



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

6th Session

Day 3

13th Assembly

HANSARD

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable Manitok 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. Evaloarjuk. Good afternoon, Members. Before we begin today, I would like to remind Members that today is the 47th anniversary of a historic event for the Northwest Territories and for this Assembly. On September 17, 1951, for the first time some Members of the Council were elected to office.

There were three Members elected in 1951 to represent the whole Northwest Territories. They were, Mr. Mervyn Hardie, representing the Mackenzie North constituency; Mr. James Brodie representing Mackenzie South and Mr. Frank Carmichael, representing Mackenzie West. At that time, there were also six appointed Members on the Council, as well as the Commissioner, Major General Hugh Young.

There have been many changes in this Assembly and in the Northwest Territories as a whole since 1951. Forty-seven years ago we began the process toward responsible government. For the last 47 years, Members of this and previous Legislatures have worked to ensure that all residents of the Northwest Territories are represented responsibly and effectively.

With the creation of two new territories, we will see many more changes and will continue to break new ground. As elected Members, we will remain committed to the principle of responsible government that is reflective of the interests of all northern residents.

If I may, it is appropriate today that we have in the gallery four of the 19 returning officers, who will conduct the first election for the Nunavut Legislative Assembly. They are in Yellowknife for training this week. They are:

Mona Autut, Returning Officer for Baker Lake - from Baker Lake

Nancy Kalluak, Returning Officer for Arviat - from Arviat

Jean Kaniak, Returning Officer for Cambridge Bay - from Cambridge Bay

Sarah Kidlapik, Returning Officer for Akullik - from Repulse Bay

Welcome to the Assembly.

--Applause

Orders of the Day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS.

Minister's Statement 17-13(6): Sod Turning of Diamond Sorting and Valuation Facility

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an important and historic day for the Northwest Territories. This morning, Ministers and several MLA's participated in the sod turning ceremony for the NWT's first diamond sorting valuation facility.

--Applause

The facility at the Yellowknife airport will allow BHP Diamonds to sort their production. It is also where the federal government will assess the value of that production, and where sales will be made to qualified and approved northern manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, the discovery and development of diamonds in the NWT continues to be a momentous time in the history of the north. It is now accepted nationally and internationally that the NWT will become a major producer of diamonds. It has also become widely known that this government is committed to providing northerners with jobs and opportunities in the value added industries. The GNWT appreciates the efforts that BHP Diamonds has made in listening and responding to our interests

in providing the maximum benefits to northerners from the mining and production of diamonds.

The BHP diamond sorting and valuation facility is one step along this path. For BHP Diamonds and the manufacturers, the challenge now is to move forward along this path towards the NWT becoming the "Diamond Centre" of North America. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

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Minister's Statement 18-13(6): New Financial Measures for the WCB

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Compensation Board has experienced several years of exceptional financial results since finding itself in a deficit position in 1992. In 1997, it achieved an operating surplus of over \$20 million. To date, the board has an accumulated operating reserve of over \$35 million. These positive results can be attributed to several factors.

The total number of registered claims dropped last year to its lowest level in four years. On the other hand, increased economic activity in the NWT meant that employer revenue was higher than anticipated. Perhaps the most significant influence on the financial health of the WCB has been the success of its investment portfolio. In 1995 and 1996, the WCB made significant changes to its investment policy and asset mix model. A more aggressive and better balanced investment strategy has resulted in three successive years of solid investment performance. Mr. Speaker, since 1996, the WCB has consistently reflected its financial success by decreasing employer assessment rates and increasing benefits to injured workers.

Mr. Speaker, effective January 1, 1999, a further 35 percent decrease in the average assessment rate will take effect. This means the assessment rate for NWT employers will decrease from \$1.87 to \$1.21 per \$100 of assessable payroll. This new average rate has been approved by the board of directors and will be maintained for three years. As well, Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing legislation in the Assembly this fall to

increase the YMIR from \$52,000 to \$60,000, effective January 1, 1999.

--Applause

If approved, the new YMIR in the NWT will become the highest YMIR in the country.

This increase will allow the board to fully compensate 85 percent of the NWT workforce. The new YMIR will also provide greater coverage to the mining industry, where currently only 35 percent of the workers are fully covered. It should also be mentioned, Mr. Speaker, that increasing the YMIR will create inequities between those workers and their dependants who will be receiving pensions and those whose pensions are based on earlier YMIR's.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 19-13(6): NAV Canada receives Federal Approval for Air Services Fees

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Assembly, late yesterday afternoon I learned through a general press release from NAV Canada that the federal Minister of Transport, the Honourable David Collenette, gave his approval to NAV Canada's fee proposal last Friday. I want to inform the House that I am greatly disappointed with the consistent refusal of NAV Canada and the federal government to recognize the impact the new fee structure will have on northern Canada.

NAV Canada's announcement makes much of the fact that, as a special concession to the north, it will phase in the new fees over a two year period. This is merely a delay. The pain will come in small cuts over time rather than all at once. Delays or deferrals were not what we had asked NAV Canada or the Minister of Transport to consider. NAV Canada also makes much of the fact that the former Air Transportation Tax is to be removed as the new fees are introduced to replace it. Unlike the Air Transportation Tax that was added to the fares of paying passengers, the new service fees are charged on aircraft movements - regardless of whether the aircraft is empty or loaded. Since the fees are based on aircraft movements, the air carriers must recover the fees from their passengers and freight. The new fees have and will

impose added cost to the movement of freight. This is a new cost to northerners and the substance of our criticism. The announced deferrals do not change the fact that, in the end, fresh groceries and other essential air cargoes delivered to our northern and remote communities will cost more.

Next week I will be meeting in Regina with the federal Ministers and my provincial and territorial counterparts. I intend to take up the issue of the NAV Canada fees at the meeting and I have already had the item included on the agenda. The deferrals do give us time. With the support of this Assembly, the people who live in our communities and the northern air industry, I intend to pursue every avenue at our disposal to mitigate this added increase to our high cost of living in the north. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3,

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Members' statements. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 29-13(6): Concerns of Pond Inlet Residents

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern regarding my visit to Pond Inlet and the issues I wish to bring to your attention. These problems still have not been resolved;

First of all, the school and gymnasium that was planned for the community was designed to be too small, and the foundation for the building remains very muddy. The marina/dock that was to be built still has not gone through. More and more people are buying their own boats and this facility is required for safety purposes, as Pond Inlet has no safe harbour. The travel routes by air also remain the same. In order to travel between Hall Beach, Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay, they still have to stop over in Iqaluit.

Also, they need a nursing station, which they were told they would get. To date, they have never heard anything more. They have had only two nurses all this time even though they should have five according to ratio and population numbers. There should also

be nursing training provided for Inuit but this has also been discontinued.

Mr. Speaker, these issues I speak of will be brought forward in question period at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 30-13(6): Iqaluit Youth Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past summer has seen unprecedented growth occur in Iqaluit. There are numerous single family and multi-plex housing units as well as office buildings and the new Legislative Assembly building being built. This activity has meant increasing numbers of people moving to Iqaluit and this has pushed resources to their limit. Housing shortages remain very serious and the homeless shelter was over flowing before it was closed down. A new shelter is now being built to help deal with the problem of homelessness. Mr. Speaker, with all this growth and activity the youth of Iqaluit have not been forgotten. With support from Frobisher Developments Limited they kindly donated a housing unit to be used as a youth centre. Over the past several months, I have chaired a committee of community volunteers that have tried to put together a sound plan to open the youth centre. We have had support from various organizations and companies Mr. Speaker, but we have had no luck with this government.

Our latest request for core funding to help us hire a full-time staff person who would be available to counsel youth and coordinate activities was rejected. Mr. Speaker, last Friday we met to review our options and the committee is scheduled to meet again tomorrow. We now plan on preparing a funding proposal to the federal government. Mr. Speaker, many of our youth are in crisis. The youth centre would be a safe place where they could hang out with their friends and we would have someone available to help and talk to. a trained councillor. I do not understand why this government cannot find a way to help fund such a worthwhile project.

We pay lip service to many of the problems affecting youth. When youth get in trouble or when we have to

deal with suicide, crime or drug related problems, we talk about diversion type programs. Mr. Speaker a dedicated environment for youth with trained staff on hand is what is needed. A safe place to go. Later today, I will ask the appropriate Minister about these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 31-13(6): Timing of Capital Project Construction

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement today is in regard to the timing of contracts that have been let go in the Mackenzie Delta region. A lot of these projects that should have been constructed over the summer period are now just being put out for tender. A lot of the access clients who have made attempts to get the program in which their units are only now being constructed. With the short construction season in the north, Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that these tenders be let go and opened sooner so we can take advantage of the summer season and the work that is needed in a lot of our smaller communities which depend on these small projects. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister questions later on the timing of allocating contracts, tenders for capital projects and housing units in our communities. I do not think it is appropriate for contracts be let go in August and that construction starts in September or October. These are essential projects that communities look forward to for the work and also the needed construction during that short period of the season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 32-13(6): GNWT Economic Strategies

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my comments today will be in regard to the economic strategies that the government of the NWT has undertaken. This summer we learned that the GNWT is undertaking the development of two economic strategies - one for the NWT in the west here and one for Nunavut. There is no question in my mind of the importance of strategizing our economic future. I have had concern

expressed to me by several consultants and people in Yellowknife about the short time frame that the request for proposal was advertised.

In preparing a proposal for a \$500,000 project usually requires

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a good deal of preparation time. I would say a normal minimum time for a project of this size would be about three weeks, but the government only allowed ten days. The question is why was such a short time frame given for submitting proposals for such a major project?

In addition to this question, I have my own concern with respect to our process of consulting MLAs in this matter. In a news release dated March 31st, Premier Morin announced plans to create an economic strategy and in that release he is quoted as saying: "I look forward to working with my cabinet colleagues and the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly to make sure this strategy moves forward in a coordinated manner..." The release concludes by saying that, "It is anticipated a preliminary schedule and framework outlining the strategy will be available for discussion at the next session of the Legislative Assembly", namely the May session. That preliminary schedule and framework was never made available at our May session, nor was our Standing Committee on Resource Management ever consulted.

This government proceeded without input from ordinary MLAs, I do not see where public consultation is taking place, nor that there is visible involvement by community or business groups in this strategy. What does that mean? Are we regurgitating government reports and working with the bureaucrats? I think it should be noted, not everyone is a happy camper here on the western front, nor perhaps on the eastern front in Nunavut, with this development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 33-13(6): Sod Turning of Diamond Sorting and Valuation Facility

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to also talk about the sod turning at the BHP valuation sorting facility that I had the opportunity to attend at noon hour. Mr. Speaker, I can honestly say that this is a momentous occasion. This is the first such facility in North America and there will be around 15 jobs to start and more will be coming of course with other mines opening and greater development. Mr. Speaker, this is a win-win situation. First of all BHP gets its facility, secondly, the City of Yellowknife gets much need tax dollars at the full economic rate. There were no concessions made. Thirdly, the valuator as a consortium of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Dogrib First Nation and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. These three birthright organizations will be able to get jobs and other economic opportunities from this venture. I say birthright organizations because there are three land claimant groups.

Mr. Speaker, this could not have happened without the hard work of a lot of people and I believe they are to be congratulated for a job well done. Hopefully, this is just the start of a full value added secondary diamond industry in the north, meaning diamond polishing, jewellery making and so on. Mr. Speaker, this of course means more jobs and less social programs for not only Yellowknife, but also for the surrounding communities. Indeed, we can say we have a bright and glittery road ahead of us. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement 34-13(6): Holman Hamlet Council's Efforts to Address Division Concerns

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to complement the actions of the mayor and hamlet council of Holman for their efforts and determination to work closely with the GNWT Division Secretariat over the last few months to assure the residents of Holman are not adversely effected by division in April 1999. The Mayor, Mr. Gary Bristow, and council have had numerous meetings with officials of GNWT departments to assure a smooth transition of government services from the Kitikmeot regional office to the Inuvik regional office. On behalf of the residents of Holman, I

wish to thank the Honourable Kelvin Ng and the Honourable Jim Antoine, for travelling to the community of Holman in July of this year to meet with the hamlet council to discuss division issues, as well as other O and M and capital projects.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage officials from all the departments to continue to work closely with the mayor and council, as well as myself as the MLA for Nunakput on the ongoing divisional issues. I wish to thank the Premier, Honourable Don Morin for his assistance in this matter as well. I hope the end result will be a community that will experience a minimum of negative impacts resulting from division into two new territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 35-13(6): The Importance of Educational Achievement

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform this House that my region is hearing how important education is. Over the past number of years, our leaders have been telling young and old that education is the backbone to a better life. We all try to ensure that our children have the best we can offer. Be it a good warm home, food on the table, a caring and loving family, it is our duty as parents to ensure these things are provided. It is also our duty to ensure our children can achieve their goals. We must enforce and encourage our children to attend school and get as much education as is possible.

With this in mind, I would like to inform this House that for this current school year we have had tremendous response for individuals to attend post-secondary schools as well as getting a high school education. This year we have 47 students out attending post-secondary schools throughout Canada. The Chief Jimmy Bruneau High School has had an increase of almost 100 students over the same period last year. This is all very good news for our region and our residents.

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We cannot stop now, we must continue to encourage our residents to get educated, our government must continue to develop new and interesting programs and methods that focus on our ever changing environment. New opportunities are becoming

available and we must respond to these. To end, I would like to commend our students for their achievements and keep up the good work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 36-13(6): Resolution of the Pay Equity/Collective Bargaining Dispute

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, almost three years ago when we took office, one of the first hard and necessary tasks we had to do was to balance the budget and instituted a deficit measures act to which everybody had to contribute, including our employees, with their wages and benefits rolled back. It is now half way into the fiscal year and our last year in office, and while the excluded members of our civil service and Hay Plan people have been able to realize some of the benefit of their hard work now that the budget is balanced and we see a surplus projected, unfortunately the vast majority of our employees sit empty handed with their deficit and reduced wages. Still the only wages that they get with no recognition for their contribution that they put into this balancing of the budget. There are tens of millions of dollars on the table waiting to go into the pockets of the people who worked long and hard for this government and continue to do that.

It is my sincere hope that they will be able to soon see that money in their pay cheques and they will put that back into the economy of the north and their communities and they should benefit as soon as possible for all the hard work and hardship they had to put up with as part of their contribution to balancing the budget. So I would strongly encourage both parties to not forget and lose sight of the fact that the people we represent are the people in the communities. This should not be a high level political issue. It should not be driven from Ottawa. It has to get resolved. One of the key seasons of the year, Christmas time is coming, gifts for our young ones and children all sorts of important issues. Mr. Speaker, my position on this is let the people have a vote on this and let us get the money into the pockets of the people who have worked hard and have earned every penny of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 37-13(6): Proposed Venture Capital Corporations

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of the proposed venture capital corporations. Mr. Speaker, I am in full support of any initiative that will stimulate the northern economy. We northerners can be and will be self-sufficient and innovative when given the opportunity. This is a proactive initiative which will facilitate that entrepreneurial spirit. Mr. Speaker, venture capital corporations will direct the use of strategic business investments to: stimulate the economy of the north; create and maintain jobs locally; and involve our labour groups, employees and other eligible investors as partners in the investment, governance and management of northern firms. Northern investors will not only receive a break on their taxes, but also a unique opportunity to invest in northern businesses. Mr. Speaker, this is a good legislation and credit should go to all those involved in the development and review of this proposed bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 38-13(6): Government Position Regarding Civil Service Lay-offs

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all familiar with the now famous no lay-off policy. I quote the Premier from his statement in this House last March when he said, "this government plans no more lay-offs, either due to division or to department consolidations" for the remainder of this government's term. This was a welcome announcement, after the difficult times and the uncertainty that government employees have faced over the past years.

I am sure the government knows that the policy was much talked about among employees. As it turns out, we are now hearing conflicting messages. Members may recall a letter we received from the Premier in

August. The Premier pointed out that the creation of two new governments will result in a transfer of responsibilities to the Nunavut government. This is not ground breaking news. He also said, and I quote, "the need to downsize the public service".

Now, we are downsizing the public service, but apparently not laying off. The Premier wrote that there would be no lay-offs because there will be an internal competition process for GNWT jobs. According to the Premier, this would reduce staff numbers by creating greater mobility within the workforce. Mr. Speaker, I am not convinced that it will be quite that simple or painless or effective for that matter. We need a lot more information. To me, downsizing sounds a lot like lay-off policy by another name. Later today, I will be speaking and asking questions to the Premier on this particular topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize from my home riding Nancy Kalluak from Arviat and also from Baker Lake, Mona Autut. These two ladies are Nunavut's first returning officers.

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--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Glen McLean, former resident of Fort Smith, former SAO of the community a long time resident and now deputy returning officer of the NWT.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Sarah Kidlapik, her mother and father are also in Repulse Bay and she is here too as well. I would like to thank her for coming. (Translation ends)

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Henry.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 29-13(6): Civil Service Lay-off Provisions

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Premier. The Premier said a number of GNWT employees must be reduced. The government intends to do this without lay-offs by creating an internal competition process for the GNWT employees. The Premier said that the staff would be reduced by creating greater mobility within the workforce. My question to the Premier is, can the Premier tell me approximately how many GNWT positions still need to be eliminated prior to division? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 29-13(6): Civil Service Lay-off Provisions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give him a number today. I will be pleased to try to find that number for him and forward it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 29-13(6): Civil Service Lay-off Provisions

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Premier then, Mr. Speaker, to give me some clarification of what he meant when he addressed this House last March when he told this House that this government plans no more lay-offs either due to division or to departmental consolidations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 29-13(6): Civil Service Lay-off Provisions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said in the last Legislative Assembly, there will be no more lay-offs to government staff due to division and downsizing. When we say that, we meant that. There is a certain amount of people who work for the government right now. We are going to need a certain amount of people to carry out the functions of the new western governance. What we have done, is we have internal staffing that we have to do. So, some people may be in positions right now that will be in a downsized position after division. We are attempting to move those people to other positions so we do not have to lay people off. We have approximately the same number of people on staff as we do positions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 29-13(6): Civil Service Lay-off Provisions

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand the Premier to tell us that there will be no more lay-offs regardless of these internal competitions that he spoke of earlier? Is he telling this House there will be no lay-offs of GNWT staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 29-13(6): Civil Service Lay-off Provisions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 30-13(6): GNWT Economic Strategies

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be on the economic strategy and to the Minister responsible. The economic strategy is a big job and a substantial amount of money is being committed by this government to the development of that strategy for both the west and Nunavut. Naturally, I would have expected and I am sure the government ensured that any proposal submitted would have been very detailed and substantial. My first question in this matter relates to the timing of the advertising of the proposal and I wonder if I could get an answer on why the closing date on the RFP was so short. It was advertised on April 20th and the closing date was April 28th. Could I get an answer on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Economic Strategy, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 30-13(6): GNWT Economic Strategies

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HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure why that took place, but I will check with the people who are working on the project and report back to my honourable colleague. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 30-13(6): GNWT Economic Strategies

MR. OOTES:

Thank you. Given that this was a very short time frame that it was advertised and given that only one

proposal was made. What I am wondering is why the government did not decide to put out another request for proposal so we would have a competitive situation and be sure that everyone out in the public could have input into this. My question is, why was it not put out for a second proposal?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 30-13(6): GNWT
Economic Strategies

HON. JOHN TODD:

I would have to check with the administration that dealt with the issue, but we did put it out to public tender. Why only one person applied, I do not know because I think that is where my colleague is leading to. I cannot answer that question. I do not know why only one person applied. I would only be too happy to table in this House the excellent proposal we received from Mr. Bailey and associates, if the Member would like to have that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 30-13(6): GNWT
Economic Strategies

MR. OOTES:

I appreciate the proposal and I am sure all Members would like to have a copy of that. My next question relates to the proposal itself, in the proposal that was accepted by the government, did it include all the details with regard to the involvement and expertise of costs and so forth and subcontractors that would be involved in this project as it pertained to the requirement of the bid?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 30-13(6): GNWT
Economic Strategies

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I imagine the debate would end up where we would be talking about the contract around the content of what we are trying to achieve

here. I would say to my honourable colleague that I would have to look into it. I do not get involved in the detail of that kind of thing. I would hope at some point he would ask me questions of what we are trying to achieve here. What the overall objective is, how we are trying to make life better for northerners and how we are trying to get more money from the federal government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 30-13(6): GNWT
Economic Strategies

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I get another chance during question period, I will ask the question that Mr. Todd presented on the floor, but I have several other questions first. The other question I have that I would like addressed now, is with respect to Nunavut. What organizations in Nunavut asked for a study to be done, an economic strategy be done for Nunavut? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 30-13(6): GNWT
Economic Strategies

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of this initiative of this government, which is still in place until March 31, 1999. In fact, there is a committee over in Nunavut working under, I believe NTI, the Interim Commissioner, the GNWT, the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce, et cetera they are working with us on this important initiative.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 31-13(6): Forestry Manufacturers Licencing

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and it is regarding concerns I raised in the House yesterday that I was made aware

of by the Northwest Territories Forest Industry Association and that is the fact that a product they harvest in the north, the lumber, the trees that is harvested, logged, milled, and planed to the standards set by the Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board, is not in fact, covered under the northern manufactured policy. This puts local businesses in Fort Smith, Resolution, Hay River and possibly in the Fort Simpson area at a disadvantage where they have a northern product grown in the north and put together and finished in the north on a different level than all other northern products in making them compete with southern firms with no recognition of the work that is done in the north. My question to the Minister is, in light of this concern, could he indicate whether he is prepared to looking at addressing that oversight so that it is dealt with prior to the next construction season? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 31-13(6): Forestry Manufacturers Licencing

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be in touch with the members of the forestry association to assist them with the paper work to ensure they register with

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the Business Incentive Policy office so that they can list their products as soon as possible. That will be done in the next few days. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 32-13(6): Funding for Youth Centres

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on my earlier Member's statement concerning the youth centre. I would address my question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Could the Minister indicate if this government actually provides any type of funding for youth centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 32-13(6): Funding for Youth Centres

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do not have such a category in our budget at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 32-13(6): Funding for Youth Centres

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was trying to help this committee out, to get money, I e-mailed every one of the Ministers and their EAs in their departments and I only had a response out of two of the Ministers' departments about help for the Youth Centre. Would Mr. Dent and his department be able to contact me or my office to make his staff available to help me in this quest, to get money from one of the funding pots that are out there, so we can, indeed, try to get the Youth Centre up? It is needed and I think the need has been demonstrated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 32-13(16): Funding for Youth Centres

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department would be happy to help any Member to try and work with residents in their community to improve services for young people. The answer is yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Krutko.

Question 33-13(6): Timing for the Tendering of Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works. It is in regard to my opening statement. The whole question about contracts and when contracts are let go. When you talk about public tenders for the construction of projects in our small communities and housing access units that need to be built. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, why is it that tenders and contracts for such construction of public contracts, let go so late in the season? Yet, we approve the budget, usually it is in February/March? In my riding a lot of projects were not concluded through the tendering process until August, in some cases September. Why is that?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 33-13(6): Timing for the Tendering of Contracts

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unless I know the specific project the honourable Member is talking about, then I could answer him pertaining to these specific cases there may be out there. Generally speaking, the department issues tenders to the public as soon as they can, early in the year. The majority of the contracts I am aware of are done in this manner. Maybe there are some circumstances that arise throughout the summer, where projects may be awarded later on, and these are special cases. Generally speaking, the department is going out and trying to put these projects out as early in the building season as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 33-13(6): Timing for the Tendering of Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Using the example in regard to an access unit in Fort McPherson, where an individual was approved for the project. The individual destroyed the old units that he was in, so he could construct the new access unit on his property in June. It has basically been August when the contract was let go. It was a matter of a three month lapse from the time he presumed the construction was going to start until the time the tender was closed.

We are talking about something that should have possibly started in May or June, instead occurred in August. Why was it such a long time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 33-13(6): Timing for the Tendering of Contracts

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Public Works and Services deals with different projects that are put forward from client departments. It could be Health and Social Services or RWED or Education, Culture and Employment. In the case of Housing which the access unit come under, they do their own project management themselves. In this particular case, the access housing the honourable Member is talking about, is out of the Department of Public Works hands. I believe it is under the Housing Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 33-13(6): Timing for the Tendering of Contracts

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MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the timing of these projects. The reason I raised the question is, we also have to take into account the shipping season which NTCL usually does not take any orders after September 1. A lot of these projects being closed in the latter part of August. I will use another example, if I can, Mr. Speaker. In Aklavik where there was supposed to be a warehouse constructed, which is part of the capital budget process, it has been just in the last two weeks where the tender has been recalled for going to public tender, yet the season for getting the materials through NTCL in Hay River is no longer possible because the season for NTCL taking orders has been concluded. By using these as examples, which is why I raised the question about the seasons and when these tenders are being closed so we can construct our capital projects in our communities during the construction season. This is usually during the summer season. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I did not hear a question and I will remind the Members to limit their preambles in their supplementaries. Oral questions, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 34-13(6): Costs for the Development of the Economic Strategies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are in follow-up to Mr. Ootes' questions with respect to the Economic Strategy. Mr. Speaker, I think it is entirely appropriate for us to question the expenditure of public funds. I would just like to comment that it is cheap rhetoric on this side of the House to suggest that questioning the process of procurement for this contract or this service is to criticize the intent or the merit of the exercise. That is not the intent here. No one is questioning the merit of the initiative. I would also like to, Mr. Speaker, remind the Minister that he referred to this as a public tender and we have much and extensive debate in this House and tried to explain to some of the Ministers the difference between a request for proposal and a public tender. Obviously, we have not succeeded in that.

No one sets out to do something without counting the cost, so my question is, did the Minister have a cost in mind before issuing the RFP for the development of the Economic Strategies in question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 34-13(6): Costs for the Development of the Economic Strategies

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not quite understand the preamble of my honourable colleague. She makes some reference to some things I said, I do not remember saying anything that she indicated I did. Let us clear that up, first of all. Secondly, I really was looking at this economic strategy as a return on investment. What is it going to cost us to get the kind of return we want? In this strategy when we lay it out to you, and it is not quite ready yet, but when we lay it out to you, we will demonstrate, clearly demonstrate. Some people will look beyond tomorrow, but what we are building is a case for the future. What we are building is a case for more money to enable us to do the kinds of things our

constituents expect us to do. Sometimes you have to spend money on the front end to ensure at the end of the day you get more money on the back end.

If my honourable colleague would be just a little patient, I think we will be able to demonstrate in the coming weeks, that the investment we are putting in on the front end, will bring us significant return on the back end, when we explain it in detail to the Caucus, to the public at large and by the way, to the groups I have been speaking to over the last three or four months. Just let me, if I may, for the moment, explain who I have been talking to. I spoke to a number of aboriginal leaders, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Gaudet, Mr. Hagen, Chamber of Mines, Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, Interim Commissioner, et cetera. During the summer, when I was actively, discussing these things, we did in fact look for public input into where we were going. The net effect of what we are trying to do is get a return on investment now for future generations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 34-13(6): Costs for the Development of the Economic Strategies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no one is arguing with the intent of the proposal that was called for, the information that might be garnered from that and all of the wonderful things it might bring about. We have a budgetary process. I will repeat my question, this should not even count as a question because he did not answer this. Did the Minister have a budget figure in mind when he went to RFP for this proposal call?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 34-13(6): Costs for the Development of the Economic Strategies

HON. JOHN TODD:

I had not anticipated an amount of money at the time. What I was looking for was a proposal that would bring us about the kind of ammunition or substantiation, if you want, for the overall strategy we have in relationship to our federal fiscal relationship

with the federal government. I do not know the actual cost of this thing to date. I think it is somewhere in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 mark. I can get that from my colleague.

It is important to point out in a serious vein that the intent here is to develop the case to be able to show to the federal government we need a new fiscal relationship, to provide us some incentive to garnish more revenues, to get into the non-renewable resource tax window, to support the initiative of my honourable colleague Mr. Antoine in his desire to build roads to resources, to support my honourable colleague, Mr. Kakfwi, to get more EDA money and to support the overall objectives of this House. That is to find more money to deliver to our

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constituents the kind of services they have come to expect. That is what this initiative is all about. As I said, if my honourable colleague will be patient for awhile, I think we will be able to demonstrate and substantiate this money is a wise investment for the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 34-13(6): Costs for the Development of the Economic Strategies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are absolutely noble aspirations. My question is, when we go to a call for contracts. Let me back up for a bit. When we go to an RFP or tender call for contracts, there is an estimated amount. Somebody has something in mind. Public Works and Services goes to proposal call and it comes in higher, they go back and they negotiate with the person putting in the proposal, if it is less money. I am saying, I repeat my question again, did the department have any figure in mind when they went to RFP or was it wide open? Do we not have a budgetary process? Was this in the budget? How much was it budgeted at?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 34-13(6): Costs for the Development of the Economic Strategies

HON. JOHN TODD:

This initiative came about based on previous discussions with Miss Stewart and Mr. Martin, a year or a year and a half ago. Mr. Martin said to me at the time, you balance the budget, you get two new formula agreements and we will look at a new fiscal relationship once those two issues are dealt within the Northwest Territories. That is what this is about. What I do not know today is whether or not we budgeted, how much we budgeted for that particular part of the strategy. The part that we are dealing with Mr. Bailey and Associates is only one small part of the strategy. I will get that number from my colleague and advise her accordingly. I just do not have it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 34-13(6): Costs for the Development of the Economic Strategies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume, Mr. Speaker, the Minister would have been involved in the evaluation of the proposal, when it came in. Being involved in the evaluation of the proposal, they would have looked at the cost of proposal. It would have been compared to something. Did they think the proposal was going to come in at \$50, \$500, \$500,000? He uses \$300,000, \$500,000 throwing these numbers out. Surely there was a dollar value attached to this contract? That is merely what I am trying to get at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 34-13(6): Costs for the Development of the Economic Strategies

HON. JOHN TODD:

I was not involved in the evaluation of the contracts. That is the role of the administration. This honourable colleague talked many times that you want to avoid political interference in many of the activities taking place in this House. This decision on this contract is made by the administration. I will get the figure that my honourable colleague wants and present it to her in the House if she wants. I will get it. It is not that I do not want to give it, Mr. Speaker. I do not have it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien.

Question 35-13(6): Ministerial Responsibility for Economic Strategies

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on Mrs. Groenewegen's questions regarding this contract for the economic strategy for both east and west. My question would be why was this contract or proposal not dealt with by the Minister of ED&T and his capable staff? Why did we have to go outside to do this? Why is not the Minister of ED&T in charge of this project? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier. Two questions.

Return To Question 35-13(6): Ministerial Responsibility for Economic Strategies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have appointed Mr. Todd in charge of the Economic Development Strategy and that is who is in charge of bringing all aspects of what is happening in the north together, to make it presentable. As far as why it was not done in-house instead of contracted out, there was a decision made to contract it. That is the way it went. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 35-13(6): Ministerial Responsibility for Economic Strategies

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, what is the role then of the Minister of Economic Development or RWED in this particular contract and others that are related to it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 35-13(6): Ministerial Responsibility for Economic Strategies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Todd is the lead on Economic Strategy. Mr. Dent is involved in Economic Strategy as Department of Education. Mr. Antoine is involved as the Department of Transportation and Mr. Kakfwi is involved in it as the Minister responsible for RWED. There is involvement from all parts of government and Mr. Todd is coordinating on behalf of government. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 35-13(6): Ministerial Responsibility for Economic Strategies

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cost that we hear bandied about is approximately \$500,000 for this particular contract. Whether that is right or wrong, my question is, has this amount been budgeted? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 35-13(6): Ministerial Responsibility for Economic Strategies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One thing I have learned from this business is never to quote figures unless you know what you are talking about. I do not know what the exact budget is, because it could mislead the public and until I find out, I will find out what the contract was, if it was budgeted and how it fits into the budget. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 36-13(6): Fiscal Situation of the WCB

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to Mr. Todd, Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. The Minister today brought us good news about the financial health of the Workers' Compensation Board, and I am quite sure all of the employees and employers welcome the news. There

is some information in the Minister's statement that requires some clarification. The Minister talks about in 1997 it achieved an operating surplus of over \$20 million and to date the board has accumulated operating reserve of over \$35 million.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, could he elaborate on that particular statement as to, whether the \$35 million is part of the \$20 million plus, or is there \$35 million generated in this year, or is it \$35 million to date from March 1st to the present date? If he could just elaborate on that statement, I think it would be important information for Members of this House and for employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 36-13(6): Fiscal Situation of the WCB

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I believe I said in my statement an accumulated operating reserve of over \$35 million that is what we are sitting with right now. That is the accumulated net operating reserve, if you want to call it surplus. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 36-13(6): Fiscal Situation of the WCB

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was looking for a little additional information. In the same vein, is that from March or April 1st? Is that April 1st, is there \$35 million to date accumulated, and if so, what is the projected accumulated surplus to March 31 of next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 36-13(6): Fiscal Situation of the WCB

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is \$35 million is probably effective the

last fiscal year. I do not have the number of what we are projecting what the accumulated reserve might be, but I do know that the initiatives have been taken by the Workers' Compensation Board, are all determined by their actuary and that the fiscal condition of the Workers' Compensation Board is: one, as I said yesterday, darn good management by the board and by the people that run it; and two, because it had three very successful years in terms of its financial portfolio.

The Workers' Compensation Board simply must pass that back and they have done that by these three initiatives of increasing the pensions, reducing the rates, and bringing the YMIR which I will bring into the House as quickly as I can, up to \$60,000 which would be the best YMIR in Canada. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 36-13(6): Fiscal Situation of the WCB

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the question of the excess revenue, does the Minister have available the actual figures of that \$35 million as to how it is made up? How much of it is generated by employers' contributions during this fiscal period and how much was generated by the investment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Two questions, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 36-13(6): Fiscal Situation of the WCB

HON. JOHN TODD:

The money is twofold. One is, employers pay through assessable payroll, x amount of dollars per hundred, which goes into the general fund at the Workers' Compensation Board, they then invest the money in an aggressive investment strategy. I do not have the breakdown. The bottomline is, as I said earlier, they have had three very successful years in their financial portfolio and what they are now doing is passing that back; one, the injured workers; and two, to the widows and widowers; and three, to the private sector employers who fund the WCB. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 37-13(6): Contract to Develop the GNWT Economic Strategies

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MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will continue my questioning with the Finance Minister on the Economic Strategy since I ended up asking the same question four times in my last set. I think now, we have determined that the government may have budgeted an amount. My next question is, was there a dollar value indicated on the proposal when it came in? The Minister has offered to table it in the House that is good, but how much was bid by the proponent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 37-13(6): Contract to Develop the GNWT Economic Strategies

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to be civil to my honourable colleague, but I think I already answered that three times. I said that I would provide her with that information. I do not have it here and I will table the contract in the House. What more can I do? How more transparent can you be?

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 37-13(6): Contract to Develop the GNWT Economic Strategies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how much more clear I can make this. I want to know how much did the government budget? How much was the actual proposal? Is that not clear? And the Minister has agreed to get that for me, okay. Those are two separate things. It could be two separate numbers because it is two separate questions. It is two separate items. How much did the government budget? How much did the proponent bid to do the

work for the government? I would like to know, also with respect to this strategy, what component of the work is going to be pulled together by actual government resources?

I understand this maybe a combination of subcontracting that will go to private consultants and that also, the government will be contributing through the various departments to the gathering together of this. Does the Minister have any kind of an idea of how much of this work is actually going to be done by the public service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 37-13(6): Contract to Develop the GNWT Economic Strategies

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am anticipating these questions and I genuinely want to answer them in a correct way, rather than take it as notice, but it appears that I am obviously not getting through. I will take the question as notice and I will give a full detailed response to my colleague and my other colleague across the floor, so that he can understand exactly where the government is at.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 38-13(6): Application of Economic Strategies to the Western Territory

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question as well, is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Western Caucus around this House which will form the Western Legislative Assembly after April 1, is currently working on a document for priorities and strategies for 1999, and beyond. One of the key supplemental documents that are going to flesh out that broad framework is going to be this Economic Strategy.

One of the key issues in the west, with any kind of Economic Strategy is the critical relationship between Economic Strategy and Western Governance. Could the Minister indicate how he intends to recognize that factor because without addressing that, it is going to

be an incomplete document? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 38-13(6): Application of Economic Strategies to the Western Territory

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent question by my honourable colleague. The reality is, what we are trying to accomplish here. I did address it in the Standing Committee on Government Operations, for those who were there. I did address it saying this is the larger issue of a new fiscal relationship with the federal government and in particular for the Western Territory.

It is abundantly clear as you move forward in western governments and if you engage in the western government's document, of which the Premier is going to talk about in the coming week, that you cannot move forward in a tax window, and in the development of roads to resources and the sharing of royalties and taxation, without some answer, and without moving forward on the constitutional changes that you require in the Western Territory. This is not a question of looking at existing programs, although we are doing that. It is the larger issue for me, as the Finance Minister, looking at the new fiscal relationship with the federal government in an effort to gather new revenues and new resources and be less dependent on the transfer payments that we are currently getting. When we look at western governments and Economic Strategy, they are intimately linked and that is where we are heading to at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 38-13(6): Application of Economic Strategies to the Western Territory

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MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as well, this government is currently spending, I believe, \$2 or 3 million on a Transportation Strategy. Will that be intrinsically related or tied into the Economic Strategy,

so that, in fact, issues like roads to resources are very specifically and concretely addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 38-13(6): Application of Economic Strategies to the Western Territory

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is correct. That is where we are heading. Maybe I can explain it. It is three or four basic initiatives that we are trying to undertake. One, we are trying to get into the tax window, and Mr. Martin said that he would at least put a table together after we resolve the budgets of the two new territories and balance the budget. Two, we are looking at trying to find ways and means in which to generate the dollars that are required, particularly in the Western Territory of significant magnitude that can make a difference. That is what the Road to Resources and the Non-renewable Strategy is all about. It is all inter-related.

I am hoping, at the end of the day, we will be able to demonstrate that to the public, to the House, and get some support for it. Certainly, in my initial discussions with the groups that I have spoken to, there seems to be some initial support for where we are heading. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 38-13(6): Application of Economic Strategies to the Western Territory

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an economic strategy is critical for the west as we go off on our own after division, and my colleague from Iqaluit may snicker as he has hundreds of millions poured in by the federal government to his community, but we do not have that luxury in the west. I consider this a very serious issue for us. I would like reassurances from the Minister that this Economic Strategy will, in fact, be specific and concrete and not a document that is out there which is so broad that only speaks to the general principles, but we are going to talk about how do we get roads up in the Valley and how do we connect all of the communities on land? How do we

deal with those very critical issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 38-13(6): Application of Economic Strategies to the Western Territory

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the Ministers who are intimately involved in this initiative are simply working towards that objective. This is not a short-term cure for our economic woes. This has got to be a long-term strategy that you look out there and start developing, if you want, an environment for change. A new fiscal relationship with Canada, which we have not had before, because the opportunity never presented itself before.

I believe that politically, at least, at the national level, certainly from my discussions with Mr. Martin and Ms. Stewart, and the Premiers and Mr. Kakfwi, et cetera, that there is a willingness to engage with us in a new fiscal relationship that will bring about optimistically, new opportunities for the Western Territory, less dependence, more self-reliance and greater economic activity. I do not say that just to be politically correct, I believe that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary. Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 38-13(6): Application of Economic Strategies to the Western Territory

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is focusing very specifically on money and fiscal arrangements with the federal government. I would just like to raise the question, it is okay to have money, but we have to keep our eye on the people as well and that ties into the old issue of education, and an educated workforce and a population that can in fact take advantage of the fiscal opportunities. Can the Minister indicate and assure us that as well will not be overlooked in this document? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 38-13(6): Application of Economic Strategies to the Western Territory

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, it is going to be an integrated approach and it is certainly the intention for that to take place. I am trying to get a working draft as quickly as I can to everybody including the public, that is the way we are going here. Mr. Dent has been involved and Mr. Kakfwi of course, is working aggressively on a new economic agreement which I am sure he will talk about later. Mr. Antoine is working aggressively on the road strategy.

All I am doing is trying to coordinate it all because to some extent, it all hinges on the new fiscal arrangement that we have with Canada which will then give us the opportunity to do the kinds of things that we all want to do. It is not a finance initiative, it is an initiative of the Cabinet and my role is to coordinate all the pieces, put forward a strong and strenuous argument for a less dependent new Western Territory. In the eastern territory, we are working closely with the group I talked about earlier and providing them with all the information they require. They are moving along at a fairly aggressive pace as well. I would hope that the draft document we would be able to provide people, will answer, if not all of these questions that have been raised, most of them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 39-13(6): Rationale for Creating Two Workers' Compensation Boards

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MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the WCB is very successful and one of the few WCBs in Canada that is fully funded. What is driving the process at the present time to look at two separate WCBs east and west? Economies of scale would tell us, Mr. Speaker, that the best course would be to not split or divide or create two new boards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 39-13(6): Rationale for Creating Two Workers' Compensation Boards

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite concerned myself right now, outside of this House of course, how there is a tendency in the last three or four months of polarization of thought east and west. Some of us are trying our best to bridge the differences that exist east and west, both politically and practically out there. To some extent, the drive towards an east and west split in the Workers' Compensation Board is one driven by expenditures and revenues. That is just my own interpretation of it. I really do not want to sit or stand here today, and encourage that kind of thought.

My desire would be to try to reach an appropriate compromise of bridging mechanisms in the short term that will allow the two new governments in the long-term to come to, what I believe should happen and will happen, knowing northerners the way I do, a reasonable agreement at the end of the day. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary to Question 39-13(6): Rationale for Creating Two Workers' Compensation Boards

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this process, Mr. Speaker, for looking at the Power Corporation and the WCB, in this case the WCB, we have elected representatives in this House that represent all the people in the Northwest Territories.

In the case of Nunavut, because we are setting up for new government, we have the office of the Interim Commissioner, mandated by DIAND, and because of the situation with the Nunavut Accord which brought Nunavut into existence. Who is at the bargaining table representing the western groups here because we have western representatives elected in this House, why would we have an outside group? Would the Minister explain who is at that table? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 39-13(6): Rationale for Creating Two Workers' Compensation Boards

HON. JOHN TODD:

Remember, Mr. Speaker, that from the very beginning when we initiated discussions on formula financing, when you step back a little bit, there was a desire on the government's part that all players be at the table and there was agreement put in place for the Interim Commissioner, the Government of the Northwest Territories, NTI and the Western Coalition would sit at the table on all aspects of division. That is the collective group that works towards this difficult task of trying to put together the right kind of package on issues like the Workers' Compensation Board or the NWTPC.

The players have been consistent from the beginning and the current players are still there, I believe. It is coordinated through the Nunavut secretariat of the executive offices. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 39-13(6): Rationale for Creating Two Workers' Compensation Boards

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, concern from Nunavut is indeed we would like to have our fair share. I do not think we are trying to be greedy or anything like that. Mr. Todd talks about the polarization east and west.

Again, I understand why the Interim Commissioner is there, because he has been appointed. NTI is a signatory to the Nunavut Agreement which was passed in the House of Commons and thus is mandated legislatively to be there. The Western Coalition was asked to join. Who made up the western coalition on the WCB agreements that are going on right now between the WCB and the Power Corporation? Who is representing the Western Coalition? I do not understand why they are at the table, when you have elected people from the west. I am sure Mr. Miltenberger and some other Members in this House can represent western views. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 39-13(6): Rationale for Creating Two Workers' Compensation Boards

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am trying to avoid a confrontation, but I do not know why my colleague is asking the question now. He has known the Western Coalition has been at the table from the beginning. Surely, he has placed me in an awkward position today, you should see the need for a balance. You have the Interim Commissioner's office representing Nunavut, you have got NTI representing aboriginal peoples in Nunavut, you have got the GNWT representing east and west. Clearly, there was a requirement for the western interest to be represented.

-- Applause

Mr. Floyd Roland represents that group politically in this House and that coalition group represents a varied set of interests in the Western Territory. I think it is working reasonably well.

As I said yesterday to these questions, these are sensitive and delicate times. At the end of the day, we have to be very careful that we do what is best for people east and west. It is certainly my intention as Chair of the division committee, to

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ensure that happens. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 39-13(6): Rationale for Creating Two Workers' Compensation Boards

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker today the Minister responsible for the WCB gave a statement of how well the WCB is doing. I am wondering when that same Minister would be able to bring into this House an update for us on the discussions to date on the WCB because again, economies of scale tell us two separate WCBs may not be in the best interests of all the people of the Northwest Territories. My question is, when will the Minister update this House on that process?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 39-13(6): Rationale for Creating Two Workers' Compensation Boards

HON. JOHN TODD:

The position of the Cabinet is no different with the WCB than it was with the Power Corporation, and my honourable colleague, Mr. Dent, spoke to you yesterday. In an ideal world, we would have liked to have seen one, because there is some value in the economies of scale as my honourable colleague talks about. The reality is, that does not appear to be what is acceptable east and west. We are trying, to the best of our ability, to develop bridging mechanisms for further discussion, east and west, for two new governments and leaving the options open should the two new governments decide that they wish to maintain it or wish to split it in an orderly, fair and reasonable way. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 40-13(6): Timing For the Tendering of Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works, regarding the short season we have for construction in regard to communities that are isolated where they depend on goods to be shipped by NTCL up through the river systems, into the communities. In regard to the short time frame that these communities have to depend on this transportation to their communities, why are public tenders not posted earlier on, in April or May, so that the tendering process could be concluded and the materials could be available for summer construction in these communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 40-13(6): Timing For the Tendering of Contracts

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, as far as I am aware about Public Works and Services, they would know the shipping seasons along the Mackenzie and the western Arctic as well as the Keewatin and the eastern Arctic. They have

time-lines that they have to meet before the season starts. On a timely historical basis, they have been able to determine which contracts need to be awarded at certain times and they try to stick by that schedule. There are different circumstances that arise, that maybe a project may be delayed for contracting reasons or the bids coming in were not satisfactory, or the scope of the work may be readjusted, they have to do it again. There are some situations where these things happen. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 40-13(6): Timing For the Tendering of Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the tendering process, especially this summer season seemed to be a real hectic one where a lot of tenders were not concluded in regard to negotiated whatnot until August. A lot of the complaints were that apparently the estimated price that was put forth through the budgetary process was a lot lower than expected for a lot of contracts have come in way over the estimated cost. Is there a problem with the process we have used to estimate these projects or is it just because of the economic circumstances we find ourselves in the north where it seems like it is happening all over, especially where we have construction of schools and other public facilities, that they are way over budget? What is the reason for that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 40-13(6): Timing For the Tendering of Contracts

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question the honourable Member is asking. I have asked the same question of the department. When we found out last year that certain projects the department, with their client departments have estimated, and we approve in the House, through the budget session different projects, and when the tendering process is concluded we are finding out that in many cases the estimate put forward by the Department of Public Works, the budgets are coming in lower than what the

public tendering process is. I have asked the department to look into this situation. I am told that we have to look at the boom in other parts of the country.

In the Nunavut area, there is a lot of construction going on in preparation for Nunavut. There are a lot of projects out there. The workforce and contracts that we have, there is a lot of work, there are a lot of people who go there. I am told that in Alberta there has been a boom in their economic development, so there is requirement for a lot of trade people to go into Alberta. As a result, our estimation is that somehow or other, the mechanical part of all these different buildings is coming in higher than we estimated. There is a trend that the department is able to identify. We are finding out that, yes, our estimates are a lot lower than what is in the market. It is a problem that we have identified.

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As a result, it is causing some glitches in our system. The Department of Public Works and Services, has client departments that we service. The budget they have through their system is approved through this House. Whenever a project comes in low, if our estimate is low and the bid prices are high, then we have to go back to the department and ask them if there is any way they could find within their system, additional dollars to top off the difference. It takes some time to do that. In many cases, we had to go back to the drawing board and retender. This year, yes, there are more than the usual tenders that we find ourselves adjusting throughout the summer.

Normally, the way the process is within our department, if our estimates are right and the bids are coming in, usually the competitive process is to see whether the project we have approved, that the bids come in lower than our projected costs, then, we are in the black and we can have some leeway. In many cases, we are coming in way below the bid prices and we have to make adjustments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 40-13(6): Timing For the Tendering of Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the numbers you mentioned, how many projects have been cancelled because of the problem we seem to find ourselves in, where a lot of these projects have come in way over budget because of the estimation of the Department of Public Works? How many projects have been cancelled because of this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 40-13(6): Timing For the Tendering of Contracts

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the projects that are out there I try not to cancel any of them because I know, especially the smaller communities, these projects are needed to boost their economy, provide jobs and employment in the communities. What we are trying to do is not cancel any of the contracts, we try to work with that situation and in many cases we are able to do it. I do not have any detail in front of me that says we have cancelled some new projects. I will find that out and get back to the member on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 40-13(6): Timing For the Tendering of Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform this House on what steps are being taken to evaluate the problem we seem to find ourselves in? Especially in regard to Members of this House where we do have to approve the budget as it comes forth for the fiscal year and to find ourselves in the situation where we have approved something and later on we find out it is costing us what we really estimated. Could the Minister set up a review on what is being done to correct that problem?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 40-13(6): Timing For the Tendering of Contracts

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the first step is already done. We realize there has been a trend and we have asked the Department to review these contracts and the information it has shared with the House is what we are faced with. We are faced with a situation where as the honourable member is saying there is a problem out there. The instructions to the department is we have to look carefully at every project we have. The client departments will have to do that as well because the Department of Public Works is serving the client departments.

Together, we have to really look at each project to make sure we take into consideration the environment we find ourselves in. Like I said there is a big growth in Nunavut. Nunavut is drawing trades and contractors and in Alberta as well, where they are doing the same thing. The cost of mechanical is somehow higher than estimated. All these things have to be taken into consideration as we review all of these projects. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Steen.

Question 41-13(6): Role of the Premier's Panel in Developing the Economic Strategies

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable Premier. Mr. Speaker, I believe it was 1996 that this Assembly was informed the Premier had appointed an economic development panel to assist him in defining an economic strategy for the Northwest Territories as a whole. I believe we were informed there was membership on this panel from all areas in the Northwest Territories, including my riding. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is whether or not experience and expertise from this panel is being involved at all in coming up with the economic development strategy for this government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 41-13(6): Role of the Premier's Panel in Developing the Economic Strategies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We plan on meeting this fall. I plan on calling the Premier's Panel Advisory Group together in the fall. Part of those discussions will be the new economic strategy for the Northwest Territories for west and east. It is important to know I believe through a new relationship with aboriginal governments, through a new

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relationship and creation of a new Western Territory for the west which consists of many people, that it is important to involve as many people as we can before we move ahead. The Premier's Panel will be involved as well and hopefully, get out to as many communities, meet as many people as we can and get their concerns and advice documented as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. I will allow the member to conclude his supplementary. I also want to, for today, apologize to the Member for Nunakput too. I was not quite paying attention to the Members on this side. Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 41-13(6): Role of the Premier's Panel in Developing the Economic Strategies

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Premier is, would this panel be involved in the economic strategy that was undertaken by Mr. Todd?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 41-13(6): Role of the Premier's Panel in Developing the Economic Strategies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By all means, they will be involved. It is a broad representation from across the Northwest Territories. Once we get draft, speaking notes, as well as the other issues of the economic strategy, pull in the whole transportation strategy, as well as, the training strategies and western governance. We will have to sit down and have some serious discussion on that. I think we are very

fortunate to be in this House at this time and being able to make some key decisions on how the new Western Territory will be formed and the new government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Henry.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 3-13(6): Fiscal Situation of the Workers' Compensation Board

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had some questions of Minister Todd today, and I think it is fair to say the Minister probably did not have that information available, so I will put it in written form.

1. Is the reserve of the \$35 million an accumulated surplus of the Workers' Compensation Board from April 1, 1998 to date? Does to date mean today, September 17, 1998 or is the Workers' Compensation Board using March 31, 1999?

2. How much of the \$35 million accumulated reserve was generated by employer contributions? How much from investment income?

3. Was any consideration given by the Workers' Compensation Board to rebate at its year end the excess revenue to the employers who paid into the fund, as opposed to the benefit going to new employers who did not generate this excess?

4. What is the projected accumulated operating reserve for the Workers' Compensation Board for the year ending March 31, 1999?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, 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. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 14-13(6): Hay Job Evaluation Benchmarks

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a return to oral question, 607-13(5), provided to Mr. Roy Erasmus on June 1, 1998. Yesterday in this House the honourable Member from Iqaluit, Mr. Ed Picco, indicated this government was using a modified Hay Plan Job Evaluation System. The document I am tabling today indicates the GNWT implemented the Hay Job Evaluation System without modification. As well, during the last session of this Assembly, I tabled document 87-13(5) on May 25, 1998 entitled the Hay Job Evaluation System, and the GNWT Job Evaluation process.

Mr. Speaker, I trust this material demonstrates once and for all, for the benefit of the members of this Assembly that the GNWT implemented the Hay Job Evaluation System without modification. The job evaluation system that we are using is one of the two systems that the Human Rights Tribunal itself uses in determining the validity of pay equity complaints as indicated in its' recent treasury board decision.

In the case before the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Federal Treasury Board, the Human Rights Tribunal in its decision of July 28, 1998, sets forth the process that has been established for the investigation of complaints by the Commission. Under section 11 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, clause 18 of the decision. It says, if an employer has an existing job evaluation system, or if you are listening, Mr. Ootes, the Commission uses section 9 of the guideline to analyze that the system and to determine its' suitability for a pay equity complaint. Otherwise, the commission uses the Aitken or the Hay Job Plan Evaluation System. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I would like to remind the Member of Keewatin Central regarding the rules on tabled documents and that the Member may make a brief factual statement to identify the document. In this case, I would have to say that the Member is misusing the rules. It is more appropriate perhaps for the Member to make it as a Minister's

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statement. Tabling of documents. I would also remind the Member that my statement is also in the record about the statements.

Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, 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. Bill 1, Family Law Reform - Statutes Amendment Act, Bill 2, Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) Act, Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act, and Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act with Mr. Ningark in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. We have Bill 1, Family Law Reform - Statutes Amendment Act; Bill 2, Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) Act; Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act and finally Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. I need direction from the Chairman of the OMC, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recommend that we proceed with Bill 3, followed by Bill 4, in that order. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. As Mr. Ootes indicated, he recommends that we deal with Bill 3, and then followed by Bill 4. Do we have agreement? We shall take a break and come back. Thank you.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will call the committee back to order. As indicated by Mr. Ootes and agreed to by Members, we will deal with Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act and Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. I believe Mr. Todd is the Minister in this case. Mr. Todd are you prepared to make your opening remarks?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I am. I am pleased to present today two bills that will improve access by small and medium sized northern businesses to equity capital. These are: Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act, and Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. In 1996, the Investment Sub-committee of the Standing Committee on Government Operations recommended that the government consider investment tax credits as a means of encouraging investment in the north. In my 1997 Budget Address, I responded that the government would examine options for encouraging investment through the tax system, and in my budget this past January, I announced that the government intended to introduce a Northwest Territories Tax Credit Program. This program would encourage the private sector to market shares of the Northwest Territories businesses to northern taxpayers and encourage northern investors to purchase shares in northern businesses.

The bill allows a taxpayer to qualify for tax credits by purchasing shares in any one of the three venture capital corporations; labour sponsored venture capital corporations, employee venture capital corporations and community endorsed venture capital corporation. The bill requires the venture capital corporations, in turn, to invest the funds received from investors in the shares or subordinated debt of eligible businesses. A labour sponsored venture capital corporation must invest 70 percent of its funds in eligible businesses.

An employee venture capital corporation must invest 70 percent of its funds in the eligible business that employs the investors. A community endorsed venture capital corporation must invest 70 percent of its funds in eligible businesses that have been endorsed by the communities in which the employees of the eligible businesses live. The bill also allows taxpayers to qualify for tax credits by investing directly in the shares or subordinated debt of certain eligible businesses, referred to as territorial business corporations.

Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, permits taxpayers, either individuals or corporations, to deduct from Northwest Territories income tax otherwise payable, an amount equal to the tax credits issued under the Risk Capital Investment Tax Credits Act, up to an annual maximum amount of \$30,000 less any tax credits that may be deducted under the federal Income Tax Act. This bill just compliments the previous one.

The bill also permits unused tax credits issued under the Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act to be carried back three years and forward seven years and deducted from tax otherwise payable in any of those years. Because of a recently announced change to the federal Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Tax Credit, I will be introducing an amendment at the appropriate time to the Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act, to ensure that the Northwest Territories credit remains harmonized with the federal one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, the honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco, do you have any opening remarks?

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Infrastructure reviewed

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Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credits Act, on August 27, 1998. The committee would like to thank the Minister of Finance and his officials for presenting the bill. The bill allows a taxpayer to qualify for tax credits by purchasing shares in any one of the three venture capital corporations; labour sponsored venture capital corporations, employee venture capital corporations and community endorsed venture capital corporations. The bill requires the venture capital corporations, in turn, to invest the funds received from investors in the shares or subordinated debt of eligible Northwest Territories businesses.

The committee noted that the introduction of tax credits may reduce tax revenues for both territories in the short term. Committee Members were also concerned with the potential short fall of government revenues to maintain current levels of programs and service delivery. Committee Members also pointed out the potential market disruption in smaller communities, and that the proposed venture capital corporations are more appropriate for larger communities where there is an increased level of competition.

The Finance Minister advised that the government's view, business start-ups and expansions as a result of venture capital investments would enhance

government tax revenues in the long run through increased employment, and potentially produce a proportional reduction of income support clientele. He further added that access to venture capital funding is open to all eligible businesses thus minimizing any potential market disruption in smaller communities. The Minister agreed with the committee that there should be an established regulatory process to ensure adherence to the act and provide reasonable protection for investors.

Finally, committee Members were concerned with the exemption powers the bill gives to the Finance Minister, not to Mr. Todd, but to the Finance Minister whomever that may be, setting caps and time limits for venture capital procurement and investment. The Minister advised that the government must remain responsive to any potential changes in its operating environment. Mr. Chairman, following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credits Act, to the Assembly as ready for committee of the whole. Additional comments or questions of Members may be posed as we proceed. If you would like, Mr. Chairman, I could go on and give the over view of Bill 4, at this time also.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I am informed it is not appropriate at this time. Mr. Picco have you concluded the opening remarks on behalf of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure?

MR. PICCO:

Mr. Chairman, I have concluded the opening remarks on Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credits Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Todd, at this time I would like to offer you an opportunity to bring in your witnesses, but we need the concurrence of the committee. Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Proceed then, Mr. Todd. Thank you, Mr. Todd. The witnesses are seated. I would like to ask Mr. Todd if he could introduce the witnesses for the record to the committee.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Ms. Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance. With her, on my left is Mr. John Monroe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Welcome to the committee. The floor is now open for general comments from the membership. Do we have any general comments or do you wish to go clause-by-clause at this point? Agreed, clause-by-clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credits Act. Clause 1 of Bill 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2, page 6. 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):

Thank you. Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Part 2, The Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations, Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Page 9, clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We move on to page 13, clause 11 of Bill 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 13. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 16. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 17. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 18 on page 18. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 20. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said in my opening comments, we would like to make just one small amendment to this act to ensure it is consistent with some of the latest developments with the federal government. If my colleagues will allow me, I would like to read the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Which clause are you referring to, Mr. Todd?

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am referring to clause 21 (3)(a) and (b) of Bill 3.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Proceed Mr. Todd.

Committee Motion 1-13(6): Motion to Amend Subclause 21(3)(a) and (b) of Bill 3: Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you colleagues. That subclause 21(3)(a) and (b) of Bill 3, be amended by striking out \$3,500 and by substituting \$5,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister advise, I understand that in a calculation of \$100,000, it would mean a variance of \$225 less. Could the Minister elaborate on how this came about from his initial proposal?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I believe in my opening comments, I did indicate the federal labour sponsored venture capital tax credit that changes were done at the federal level that, we wanted to make sure that our tax credit remains harmonized with the federal one. It still accomplishes the effect that we want in relationship to the credit itself. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister clarify if this, in fact, could have been left initially the way it is, or is this amendment necessary to conform to ensure this act does conform to the federal legislation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd. To the motion.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think it is important that we try to conform to the national legislation and that is what we are trying to do here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

To the motion are there any further comments or questions. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Clause 21 as amended, do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 21 is amended. On page 22 clause 22. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Part 3, The Employee Venture Capital Corporations, Clause 23. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 24, Clause 24. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 25, Clause 25. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Move on to page 29, Clause 26 of Bill 3.
Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 31, Clause 27. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 28. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 29. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 30. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 31. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 32. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 33. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 34. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 35. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 36. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 37. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Part 4, The Community Endorsed Venture Capital Corporations, Clause 38. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 39. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 40, Clause 40. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 41. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We move on to page 44, Bill 3, Clause 42. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 43. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 44. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 45. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Over to the next page, Clause 46. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 47. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 48. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 49. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 50, of Bill 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 51. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 52. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 53. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Part 5, Direct

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Investment in Territorial Business Corporations,
Clause 54. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 55. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 56. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 57. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We move on to page 60, Clause 58.
Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 59. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 60. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 61. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 62. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 64, part 6, General Provisions,
Clause 63. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 64. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 65. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 66, of Bill 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 67. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 68. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Move on to page 69, Clause 69. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 71, Clause 70. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 71. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 72. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 73. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 74. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 75. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 76. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 77. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Under Bill 3, clause 78. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 79. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 80. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 81. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 82. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 76, Clause 83. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 84. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 85. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Under Bill 3, clause 86. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The bill as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 3 is ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Let the record show that Bill 3 is now ready for third reading as amended. Thank you Mr. Todd and witnesses. With the committee's agreement, Mr. Todd will be doing the review on Bill 4, shall Mr. Todd and the witnesses remain seated?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd are you prepared?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I am informed by our clerk that Mr. Picco will respond to the bill.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to give at this time the Infrastructure Committee's comments to the Committee of the Whole on Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. The Standing Committee on Infrastructure reviewed Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, on August 27, 1998. The Committee would like to thank the Minister of Finance and his officials for presenting the bill. Bill 4 is a consequential bill arising from Bill 3, the Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act.

This bill permits taxpayers to deduct from their...Mr. Chairman, there are too many sidebar conversations. This bill permits taxpayers to deduct from their income tax an amount equal to the tax credits issued under Bill 3, up to \$30,000, less any tax credits that may be deducted under the federal act. Bill 4 also permits unused tax credits issued under Bill 3 to be carried back three years and forward seven years and deducted from tax payable in any of those years.

Now after reviewing this bill Mr. Chairman, the Committee Members really did not have specific concerns with Bill 4, because as we said earlier it was a consequential bill, running after Bill 3.

Mr. Chairman, following the Committee's review, a motion was carried in the Committee to report Bill 4, an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act to the Assembly as ready for the committee of the whole. Additional comments or questions of Members may be posed as we proceed with the review of the bill later this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you kindly Mr. Picco. We are dealing with Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. We have the floor open for general comments from the Members. Do we wish to go into it clause by clause at this point?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. 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. Bill as a whole? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 4 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 4 is now ready for third reading. I would like at this point to thank Mr. Todd and witnesses for appearing before the Committee. Thank you. Have a good afternoon. We have concluded two bills that the Committee has agreed to deal with at this point. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All

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those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Item 21, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act and Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted and Bill 4 is ready for third reading and that Bill 3 is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Steen. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour?

All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills, item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Western Caucus immediately after adjournment today. At 9:00 a.m. tomorrow the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Friday, September 18, 1998:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1, Family Law Reform - Statutes Amendment Act

- Bill 2, Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 3, Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit Act

- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned to Friday, September 18, 1998 at 10:00 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT