no, liability to this government whatsoever should somebody be in default of a loan in which emigrant investment money, not GNWT money is being used to lend out.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 634-13(5): Completion of Keewatin Pilot Projects

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on my earlier question on the Keewatin Pilot Project. Can the Minister for MACA, update this House on the timeframe for the completion of the work on the Keewatin Pilot Project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 634-13(5): Completion of Keewatin Pilot Projects

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. New question, Mr. Picco.

Question 635-13(5): Mayors' Support for Keewatin Pilot Project

MR. PICCO:

Thank you. I appreciate the response from the honourable Minister. Mr. Speaker, my further question on the Keewatin Pilot Project, as a new question, Mr. Speaker, I wonder, at this time, how many of the mayors of the Keewatin Region are now in favour of the Keewatin Pilot Project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

That is not a new question. Ms. Thompson.

Return To Question 635-13(5): Mayors' Support for Keewatin Pilot Project

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

All of them are in favour of the concept.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. Again, just coaching the Members on the rules of the House. I would like to remind the Members that when the Speaker makes a ruling, they do not make any comments on those rulings. It is not intended to make one Member look bad and another Member look good. It is there for the benefit of all Members.

The other issue, with regard to the points of orders that are being raised, I would like to, as much as possible, allow the Members to ask their questions and get their response from the Ministers. So if Members do have a point of order, they do it after question period as opposed to taking up question period to make a point of order. Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Barnabas.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 23-13(5): Agriculture Issues in Hay River

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my written question will be directed to the Minister of Economic Development.

Agriculture Issues in Hay River:

1. Concerning the pig farm in Hay River:

Has the Economic Development done anything to stop removal of the siding of the barn, which is a major asset of the farm?

2. Concerning the dead chickens that were buried not far from the Hay River:

Who is looking after the cleanup of those dead chickens?

3. Why is it taking two years and nothing has been done? With the burial of these dead chickens close to the river, there is a risk of contaminating the source of water to the following communities: Town of Hay River, Kakisa Lake, Enterprise and some areas outside of Fort Smith.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Mr. Krutko.

Written Question 24-13(5): Community Mental Health

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MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Services.

1. Can the Minister of Health and Social Services provide the amount of funding provided to each of the _____ positions of the Mental Health Committee at the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board?

IRHSSB Mental Health Committee:

Community Development Specialist - North

Community Development Specialist - Sahtu

Regional Drug and Alcohol Specialist

Regional Psychologist

Director of Social Programs

Director of Client Services

Medical Director

2. Can the Minister explain how each of these positions benefits the communities and the region as a whole directly and indirectly?

3. Does the Mental Health Committee have decision making responsibility for community mental health services?

4. If there is decision making at the regional level, can the Minister explain the areas of authority for the community mental health committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Reply 6-13(5): Mr. Steen

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in my replies to the opening address, I will start with division issues. In particular, division issues regarding the community of Holman. Mr. Speaker, to put everything into perspective, I feel required to go a little way back in history to the time of the 9th Assembly and the 10th Session. Mr. Speaker, at that time there was a lot of controversy as to exactly where Holman should be serviced out of and who should represent Holman.

Later on, further comments were made by Ms. Cournoyea in regard to, at that time, a vote that was held in the community of Holman by the hamlet council, which was to some degree requested by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Mr. Speaker, the people of Holman voted and the outcome of the vote was a tie of 50 percent in favour of staying in the western Arctic riding and 50 percent in favour of going Kitikmeot West.

A further vote was held afterwards, in the same community, within a very short time, I understand, whereby the outcome of the vote was nine more people were in favour of staying with Kitikmeot West, than they were in staying in the western Arctic riding. In other words, the vote was in favour of Holman going into the Kitikmeot West riding.

Within Committee of the Whole, discussions were taking place at that time, there was a question raised, in the committee, whereby what was the weight of this particular vote? It was basically decided that the vote would be considered as an opinion poll, as there was no real requirement allowing this particular vote be taken into consideration.

The outcome of this whole discussion, Mr. Speaker, was that in the end, Holman remained in the Western Arctic riding. Ms. Cournoyea on page 1128 and 1129 of the Hansard put it this way. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association put forward a request to the Hamlet Council that this particular vote be held to determine whether Holman would remain in the present constituency or go to the central Arctic of Kitikmeot region. The end result of that, Mr. Speaker, was Ms. Cournoyea put forward an amendment and I quote, "I would like to make an amendment that the settlement of Holman not be included in the Kitikmeot West, but continue to be included in the constituency with Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Tuk, as it is originally." Therefore, Holman remained in the Western Arctic riding.

Mr. Speaker, not all people were happy with the outcome of that particular decision of the 9th Assembly. Mr. Kane Tologanak, who was representing Kitikmeot at the time, as MLA, stated in the 11th Session of the 9th Assembly on September 9, 1983, and I quote "It was a disappointment to me and to some people that this Assembly did not see fit to include Holman in Kitikmeot West. Some people in that community, including the local council, which many communities across the territories recognize as being the government body in a local community situation. The people in Holman and our traditional ties that this community has with the people of the Kitikmeot cannot be underestimated or ignored." That was his comment in regard to the outcome of that particular Boundaries Commission and the eventual decision by the 9th Assembly.

Since then, Mr. Speaker, further Boundaries Commissions have been held and one in particular in 1990. I have here, quotes from a conference call which was held by Justice Tallis, Chief Justice at the time, I believe, who was responsible for that particular Boundaries Commission. As the Boundaries Commission could not go to Holman for hearings there, they had a conference call with the hamlet council, as well, I believe the hamlet council made a written submission. I would like to quote from this particular conference call, as it would shed some light on how people change their opinions, as time goes

on. In this particular situation, Mr. Speaker, the mayor at the time was Isaac Aleekuk. He had called a council meeting in order to have a conference call with Justice Tallis and the

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other members of the commission. I quote here, in part, from this conference call, "Mayor Aleekuk stated the hamlet council made a submission, in light of the commission, was unable to come to Holman and the written submission is short, but we feel strongly that we are being fairly represented in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in the riding of Nunakput and, therefore, do not wish to see any changes in our representation by the Legislative Assembly at this point even though we are represented with services from the Kitikmeot region." That is a statement made by the mayor at that time at the conference call. Mr. Aleekuk further says that the Holman Community Corporation, which is a result of the fine alliance that we had in 1984 with the federal government, have expressed to us and at one of our meetings. Some of their committee members are also councillors, so they know what is going on. They have conveyed to us the same ideas and concerns over our representation in the Legislative Assembly, and they strongly agree with whatever we are saying because we want to continue to be represented by the MLA from Nunakput.

Now here is an interesting remark from Mr. Hardy, Mr. Speaker. "I guess, maybe just as to comment I do not expect a response, but the thing is that maybe the council might not think the way they did if the existing Member was not a member of the Executive Council. If it was an Ordinary Member, I think there may be some difficulty with the Ordinary Member being from the western Arctic, but them being administered out of Cambridge Bay. It may not be so easy for the Member to do his or her job."

Mr. Speaker, I bring this all to light because since the time I have been elected in the past three years now almost, I have been, on more than one occasion, asking this particular government to transfer Holman's budget from this government to the Inuvik Region to be administered rather than through the Kitikmeot out of Cambridge Bay. I have had difficulty in having this particular request responded to by the government. Many arguments have been put forward, most of them in regard to the financial aspects of servicing Holman. They suggest, and mostly bureaucratic suggestions at this point, that it is cheaper to

administer Holman out of the Kitikmeot than it is out of Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, my requests were based on the fact that, sooner or later, Holman is going to be in the western Arctic. It can no longer be administered by Cambridge Bay. With that thought in mind, I was hoping there would be a slow, but steady, evolution whereby Holman would eventually be serviced totally out of the Inuvik region. At this point in time, very little of that has actually happened. We must now consider exactly how we are going to service Holman in the future, and that is the question. We take into consideration the fact that the community is divided. We have to take into consideration that some would have ties to the east, to Nunavut, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, wherever, but some must also take into consideration that half of that community is also tied to the western Arctic, to the communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour and the western Arctic in general. Therefore, we should, I feel, have a slow, but steady, movement of government services from the Kitikmeot to the Beaufort, Inuvik region. I understand there are some people at this point in time who feel that Holman can be adequately serviced simply by contracting out the services to the Nunavut government. I do not agree with this, Mr. Speaker. I feel that every effort should be made by this government to make the community of Holman, the residents of Holman, feel welcome in the western Arctic, feel that they have rights. One of the main reasons that, in 1990, the community felt comfortable with representation in the west and being serviced out of the Kitikmeot region was that they were under Kitikmeot boards. After division, they will no longer be on Kitikmeot boards, and some of them are, at this point in time, on western Arctic boards, Beaufort boards. For instance, if they continue to get their education services out of Kugluktuk or Cambridge Bay through Nunavut, how would they have input, in these policies, that govern education in Nunavut? They do not have any voting rights in Nunavut. On the other hand, can they be expected to take part in the Beaufort discussions at the board levels? Obviously some of them would be serviced through the Beaufort and Inuvik regions to a certain level and then those that are attending high school in Kugluktuk would be at the mercy of Nunavut's policies. We do not know what those policies are at this time, but we definitely, over the past little while, have seen that they are not necessarily going to be the same as this government's policies in regard to education or social services.

Therefore, the residents of Holman would have to be considered and some effort by this government above and beyond what they are doing right now, to indicate to the Holman residents that they are welcome in the west, that they are welcome to take part on the boards, they are part of the boards, and that we should continue to service them from the west rather than treat them as poor orphans and just say, well fine, get your services from Nunavut. The Holman residents are not poor orphans. They are part of the west and they have to be treated as western residents.

Mr. Speaker, there are other aspects to this whole thing whereby there are financial aspects, economic aspects of development in the Beaufort. Ms. Cournoyea spoke that Holman should be a part of the development of the western Arctic. Holman should feel a part of the development of the western Arctic, and I feel the same way, that they should be a

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part of it. Therefore, any economic opportunities, any economic gains in the region should be enjoyed by Holman, and they should be encouraged to take part in these economic opportunities.

Furthermore, services to one community, based on financial aspect alone, are not the way this government has been operating. For instance, I am sure it is cheaper people in the Thebacha riding, Fort Smith, for them to get services out of Alberta than it is in this territory, but government policies require that certain policies be abided by, including the BIP and the MIP, which recognizes that those types of financial gains are to the overall territory. I guess the word would be that the residents of that particular community would have an opportunity to recognize those financial gains, but furthermore, they would be responsible to the overall financial aspects of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, what I am saying here, I guess, is that this government has to take into consideration the development of the Beaufort region in total. Although, the aspirations of this particular community and their wishes may have to be given top priority, it must be looked at in the overall concept of the development of the western Arctic territory and the western Arctic area in general to be really effective. Therefore, I do not think that this government should only consider the financial aspects of the situation as to where Holman is going to get its services from in the future.

Mr. Speaker, no doubt we have airlines flying back and forth from Yellowknife to Holman which allows for Holman to receive health benefits and hospital services from this particular community, Yellowknife. It has to be taken into consideration, Mr. Speaker, that we are in the process of having a large new hospital constructed in Inuvik. You would think that the idea is to service the region and eventually Holman will be serviced there rather than in Yellowknife. I would have thought that would have been taken into consideration and that is part of the development plan of that hospital.

In the education aspect of it, we are constructing, at this point in time, an extension to the school in Holman which will allow for high school, but for the present time students are billeted in Kugluktuk. They can continue with that until the extension to the school is built.

Therefore, we are slowly addressing all the issues of Holman. The one particular issue that is left to address is the total idea of this government changing their policies on how to treat Holman. I look forward to a meeting very shortly where we can discuss all these issues with Holman residents and perhaps give Holman residents a clear indication of exactly what is going to happen to Holman and how their services are going to be addressed in the future. I hope this meeting takes place very shortly.

The other thing I would like to suggest to the government is that they should be working with the regional airlines and suggest and show benefit for a scheduled flight from the Beaufort/Inuvik region into Holman. At this point in time there is none. There used to be, but based on government services coming out of the Kitikmeot instead of Inuvik, those flights were shut down. I am sure if the government started servicing Holman properly out of the Inuvik region, there would be justification for those flights again. I would encourage this government to work with the regional airlines to establish a regularly scheduled flight into that community which would help to tie that community into the rest of the region.

I think I have said enough on Holman, Mr. Speaker. I have one other issue that I would like to address in my replies to the opening address and it is in regard to this government's protected areas strategy. Mr. Speaker, over the past little while, the Minister of RWED, Mr. Kakfwi, tabled their strategy. What I am suggesting here is that the strategy has to reflect that there are existing legislation or bodies established in the Beaufort region, in particular, under the land

claims which, in effect, have administration and jurisdiction over these certain areas. The protected area strategies must take into consideration Inuvialuit land use policies and also the economic development opportunities that this particular region sees as a priority.

Mr. Speaker, in the protected areas strategy put forward by this government, there was a suggestion that there would be a committee established to review the overall issues surrounding protected area strategies. One of the points I would like to point out here is that in the Inuvialuit area that I represent, there are large areas already which are protected through parks, migratory bird sanctuaries, whale sanctuaries, whatever. I believe that I am correct in saying that 29 percent of our area is already designated, in some form as a protected area.

Mr. Speaker, recognition must be placed in the fact that these people, the Inuvialuit, have through their own group and claims, have established land use policies and land administration rules that apply to their land and they are very strict in enforcing those rules. They also take into consideration the environmental concerns, hunters' concerns and all issues and aspects of the environment. This government and the federal government, when establishing these protected area strategies, must take these into consideration. The people in Beaufort communities are not government Inukshuks recognized only for sovereignty rights. The people are, in fact, landlords through the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and must be acknowledged and treated as such. GNWT and federally protected areas strategies must not run contrary to aboriginal claims or treaties. These strategies must be seen as supporting local economic and environmental positions rather than conflicting with the wishes of the aboriginal groups. Furthermore, the protected areas' strategy must not be an avenue or tool for environmental groups or organizations to gain control over northern regions.

I hope the committee being established by the Minister will keep this in mind while deliberating these issues. I encourage the Minister to allow for membership on this committee recommended by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation if the corporation so wishes.

Mr. Speaker, I have one last issue here which should not be very long and that is the Tuk-Inuvik highway. I cannot let that one go by, Mr. Speaker, without some comments on it. I am encouraged by the Department

of Transportation's actions to sponsor a meeting on the Tuk-Inuvik highway. I am also encouraged by the list of organizations that are invited to this

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meeting. I take this opportunity to encourage all the invited groups to attend this meeting and, hopefully, some sound present and long range plans will be put in place which will address the question of need for this piece of national transportation infrastructure. I wish to thank the Minister responsible, Mr. Antoine, as well as all Members of Cabinet for their response to the requests of the people in my riding and I look forward to the day when this project will finally get underway officially.

Mr. Speaker, those are the three main issues that I have tried to put forward in this past session and, I hope, as I said, that the territorial government and the Cabinet will move to do something, in the near future, to put together a meeting in Holman which would address these particular concerns that I have raised. I hope they also take the attitude that Holman is not just put aside and left at the mercy of Nunavut. They are, in fact, part of the west and I hope this government will treat them as part of the west and as a new Western Territory resident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Henry.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

BILL 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2, and wishes to report that Bill 5 is now ready for consideration of Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) and have Bill 5 ordered into

Committee of the Whole for consideration today.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5). Do we have any nays? Mr. Henry, you have unanimous consent. Bill 5 will be ordered into Committee of the Whole for today. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Table Document 110-13(5): Shaping Our Future, A Strategic Plan for Health and Wellness Summary

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled, Shaping Our Future, a Strategic Plan for Health and Wellness Summary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. Steen.

Tabled Document 111-13(5): Submission to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, Bill C-38

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled, Submission to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, Bill C-38, a Bill to Establish the Tuktut Nogait National Park.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Henry.

Tabled Document 112-13(5): Two Letters from Constituents Re: Collective Bargaining

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table two documents from the UNW on the pay equity issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in

committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Committee Report 08-13(5), Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2, with Mr. Ningark in the Chair.

ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I call the committee to order. For consideration today in Committee of the Whole, we have Committee Report 08-13(5), Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to consider Committee Report 08-13(5) and Bill 5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We did get direction from the committee that we will consider Committee Report 08-13(5) and Bill 5. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we continue now or do you wish to take a break? We will take a very short break.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to call the committee back to order. We are considering Committee Report 8-13(5), Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. At this time I would like to recognize Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure,

as mentioned yesterday in the House, had a chance to review the

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Report of the Auditor General for Canada on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. There are several recommendations and motions coming out of our report. First of all Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin with the senior administrative officer position, or SAO, as identified by the Auditor General for Canada.

Committee Members emphasized that successful fiscal management requires not only qualified staff, Mr. Chairman, but also sustained, long-term, cooperative effort. It appears that a number of SAOs are rarely consulted on municipal issues, despite the fact that they are responsible for a comprehensive array of programs and services. As well, adequate support is a concern, Mr. Chairman, and the smaller the community the proportionately smaller the pool of qualified personnel available to properly support the SAO and perform the necessary administrative, managerial and financial responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman, members recognize that the department's position is that the recruitment and hiring process are the responsibility of the municipality. However, in the committee's view, minimum hiring standards would contribute to an improvement in the quality of SAOs and their support staff. As almost all of the municipal funding is derived from the GNWT, the department should have a stake in the hiring process. A trilateral hiring process should be explored involving the department and the NWT Association of Municipalities in addition to the municipal council. The active participation of these authorities may also reduce potential transparency concerns related to the hiring process.

The committee also discussed the need for improved communication between the SAOs and their respective municipal councils. Consultation and frequent dialogue between the two parties may also assist municipalities to retain SAOs.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to bring in some committee motions.

44-13(5): Recommendation #1: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs

develop a set of performance guidelines for senior administrative officers to ensure that the needs of the municipality and the priorities of the municipal council are met. Furthermore, feedback should also be obtained from the municipal council to properly and accurately evaluate performance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Thank you. The Chair recognizes a quorum. For the record, Mr. Picco will you please repeat the motion.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion No. 1.

I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs develop a set of performance guidelines for senior administrative officers to ensure that the needs of the municipality and the priorities of the municipal council are met. Furthermore, feedback should also be obtained from the municipal council to properly and accurately evaluate performance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Continue Mr. Picco.

45-13(5): Recommendation #2: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion No. 2. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs assist in the recruitment of qualified administrative, financial and management staff to provide satisfactory support for senior administrative officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion No. 3.

46-13(5): Recommendation #3: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs develop, in conjunction with the NWTAM, a proposal for the completion of exit interviews for departing senior administrative officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Picco.

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MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion No. 4.

47-13(5): Recommendation #4: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

I move that this Committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs assume a more significant role in the hiring process of senior administrative officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not agree with this motion. We keep talking about community empowerment and this particular motion states that MACA assumes a more significant role in the selection of senior administrative officers. I feel that if the communities want to ask for assistance in the hiring of senior administrative officers then that would be up to the community. To give the authority to the department to take a role in the selection of senior administrative officers for the communities, certainly if I was a councillor on one of the community councils, I would be possibly taken back a bit by this possibility. I do not think it goes with the theme of community empowerment. We have to ensure that the communities take responsibility and I think this is a regressive step not a progressive step. Let us make them responsible. From what I have seen from the

report and the recommendations that have been made and that are forthcoming, I think that you will find that we are reinforcing the structure of communities to report financially. We are reinforcing the methodology by which administrative officers are to be hired and so forth. My opinion would be that I do not feel that this is in the best interest of the communities and the council members, and the mayors of those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be voting against this particular motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you for that observation. To the motion. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Just to clarify, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Mr. Ootes comments. The committee, after reviewing the Auditor General's Report, and I know that Mr. Ootes has had an opportunity to read it because it has been tabled in the House, points out many of the concerns for the communities under the Auditor General's report dealt with the SAOs, retention of the SAOs and the qualifications of the SAOs. The recommendation is that if the government of the day is handing over money to the hamlets and municipalities, then we should help them make sure that they have qualified staff to do that with. There were instances in the Auditor General's report where that was not the case. It is not a paternalistic or patronistic motion and I would ask that the committee support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Chair recognizes Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The difficulty that I have with this is that it is a fairly definitive statement that MACA assume a more significant role in the selection of administrative officers. If you get a zealot in the department saying this is a recommendation, this is what is going through. Therefore, every community has to have the input of MACA to select their senior administrative officer, if that officer decides to do so, by this motion. I do not agree with it. I think that it passes on to a community a statement that says the department will participate in the selection of your administrative officer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? The motion is carried. Continue Mr. Picco.

48-13(5): Recommendation #5: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Committee Motion 5. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs establish minimum guidelines for the hiring of senior administrative officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Picco.

49-13(5): Recommendation #6: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion No. 6. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs draw up a detailed standardized job description for senior administration officers for provision to municipal hiring boards for their reference. The description should describe operational guidelines and basic qualifications. This job description should also be made available to potential senior administrative officers for review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Picco.

50-13(5): Recommendation #7: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion No. 7. I move that this committee on the advice of the Office of the Auditor General recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs require the completion of cultural awareness programs for senior administrative officers recruited from outside the

municipality and particularly those hired from outside the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Picco, do you have further motions for the committee to consider? Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we do have some more motions coming forward. At this time I would like to call on my colleague and the vice-chairman of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Mr. Henry, to continue the report on page 6, the Review of the Report of the Auditor

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General on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will continue on with the report.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is mandated by municipal legislation to conduct annual municipal inspections. Section 189 of both the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and the Hamlets Act requires that every municipal corporation must at least once a year and at any other time that the Minister may require, have its records, books and accounts examined; management and administration reviewed and financial affairs examined by a municipal inspector.

With greater municipal empowerment anticipated, the department needs to know on a regular basis how well municipalities are doing, not just financially, but administratively as well. Effective monitoring and evaluation form the basis for accountability in the use of development resources. The resulting increased transparency may improve the management and implementation of current and future municipal responsibilities.

In the committee's review, there is a need for closer attention to the accurate monitoring and evaluation of municipal management information, both to support the ongoing implementation of municipality objectives and to feed back into the design of new initiatives. More detailed regular municipal inspections will result in a reliable flow of information to the department and to the municipalities, enabling the participants to keep accurate track of progress and adjust operations based on experience.

The standing committee emphasizes the need for comprehensive guidelines and qualified inspection staff to accurately evaluate municipal responsibilities and perform on a regular, preferably annual, basis.

The department informed the committee that inspections are carried out according to the needs identified by the department; community operations are becoming increasingly more difficult to monitor; and more commitment is needed by the municipal councils to get feedback from the department. The department also monitors value-added programs and services in addition to the fiscal bottom line.

The committee notes that some of the department's concerns may be due to a shortage of qualified staff and resources, as well as the interplay of political influences in some municipalities.

51-13(5): Recommendation #8: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move Motion No. 8. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs adopt a risk-based approach to municipal inspections. This approach should focus the inspection process on responsibilities and programs that have a greater risk of adverse financial or administrative consequences.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Before I rule the motion, I would like to remind my honourable Members to respect other Members who have the recognition of the Chair. Thank you.

--Applause

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Continue Mr. Henry.

52-13(5): Recommendation #9: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion No. 9. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs ensure that regular and mandatory municipal inspections are integrated with personal visits and that guidelines are implemented to effectively monitor and evaluate municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your indulgence, I will pass the conclusion of the report on to Mr. Barnabas for reading. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, section 4, Capital Allocation Process.

Careful analysis of the costs and benefits of the existing Capital Allocation Process is key to informed and responsive needs management. It is vital that the relevance and cost of proposed capital projects to the GNWT and the municipality are accurately assessed. It is equally important that the evaluation and allocation process is independent of the bureaucracy that has access to it.

Although movement toward a more efficient allocation process will hopefully be underway, committee Members stress the severe resource constraints and the public demands for greater accountability in the allocation process. However, the committee observes that there may be a lack of commitment to a more responsive and accountable Capital Allocation Process at the bureaucratic level. In the committee's view, a culture of effective responsiveness and accountability is not in place.

Part of the dissatisfaction stems from the poor timing of the call letter from the Premier's office for revisions to the capital plan. By the time the letter is received and replied to, there is not enough time to affect the recommended revisions. With the short construction season and limited transportation

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infrastructure, it becomes impossible to procure and transport material to the municipality. In many communities, barging is the only economically viable means of transporting cargo. Cargo must be prebooked, has a limited travel schedule and is operated only in late spring and summer.

In the committee's review, there has not been enough attention to the quality and timeliness of information and the need for objectivity and independence in the implementation of the Capital Allocation Process. At times, the political component dominates. The process needs to better serve the municipalities' requirements.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I have a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Please proceed with the motion.

53-13(5): Recommendation #10: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion No. 10. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs be the coordinating body for the GNWT Capital Allocation Process to prevent duplication of requests, provide a centralized agency responsible for the provision of capital planning information and establish a one-stop process for municipalities requesting capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Barnabas, please continue.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion No. 11.

54-13(5): Recommendation #11: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs direct that the annual call for capital projects from the Premier's office be sent as soon as possible after March 31st each year and require responses from the community regarding any revisions or additions before June 20th. If responses are not received by the deadline, funding priorities should remain the same and the Five-Year Capital Plan be adhered to. If either the government or the community makes any revisions, they should be fully substantiated. This committee supports the Auditor General's recommendation that the current Capital Standards and Criteria be reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Barnabas, do you have any further motions?

MR. BARNABAS:

No, Mr. Chairman. At this time I would like to give this report to Mr. Steen, my colleague.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Section 5, Accrual-Based Accounting System.

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) observed that all communities currently use a cash-based accounting system throughout the year and conclude with an accrual-based annual financial statement at the end of the fiscal year. The OAG warns that there is a danger of comparing results from different methods. The OAG further noted that while a cash-based system reflects the amount of cash-on-hand, the system does not accurately calculate account receivables and account payables as an accrual-based system would. In short, a cash-based system will not identify bills due, but not yet paid. These deficiencies compromise the forecasting and evaluation abilities of the municipality and violate Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA)

accounting guidelines. The committee agrees with the OAGs assessment.

According to the department, however, the cash system better serves the needs of the municipal councils as it more accurately determines remaining cash. The department added that all municipalities in the Northwest Territories, including the city of Yellowknife, use the same cash-based system throughout the year.

Nonetheless, the committee agrees with the conclusion of the Auditor General that the current cash system lacks the forecasting and overall evaluation characteristics that are required to responsibly manage the finances of municipalities.

55-13(5): Recommendation #12: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would like to put forward Motion No. 12. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs make efforts to ensure all municipalities move toward the use of an accrual accounting system throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Continue, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now defer to my honourable colleague, Mrs. Groenewegen for conclusion of this report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Municipal Taxing Authorities Incentives 6.1, has two distinct categories of municipalities within the municipal funding domain, general taxing authorities (GTAs) and municipal taxing authorities (MTAs). The department funds the categories of municipalities differently. MTA municipalities have the ability to generate revenues through taxation, resulting in a smaller component of

their overall revenues being realized from the department. GTA

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56-13(5): Recommendation #13: Committee Report 8-13(5): Infrastructure (re: MACA Audit)

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provide the committee and all GTA communities with a detailed description of incentives for a GTA municipality to convert to an MTA municipality.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mrs. Groenewegen, do you have a further report to make?

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In summary, the committee reiterates its appreciation for the efforts and time provided by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Office of the Auditor General of Canada in carrying forward this important review process. That concludes the report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Committee report 08-13(5), does the committee agree this report is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. As previously agreed to, we will now consider Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2. I believe it is the Premier who will be making the remarks. Mr. Premier.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to be able to make these opening remarks, but I think the bill was brought forward by the Minister of Finance so I should give him the opportunity to do it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I now recognize Mr. John Todd, the honourable Minister for Finance. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I was having a large discussion with our Deputy Commissioner in the back. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this act is to amend the Financial Administration Act to allow the Financial Management Board to authorize indemnities with no set limits to known government personnel and special cases. It would also allow the Financial Management Board to authorize the indemnification of a board, agency, committee or council performing on behalf of government, and in the case of municipalities, for environmental liabilities which may be associated with the transfer of assets under the community empowerment or other initiatives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Todd, I accept your apology. Perhaps you got your priorities mixed up earlier. Thank you. I have Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Government Operations reviewed Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2, at its meeting on June 2, 1998. The standing committee had also considered

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the legislative proposal for this bill at previous meetings and had met with the Minister to discuss the proposed amendments. The committee would like to thank the Minister of Finance and his officials for presenting the bill and responding to the committee's questions on the bill and on the legislative proposal.

Bill 5 would amend the Financial Administration Act to change the primary authority for making indemnities from the Commissioner to the Minister of Finance with FMB approval. Also, it would provide that an indemnity with a maximum liability of more than \$500,000 or an indemnity that cannot be quantified may be made to the benefit of an individual who is not a public servant and who serves at the request of the government as a member of a board, agency, committee or council; a board, agency, committee or council that performs functions on behalf of the government; and third, a municipal corporation,

settlement corporation or other community government body in respect to environmental liabilities associated with the transfer of assets or infrastructure by the government.

The bill would also authorize a Minister other than the Minister of Finance to make an indemnity referred to above on the recommendation of the FMB and with the approval of the Minister of Finance. In all other circumstances, the \$500,000 limit on indemnities would remain. The FMB must be satisfied that measures have been taken to minimize any potential risk to the government and that insurance is unavailable or is uneconomic. As well, the Minister of Finance must give at least 14 days notice to Members of the Legislative Assembly before the board makes a recommendation for an indemnity that could exceed \$500,000.

This bill is in part a response to a specific requirement that the NWT participate in an indemnification agreement covering provincial and territorial non-government officials on the Canadian Blood Agency. Indemnities are also required for non-government appointees who represent government interests on a range of boards and committees. As well, communities would find it difficult to accept transfers of assets and infrastructure under the community empowerment initiative without some indemnification.

Mr. Chairman, this bill addresses the major concerns that the standing committee raised with the Minister. The committee was particularly concerned that the amendments should be specific and should not leave it open for the government to provide indemnities without limitation. The bill retains the limit on indemnities that is currently in the act for all situations other than those specifically mentioned.

Mr. Chairman, committee Members may have additional comments or questions on this bill as we proceed. This concludes the standing committee's comments on Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I would like to now offer the Minister the opportunity to bring in the witnesses, if he so wishes. Mr. Todd, do you want to bring in the witnesses? Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, proceed. Thank you, Mr. Todd. We have witnesses coming in. For the record, Mr. Todd, would you please introduce the witnesses to the committee?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate left is Denise Gagnon, who is with the Justice department, within the Legislative Division. On my immediate right is Mr. Voytilla.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Welcome to the committee. The floor is now open for general comments. We are considering Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2. Detail? Do we agree that we shall go into detail? Clause 1? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

On page 3, Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 5 is ready for third reading?

Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill 5 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Mr. Todd and his witnesses for appearing before the committee. Thank you.

As there is no further business at this time, I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Good evening. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Ningark.

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ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening to you too, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 8-13(5) and Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No 2. and would like to report progress with 13 motions being adopted and that Report 8 is concluded and that Bill 5 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Committee Report 8-13(5) of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Barnabas. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 19 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with the third reading of Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 5. Do we have any nays? Mr. Todd, you have unanimous consent.

Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you colleagues. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 5 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. I have been informed the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to assent to the bills and

prorogue this session. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Deputy Commissioner is prepared to enter the Chamber and assent to the bills and prorogue the 5th Session?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (Mr. Dan Marion):

As Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2;
- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act;
- Bill 15, Adoption Act;
- Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2;
- Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act and the Justices of the Peace Act;
- Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1998-99;
- Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act.

Before I prorogue the Fifth Session, I would like to announce that the Sixth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly will convene on Thursday, June 4, 1998 at 1:30 p.m. As the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the Fifth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

--PROROGATION