



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Don Morin, Honourable Kelvin Ng, 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.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ningark):

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 25-13(6): Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Meeting in Inuvik

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in February I announced to this Assembly that the Northwest Territories had assumed its term as Chair of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). The Council is the main intergovernmental forum in Canada under which federal, provincial and territorial environment departments work together to address national and international environmental issues.

Earlier this month in Inuvik, I had the privilege of chairing a meeting of this Council. The meeting was significant for two reasons. For the first time, the Council of Environment Ministers met with leaders of national and regional aboriginal groups. The purpose of this session was to open dialogue and explore better ways for the council to work cooperatively with aboriginal people for a more effective environmental management system in Canada.

Aboriginal leaders from the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Metis National

Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council all participated in the discussions. As a result, a ministerial committee has been struck to work with these aboriginal leaders in order to prepare principles that will guide greater aboriginal involvement. This meeting represents the first time the Environment Ministers have met as a Council in the Northwest Territories. As chair of the meeting, it was my privilege to be able to introduce my federal and provincial colleagues to the cultural and ecological uniqueness of the Mackenzie Delta region, as well as our distinct northern perspective and approach to environmental management. As host, I was proud of community members for the open and warm welcome Ministers and delegates received. I am confident that they have gone home with a new perspective of the north. Many people are responsible for the success of this meeting and I would like to thank all those who assisted in organizing this event. Mahsi cho.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 26-13(6): Justice Retreat and Conference - Rankin Inlet

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month, I had the privilege of participating in an important step in the development of a meaningful and effective justice system in Nunavut. A retreat and conference called Towards Justice that Brings Peace, was held at the beginning of September near Rankin Inlet. The retreat was part of the planning process for a justice model that will meet the unique needs of the people of Nunavut. Four themes dominated the conference:

- Community Justice Initiatives (prevention and diversion);
- Alternatives to Incarceration (after conviction);
- Supporting Justices of the Peace as Community Leaders; and
- Healing, Counselling and the Justice System.

Almost 60 people participated in the conference. They came from communities across Nunavut. Community participants were joined by

representatives from the federal and territorial Departments of Justice, delegates from the office of the Interim Commissioner, and other elders, justices of the peace, and finally, senior judge of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Justice Richard. The Member of Parliament for Nunavut, Ms. Nancy Karetak-Lindell was at the retreat, as well, to provide the opening address.

The conference looked at how it was in the past - traditional approaches and values; how the conference themes are dealt with in present times; and how the present system could be improved to better reflect the time-tested values and traditions of the past. Group discussions were held on the land in a traditional setting. The site was very peaceful and consistent with allowing the Inuit perspective on the justice themes to be freely expressed, respectfully considered, and thoughtfully and appropriately applied to the present system.

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Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of observing the group discussions. Excellent, well thought out recommendations were made on all the themes. These recommendations are vital to creating an appropriate justice system for Nunavut. I was particularly pleased with the effort of all the groups and the respect and considerations shown for each others view. The Nunavut Social Development Council was tasked with organizing this event. I must commend the council for their good work and offer sincere thanks to the people of Rankin Inlet and the many volunteers for their hospitality and hard work that ensured that this would be such a successful event. It was a positive and meaningful experience for all involved. More importantly, the recommendations will help the Nunavut government develop and build on a justice system that brings peace and harmony to all the people of Nunavut. The Department of Justice was proud to be a part of this significant milestone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 27-13(6): Implementation of Strategic Plan

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Speaker, as Members know, the Department of Health and Social Services recently completed our strategic plan entitled, Shaping Our Future: A Strategic Plan for Health and Wellness. Late last month, I distributed this plan to all Members of this House. In addition, the plan is being distributed to boards, GNWT departments, Health and Social Services Ministries across the country and other interested agencies.

A summary of the plan is available to the public at their local health and social services office or from their board. The plan is also posted on the department's world wide web site. My purpose today, Mr. Speaker, is to provide a brief overview of the implementation of the plan. During the next few years, the people of the north face historic change. Shaping Our Future provides a framework for the governments of Nunavut and the Western Territory to develop effective and sustainable health and social services systems that will meet people's needs well into the next century. While the two new governments are developing, the plan will provide a means to focus on our most pressing health and social issues.

Shaping Our Future is a commitment to make improvements where they are needed and to keep the things that are working well. We know that many factors influence health and well-being including:

- Level of income, education and social status;
- Support networks among families, friends and the community;
- Physical environment, including the home, work place and community;
- Personal health practices, lifestyle choices and coping skills;
- Cultural identity; and
- Physical characteristics or traits inherited from our parents.

Different factors are more important during the different stages of our lives. For example, nutrition and good parenting are very important for childhood growth and development. Strong social supports and good role models are important for youth as they move from childhood into adulthood. Meaningful work and self-sufficiency are important to adults. Seniors need strong ties to family, community and culture. Problems in any of these areas can lessen well-being.

Recognition of these environmental factors is at the forefront in implementing Shaping Our Future. The strategic plan also reflects the need to shift from an acute care focus to one that balances the need for treatment with the need to promote well-being, prevention and improving social conditions. All existing departmental initiatives and activities are being reviewed to ensure that they support the strategic directions outlined in the plan.

We are developing new initiatives that reflect the changing environment in which we live and support the direction outlined in Shaping Our Future. These initiatives include:

- A comprehensive human resource plan,
- Children and youth services reform,
- Board and governance reform, and
- Partnering with other departments to coordinate social policy and to improve social programming

Some work is ongoing. For example, we are developing a Mental Health Strategy and a Health Promotion Strategy to address coordination and gaps in service delivery for these areas. And, of course, Mr. Speaker, the plan is being used as the basis for developing both department and board business plans for the fiscal year 1999-2000. However, we recognize that much work remains to be done.

We are conducting meetings this fall with territorial organizations and departments to discuss strategies and new alliances that will incorporate community needs and priorities. We will work with communities to create opportunities and services needed to support people in regions and communities where they live. We are developing a schedule not only for implementing the strategic plan but also establishing a means to monitor progress.

We recognize the need to assess health and social outcomes as indicators of program and service effectiveness. In order to accomplish this we are working to increase our ability to identify, collect and analyze information that can be used to make continuous improvements to the health and social system. These activities highlight the department's renewed commitment to address our health and social challenges and meet the changing needs of our citizens. These activities show that we are prepared to act on the directions spelled out in our strategic plan. We believe that the work that went into this

plan, and the work that continues, will allow a stable beginning for the two new governments. For the future, we need to keep our commitment to the people by making sure that health and social issues remain a government priority. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to working with the public and our

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partners to meet the needs of northerners with innovation, cooperation and collaboration.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 28-13(6): Carving Industry

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the Members of this Assembly recent developments in the carving industry of the NWT. On several occasions recently, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo has raised concerns about economic conditions for the many people, particularly in the eastern Arctic, who depend on the carving industry for their income.

I have assured the honourable Member, as I assure all Members now, that this government recognizes the carving industry as an important and productive activity in our communities, and as one of the most important sectors in the territorial economy. In the 50 years since the contemporary industry was established in the Arctic, many dedicated and hard-working people have contributed to making Inuit stone carving one of the best-recognized and most successful indigenous art forms in the world today.

Most important are the individual carvers themselves, who make the considerable personal investment that is needed to produce high quality art. It is their effort and commitment to the art form, which sustains the industry in even the most difficult economic circumstance. This government has responded to the needs of the carving industry in the past through grants to small business, marketing assistance, and through the efforts of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation. But we know we need to do more. As we approach 1999, the creation of Nunavut and, in 2000, the celebration of the millennium, there are new opportunities to support our

artists, and help to make the carving industry sustainable.

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is supporting a number of new initiatives. This summer the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association was established to act as an advocate for the industry and to provide organizational support for carvers across the new territory. Founding members include three well-known carvers from the Baffin region, Pootoogook Jaw, Matt Nuiqingaq and Sam Pitsiulak. Representation from across the eastern Arctic will be added in the coming weeks. Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in the Baffin region recently published a comprehensive review of the carving industry to help set a strategic direction for the economic sector.

Most recently, in response to the deputy Premier's request, the department has organized a conference on the carving industry in the Nunavut area. It will be held in Iqaluit, October 19 - 21, 1998. This important event will bring together carvers from each of the three eastern Arctic regions, and provide an opportunity for them to express their concerns and recommendations. The conference also will include representatives from the distribution and marketing side of the industry, and public officials responsible for economic development and arts and culture, to respond to the carvers and make recommendations for the support of the industry in the future. I am urging my staff to use this conference as an opportunity to work with carvers to help set a strategic direction for the industry - one that will be created and endorsed by the carvers themselves. This direction will be, I hope, of assistance to the new government in Nunavut, and its new Department of Sustainable Development. I look forward to the results of the conference in Iqaluit, and to reporting back to this Assembly on our progress.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 29-13(6): Yellowknife Inmate Fire Suppression Team

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer Yellowknife and surrounding areas had some of the worst smoke and forest fire problems this region has seen in many

years. Everyone in the area was affected in some way, especially living on or around the Ingraham Trail. Resources to fight these fires were at a premium. All the firefighters who worked so hard to contain or extinguish these fires deserve our warmest thanks. I would like to take this chance today to make special mention of a group of volunteers from the Yellowknife Correctional Centre who gave much needed support and assistance in battling these blistering blazes. Starting on July 22, 1998, 22 inmates helped firefighters for seven days on the front lines at Fire 42 located at Discovery Lake. Later, a crew of ten inmates worked with firefighters for ten days on the front lines at Fire 29 located at Tibbet Lake.

Front line fire crew supervisors spoke very highly of the work done by the inmates. They were so impressed by the level of competency shown by the inmates that two training sessions have been arranged for the winter and spring to further develop the skills of those inmates interested in participating. These men also showed us how inmates can give something back to the larger community by helping to respond to emergencies like these forest fires. It not only helps the community, but also gives these inmates a sense of accomplishment and pride that forms such an important part of every offender's rehabilitation.

To the members of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre's fire suppression teams and indeed all the fire suppression teams who put themselves at risk to prevent property loss and human casualty, I extend a sincere thanks for all their efforts, and their successes in fighting these fires and protecting this region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 30-13(6): Ministerial Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Partners in Education

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education is one of the most critical tasks our society faces. In the Northwest Territories we are fortunate to have many excellent and dedicated people who make outstanding contributions to educating northerners. It is time to formally recognize some of these individuals and

acknowledge their energy, effort and commitment. Therefore, I am pleased to say that effective immediately, I am re-establishing awards to recognize exceptional contributions to education across the Northwest Territories. These awards were last given out in 1993.

I will be re-establishing two awards: the Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Partners in Education Award. This year, the Award for Excellence in Teaching will recognize three educators who show outstanding characteristics in their work and provide that extra something to students in the classroom. Two teachers will be recognized: one from Nunavut and one from the Western Territory. The third award will go to an instructor from the college systems. The Partners in Education Award will recognize three individuals outside the teaching profession who make outstanding contributions to the education of students. They could be custodians, secretaries, teacher aides, elders, bus drivers or other community members who make a significant difference.

Guidelines and program criteria are being prepared now and will be sent out in the near future. Nominations will be accepted until the end of January. A committee will then review the material and make its recommendations. I plan to announce and recognize the award winners during the March session of the Legislative Assembly. Young people are the future of the north. It is important to acknowledge outstanding teachers and others in the education system who work hard to help prepare our young people for the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 57-13(6): Concerns Regarding Nunakput Health Services

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in this House I expressed my concerns as to the shortage of nurses in the community of Tuktoyaktuk and consequently the cut back of health services at the nursing station in Tuktoyaktuk. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to expand on the issue of health services available to the residents of Nunakput. Mr. Speaker, over the

summer I had the opportunity to discuss the growing problem in recruiting health staff for nursing stations in my riding with the nurses in Paulatuk.

Apparently the problem goes beyond the recruiting of nurses and doctors. I was informed that in an effort to cut medical travel costs, the regional health board had imposed a policy whereby a nurse in the settlement could no longer approve medical travel for patients. The approval for medical travel has to come from the doctor in Inuvik. This has resulted in many patients having to wait for the doctor's monthly visit to the community in order to see a doctor. Needless to say, this has put a further responsibility on the nurses to diagnose patients illness and the required treatment. Mr. Speaker, I am told that as a result of the shortage of qualified nursing staff in Tuktoyaktuk, a policy has been implemented whereby anyone wishing to see the nurse now must be referred by the receptionist.

The receptionist is not a qualified nurse and no doubt, her job description did not require her to be a qualified nurse in order to fill the receptionist position. This person is being required to make decisions effecting a person's health which places responsibilities over and above her normal responsibilities. As an example, Mr. Speaker, under normal conditions, the receptionist upon being approached by a member of the general public would simply pull the persons file and have that person wait in the waiting room until a nurse is available to see them. Not anymore. The person wishing to see the nurse now must first convince the receptionist he/she is in need of medical attention.

Mr. Speaker, Tuktoyaktuk is down to two nurses from a normal staff of four. I understand there is a possibility one of the two nurses left will be leaving shortly. Will this result in a member of the general public having to be referred to a nurse by the health centre janitor in order to receive medical treatment? Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today, I will be asking the honourable Mr. Ng, Minister responsible for Health and Social Services questions in this regard. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Steen. Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq.

Member's Statement 58-13(6): Clean Up of Northern Dew Line Sites

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues. I am sure that Members of the House are now aware that the proper cleanup of the old DEW Lines sites are a priority of mine. I have made several statements outlining my concerns and was informed by our territorial government that cleanup of the sites will be completed soon. This year, an evaluation team was scheduled to access the Cape Christian site. However, I recently learned that the federal government under the advisement of Environment Canada and the Canadian military, have proposed that current toxic waste laws be changed to allow for PCBs and other waste to be buried in the Arctic.

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Year after year, the government had advised me efforts are underway to remove PCBs and other garbage from DEW Line sites. Some of the sites are located near communities where children could get injured or near traditional hunting and harvesting areas. Once the toxins get into the plants and animals, they are recycled through our fragile ecosystem. By ingesting local game, residents also ingest those same toxins.

Mr. Speaker, in the Northwest Territories, when people agree to do something, they do it. They do not tell you one thing and then do another. In the north a pat on the back is just that. Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind the territorial and federal government that each polluted abandoned DEW Line site represents a theft from the health of the northerners. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to remind both governments of their commitment to clean up all DEW Line sites according to the accepted environmental standards of nearby communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 59-13(6): Yellowknifer Concerns Regarding Electoral Boundaries

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night Mr. Henry, Mr. Erasmus and myself held a constituency meeting. Unfortunately, Mr. Dent had scheduled some other meetings and had other priorities. I understand he is holding his constituency meeting this evening. It was very helpful for us to hold this meeting and get some

feedback on the boundaries commission that is underway now. One of the issues discussed was the need for an expanded Legislature. One of the persons from the public expressed concerns and questions as to why we need to expand the present Legislature. Practical considerations have to be given to the difficulty of us functioning with the 14 seat Legislature considering our Cabinet, Caucus and committee set up and structure. Just because we are splitting the territories in half does not mean the workload of this particular western Assembly will be cut in half. Responsible government requires also the accountability of Cabinet. We need to maintain an excess number of Ordinary Members on this side in order to keep Cabinet accountable.

Effective representation calls for parity of voting power between districts, so that each person's vote has similar power. There may be arguments to justify deviations from voter parity, such as geography and minority representation, but that should not legitimize the under-representation of people in more populated areas. I am not suggesting that Yellowknife should hold 50 percent of the seats in the House. I know there needs to be balance between rural and urban representation and room for cultural and community variances. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ootes, you have unanimous consent.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. However, given the disparity and the number of electors in the current system, Yellowknife should have more representatives so that Yellowknife has at least a minimum of 35 percent to 45 percent representation in this Legislature. For comparison, in reference to my previous comments, Nunavut with a population of 24,730 people will have 19 ridings. Iqaluit, the capital, will have three ridings, representing a population of 4,220 people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame. Shame.

MR. OOTES:

I want to remind people of the Electoral Boundaries Commission public hearings in Yellowknife this Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday night is Yellowknife Centre and Yellowknife North. Thursday evening is Yellowknife South and Frame Lake. The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 60-13(6): Inuvik Meeting of Canadian Environmental Ministers

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I start, I would like to send greetings back to my wife and children.

--Applause

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In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the delegates were pleased with the opportunity to experience the cultural history of Inuvik provided by the Inuvik drummers and dancers and I believe, the East Three Reelers. I hope they will take the opportunity to come and visit my community of Inuvik in the future and pay us a visit. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 61-13(6): Proposal to Chipseal South Slave Gravel Roads

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to rise and speak about a transportation issue that affects four ridings that I can think of in the South Slave and Nahendeh, specifically my riding, the riding of Tu Nedhe, Deh Cho and Nahendeh. This particular transportation concern, if dealt with constructively with a long-term plan will, in fact, allow money to be freed up from maintenance and operations and maintenance costs so that greater work can be done

on much needed roads up the valley. What I am referring to, Mr. Speaker, is the need for a long-term thorough plan that will allow the chip sealing of the remaining gravel roads in the South Slave, there is a section in my riding from Fort Smith to Hay River, about 140 kilometres long, I know the other ridings I mentioned as well have gravel roads.

The study that has been done on this particular issue very clearly demonstrates that there is a significant cost saving to be realized and long-term operations and maintenance in terms of the comparison of maintenance costs for chip sealed roads as opposed to gravel roads. There are many gravel roads in the ridings I have talked about that have a good solid base. I believe this would be a wise investment and I would encourage the government and the Minister of Transportation to look at as they do their transportation strategy for the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 62-13(6): Rae-Edzo Airport Project

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to comment on the progress of Rae-Edzo airport project. If you recall, last year the Grand Chief, Joe Rabesca announced that as a result of lack of commitment from this government, the community of Rae-Edzo would start construction of its own airport. This project would be considered as on the job training for residents of Rae-Edzo, in order that these residents obtain marketable skills that could be used in the mining sector, et cetera.

I would like to inform you today that there are currently 15 residents working and training at the airport site. Work is progressing at a fairly good rate. There is still a problem securing support for this project. We feel we are demonstrating our seriousness, dedication to this project and would hope that this government can provide support for what we are doing. This project's main focus is to provide training to residents to allow them the opportunity to get employment in the mining sector or within the region. This is very beneficial in the area of

high unemployment as we continue to experience. We gain a more knowledgeable work force but also gives hope to residents who are currently on income support or nothing at all. This is a very positive project and I would hope that the government supports its residents of Rae-Edzo to complete this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. The Member for Kivallivik, Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement 63-13(6): Qikiqtaaluk/Chinese Joint Venture on Seal Products

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to tip my hat to my colleague Mr. Picco and Mr. Jerry Ell, Chairman of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. Mr. Speaker, today these gentlemen announced a joint venture agreement with a Chinese Crown Corporation for the sale of seal, fish, fox and other renewable resources. Mr. Speaker, this joint venture will not only benefit the Baffin region, but could also have great benefits for my riding and the Keewatin people in general. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 64-13(6): Qikiqtaaluk/Chinese Joint Venture on Seal Products

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. O'Brien just said, this morning with the Honourable John Todd and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Jerry Ell, and Mr. Han Shood, CEO of the China/High Jung International Project Corporation of China, via telephone from New York, we made a very exciting announcement for the people of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. An agreement has been reached with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and this Chinese Corporation to look at the development and export of seal pelts, oil and meat. Mr. Speaker, additionally other sustainable harvest of arctic white fox, shrimp, turbot and the possible development of a rendering plant to be constructed has been

discussed. Mr. Speaker, the 800 million plus population in China is an incredible market place to access. The potential here is unlimited, Mr. Speaker.

In conversation with some of my Nunavut colleagues in this House, we are excited by the possibilities of this development. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the honourable Mr. Todd and especially, Mr. Morin, our Premier who had the foresight

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last year to actually go to China and make the initial contacts with these people. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we have to spend money at the front end to make money at the back end.

--Applause

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed, good news for all of Nunavut and for the fur harvesters in Nunavut and in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 65-13(6): Recognition of Women's Auxiliary Groups in Small Communities

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Women's Auxiliary Groups in small communities. Since this government cut the compassionate travel and escort travel the Women's Auxiliary Group have done all they can to raise funds through fund raising. The immediate family has to travel to meet the need of the ill person or the family or to attend a funeral in a different community. Many times relatives have to travel from Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay or to other communities in the High Arctic without volunteer groups like the Women's Auxiliary Group travel would not be possible. It is something that the Nunavut government would have to review on April 1, 1999.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, Honourable Manikot Thompson for assisting these groups when they are in much need of assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Member's Statement 66-13(6): Request for a Larger Gymnasium in Pond Inlet

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to voice my support for the community of Pond Inlet and their education council request. With local support from their hamlet council, the new school that will be built has a gymnasium which was designed inadequately. For clarification, the school in Pangnirtung is the same design as the one in Pond Inlet, but the gymnasium is larger. We are all aware of the ongoing cost of inflation each year. If there is a delay in renovating this building, it will eventually cost all that much more in the future.

Another example is the school in Cape Dorset which is adequate, but this is not the case in the higher Arctic communities. If we had adequate facilities for recreation in Pond Inlet, people from other communities would be more apt to visit and use the building. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that I am not against the communities in the Baffin region, namely Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset, but I am voicing concerns expressed by my constituents.

At the appropriate time, I will be raising questions to the Minister responsible regarding the school in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Member's Statement 67-13(6): Appreciation for Minister's Efforts Regarding the Carving Industry

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to express my appreciation to the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi for his important announcement earlier on the upcoming carvers conference in October. I would like to thank the Minister and his staff for the hard-work they put into ensuring that this important economic issue is dealt with. I can say on behalf of the carvers in my constituency that they are very much appreciative that the Minister shares their concern and demonstrated that he is prepared to do what he can with the

Department of Renewable Resources to assist them. Earlier this morning, Mr. Dent and I both gave speeches at the Prospects North conference here in Yellowknife and discussed economic opportunities arising as a result of division. It was a timely reminder that there are economic challenges to be addressed in advance of April 1, 1999. While I am confident that there are immense economic opportunities ahead, I have voiced my concern in the past about one key sector of the economy and that is the carving industry. All indicators are that there is a down turn in the carving industry and there is a great need to address this situation.

There is a high level of concern throughout Nunavut, and especially in the south Baffin communities that I represent, Kimmirut, Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq. It goes without saying that carving not only fuels the imagination of carvers and their consumers, but also fuels the local economy. Carving has put food on the table, pays the bills and provides the only source of income for a large percent of my constituents. Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that the upcoming carvers conference announced by Mr. Kakfwi will serve to identify the problems and outline solutions where carvers, community owned businesses, marketers and government can work together to improve the economy of these communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River, Madam Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 68-13(6): Standards of Conduct of Members of the Legislative Assembly

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address my Member's statement to the issue of the code of conduct of Members of this Legislature and the motto of leading by example. It has been

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said of the 13th Assembly that Members' conduct has improved and I believe the reference is made in relation to an unfortunate number of criminal code infractions and subsequent charges laid against Members of previous Assemblies.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the public has much higher expectations of a standard of conduct from their elected leaders than to live within the laws set out in

the criminal code. As everyone knows, much attention has been paid in recent discussion regarding the behaviour of people in positions of public office and public trust. When we the elected Members embarked on an orientation process after coming to this House. We devoted some discussion to the concern of the use of alcohol in whether or not public funds should be spent on alcohol for government sponsored functions. Whether by a motion or by general agreement, I believe it was decided that we should make a clear statement regarding the prolific use and abuse of alcohol in the north by not expending any government funds for alcohol at social functions and I believe, Mr. Speaker, to date this has been the case and has been adhered to.

From this and other discussions I believed that a clear message had been sent and I hope has been translated into a position of this House regarding moderation, sobriety and standard of conduct.

As elected officials, we should not only be viewed as role models to our constituents in general, but I as a Member who elects Members to the executive council expect to be represented with a high standard of decorum and professional conduct when these Members we elected interact with business and government officials at the provincial, national and international level. Probably for the most part, Mr. Speaker, this has been the case. I do not believe this is a burdensome expectation. Later this week, I will be inquiring of the Premier by way of written questions as to the code of conduct expected of executive Members both at home in the north and on their travels on our behalf.

We can promote the north, our readiness to take on more responsibility and our aspirations all we want, but much damage can be done in the area of these initiatives if we are judged by moments of temporary unseemly behaviour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Todd

Member's Statement 69-13(6): Polarization of Opinions as Division Approaches

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the sitting of the Legislative Assembly coming to an end in the next several days, I would like to take this opportunity

to speak about an issue that is of growing concern to me. Mr. Speaker, we are six short months away from division of the Northwest Territories. The work to ensure that there are functioning governments in both territories is a massive task. A great deal of work has been accomplished to date, and a great deal of work remains to be done. We have achieved the progress that has been made to date on this historic undertaking, Mr. Speaker, because we have been able to maintain a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect between the parties to this process. We have undertaken many complicated discussions and negotiations so far. They have occasionally been contentious and they have not been without differences of opinions. We have reached mutually satisfactory arrangements on a number of difficult issues because all of the players have demonstrated a fundamental and abiding respect for the objectives of division and the individual and different desires of the various groups at the table. It is, therefore, disappointing to me on a personal level to detect that the good will which has brought us this far is beginning to erode as the time for division draws near.

I am hearing comments in this House and outside of it which serve to entrench positions based on east or west. Equally disturbing are comments that question the rule or the motivations of others in the process. As well, I am hearing discussions in the public that suggest to me there is increasing polarization of opinion east and west reflective of narrow self interest rather than the concern for the greater good of the residents of the NWT. For example, preliminary estimates indicate, I am told, that the division of the NWT Power Corporation will result in a rate increase of between seven to ten percent in the Eastern Arctic and 5.7 percent in the west. This means, Mr. Speaker, that a family struggling to pay a power bill of \$300 a month will see an increase of over \$320 a year to their power bill in the east and \$205 in the west.

Mr. Speaker, as division approaches it is only appropriate that the Members of this House and the parties to division and that residents from both Nunavut and the western Northwest Territories begin to focus on the future of their respective territories. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude the rare statements I make as an Ordinary Member.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays?

There are no nays. Mr. Todd, you have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you colleagues. Mr. Speaker, as division approaches it is only appropriate that Members of this House, the parties to division and residents from both Nunavut and the western Northwest Territories begin to focus on the future of the respective territories. The people of Nunavut are rightly excited about the possibilities that a new territory presents. So too should the residents of the western Northwest Territories be excited about the unique opportunity they have to redefine how government is delivered in the west.

However, Mr. Speaker as we move closer to April 1st we would do well to remember that the people in Nunavut and the western Northwest Territories will continued to be joined by much more than a common history. The bonds and the

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special relationship we have as Northerners will not disappear with a simple establishment of a boundary. Our mutual interest are too many and varied for that to occur. We have been able to move a long way down the path of division without individual self interest and narrow political agendas making the job more difficult. It is my hope that in the next six months that all Members of this House will continue to work together in the best interest of all people in the Northwest Territories no matter which side of the boarder we live on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 70-13(6): Proposal for a Northern Based University/College Entrance Program

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an university/college entrance program. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance had wanted some ideas on how to spend any surplus money and in keeping with the motion that had been passed last session that we should spend money on education, I am making a specific recommendation that this government should develop and deliver a one-year

university/college entrance preparation program. Currently, the federal government does fund certain students to upgrade and gain admission into university and college. This program has been evolving since 1968. The problems are first, that all long-term Northerners do not get funding for this program. The second problem and probably even more outstanding, is the fact that the north does not deliver such a program here so people receiving this funding could enrol in a program. The problem now is that this money is just being used for upgrading and other students are going south to receive their university and college preparation.

The solution as I am saying is that the government needs to develop and deliver a university/college entrance program which would refresh students academically who have been out of school for a long time, teach them success skills for learning, how to learn, how to study, how to manage their time and very importantly how to do research and how to write a paper. Without these skills, students have a very difficult time surviving university or college. The program I envision would be funded by student financial assistance for one year and it would be for all long-term Northerners. I have talked to the college, it would be relatively simple to implement such a course and would be relatively cheap as well.

Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot continue to send people to college or university without the tools to succeed. Too many have had bad experiences and never go back. It is a waste of money, time and human resources. We need to ensure that long-term Northerners have the tools to get off income support and to work for this government if they so wish. Mr. Speaker, a UCEP program is one way to do that. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 71-13(6): Mackenzie Highway Conditions

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity to drive the Mackenzie Highway from Yellowknife to Alberta. I must say, the condition on the portion of the highway south of Rae has certainly improved over the past number of years. I recently

addressed the issue of increasing the speed limit on the highway portion south of Rae to the Alberta boarder as this portion of the road is certainly comparable to highways in neighbouring provinces. However, I am dismayed at the condition of the highway between Rae and Yellowknife, quite frankly Mr. Speaker, this portion of the highway is a mess and an embarrassment to the citizens of the Northwest Territories.

During my trip I had the opportunity to meet with fellow travellers and tourist to the north. They too are dismayed at the condition of the highway and I listened to their frustration caused by the condition of that particular road. One would think that a highway, especially to a capital city would improve as you neared the destination, not get worse. We have back roads around this community which are in better condition. I certainly see why the speed limit on this section is 90 kilometres and wonder just how many travellers actually can do that speed limit, I certainly could not Mr. Speaker. I am surprised we are not hearing of more accidents on this section of a major northern highway.

I raise this issue, Mr. Speaker, in the House today to create awareness to my fellow colleagues who may not have had the opportunity to travel this section of the highway and also to state to the Minister of Transportation that this section of the highway urgently needs addressing. Later today, I will be addressing some questions to the Minister on that portion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Madame Thompson.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question 21-13(6): Additional Funding on Purchase of Calcium Chloride for Tuktoyaktuk

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Steen on September 16, 1998, on additional funding on purchase of calcium chloride for Tuktoyaktuk.

Under the Municipal Operating Assistance Program, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs

provides funding to communities for road maintenance and dust control. To maintain fairness and equity in the distribution of the

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funding available for dust control, each community's share is determined by a formula that is based on the total kilometres of eligible roads within the community. This fiscal year, the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk will receive \$55,067 for dust control purposes.

The department is aware of the hamlet's request for additional funding for dust control this year. Staff from the department's regional office are working with the community to review this problem. Should the inventory of eligible roads in Tuktoyaktuk be greater than previously calculated, an adjustment will be considered in future years. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, honourable Minister. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Joëlie Sanguya from Clyde River. Joëlie Sanguya was a teacher in Clyde River for so many years. Thank you.

--Applause.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Madame Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize my son, Trevor Kusugak Thompson, in the yellow jacket. He would also like to say hi to his friends in Rankin Inlet and Coral Harbour.

--Applause.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. We all say hi to his friends in Rankin Inlet. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 67-13(6): Medical Services in Tuktoyaktuk

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is related to my Member's statement on medical services available in the community of Tuktoyaktuk. My questions are directed to the honourable Mr. Ng, Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my statement today, people are having to do with reduced services in the community and according to the information I have been given, use of staff that might not be qualified to actually diagnose whether a person is in need of medical attention or not.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to clarify that I am not suggesting that the person, the receptionist in particular, that I am referring to here is not qualified to do her job as a receptionist, and I am sure she is just trying to help out in a situation that is coming out of hand, so to speak. I commend her, in a way, in her efforts to help out. However, I am concerned, as my constituents are as to the department now having to use receptionists to evaluate what a person's medical needs are. That is one of my particular concerns. Yesterday the Minister did not indicate, Mr. Speaker, that he was, in fact, prepared to provide this House with a report on what is actually available in Tuktoyaktuk, as far as medical services are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, last night I received a report which serves to compound the situation. They have had a very recent medevac with a suggestion of meningitis. Now this serves to make people more concerned as to whether or not medical services would be available to handle an epidemic or what could result from the meningitis situation. I do not know if the Minister is aware of this or not, but this is the information I received last night.

My question to the Minister is, could he look into whether in fact, there is a meningitis situation in Tuktoyaktuk? Could he report to the House as to what medical services are available to the community in the nursing station? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. I heard two questions. The honourable Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 67-13(6): Medical Services in Tuktoyaktuk

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will check with the information the honourable Member has provided in respect to the issue if, in fact, there is a concern about meningitis. I would like to assure the Member and his constituents if there is a situation, where there are immediate needs to be addressed because of an outbreak of some form of virus or infectious diseases, certainly the resources would be put into that community right away to contain and deal with that. That is our obligation to address that need.

In respect to the question about reporting back on the situation, the status of Tuktoyaktuk, his health centre. I have no problems with doing that, Mr. Speaker. We will get the information as fast as we can and report back. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 67-13(6): Medical Services in Tuktoyaktuk

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is in regard to now that there is a plan to close the House by Friday, would the Minister have a report on the situation in Tuktoyaktuk before closing the House? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 67-13(6): Medical Services in Tuktoyaktuk

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will put it together as quickly as we can. If we fail to be able to provide it before the House recesses, then certainly the information will be provided as soon as possible. After that, whether it is directly, in written correspondence or verbally or both. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 67-13(6): Medical Services in Tuktoyaktuk

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my next supplementary is on a larger scale. Mr. Speaker, when we were dealing with the issue of medical services in the Keewatin in this House, the department and I believe the Premier, spoke towards having what you would call a trouble shooting crew available of high government officials which would be available to go into different regions and assess the problems down there and the boards if necessary. I am wondering if this group of government officials has been put together and whether or not they are, in fact, being utilized? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 67-13(6): Medical Services in Tuktoyaktuk

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not certain of which team of individuals the honourable Member refers to, but I can speak in respect on the Health and Social Services side. When the issue of all the concerns that came out of the Keewatin as a result of activities that are taking place, we made a commitment to establish a board support system with the department that works directly with boards. That is why we are cognizant of the issue of the recruitment and retention issue that we are facing right now, particularly in the nursing section throughout the territories.

In response, that unit is still available and working with the boards to gather the information and to try to assist in putting together a work plan to address the issue. There is also another aspect of the whole recruitment and retention plan, was having a pool of health professionals available to be based, first of all in Stanton, here in Yellowknife, to be accessible primarily to their service area right now and to provide some relief when it is required for communities or health centres that may be under stress as a result of having a shortage of health care personnel. That unit is still being in the process of being established. I do not know exactly to date how many people they have

on site or available. I will check into that and report back. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Hay River, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 68-13(6): Economic Strategy Initiatives

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Finance, again with respect to the economic strategy. Just to remind the Minister the outstanding commitments we have received so far, which we are awaiting on are the tabling of proposal in the House and any documentation indicating the budget associated with this strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the economic strategy sounds like a road map, tying together the numerous worthwhile initiatives the Minister has outlined. For example, the possibility of a new tax window, an economic development agreement, infrastructure to resources, et cetera, but I am still very concerned that this diagram or road map or overview is a very costly exercise. I hear what the Minister says, that we have to spend money on the front end to get it on the back end, but what I would like to ask the Minister today is, how many of these initiatives are directly dependant on funding, based on the outcome or the findings of this strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 68-13(6): Economic Strategy Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will endeavour to get to my colleague as I did the other day, as quickly as possible, the answer to the question she raised and I could not answer the other day as quickly as I can. I am really confused. I think what my colleague is saying is the strategy we are putting in place and the monies we are spending, which I disagree with her on, I think it is money well spent, is that expenditure critical to get into the tax window and to get into some of these other initiatives. I think that is what being said. I believe it is, Mr. Speaker.

We have simply got to build the case and document and coordinate an overall approach to the federal government. It is no different than spending \$2 million on a road strategy. Mr. Antoine simply has got to take a look at the technical aspects of it, the feasibility aspects of it, the political aspect of it, et cetera. It is no different than what we are doing here.

With all due respect to my colleague, I disagree. I think this money is well spent. From what I have seen so far, in my discussions with the public and the response I had, as early as today, the numerous phone calls I have got, there seems to be support for it and it is money being well spent. Now I hope I have been able to answer the question. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 68-13(6): Economic Strategy Initiatives

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is this strategy, in fact, not primarily a direction for use within this government to show the inter- relationship

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between these various initiatives? Mr. Todd refers to the road study. I believe that is \$2 million committed from funds in this government to conduct that investigation and so I do not see the direct correlation, except for showing how it ties in, what the relationship is between the results of this strategy and for example, the \$2 million you refer to, to look at the expansion of roads infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 68-13(6): Economic Strategy Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely reluctant, as everybody knows in this House, to take questions as notice, but I better take this one as notice and have a discussion with my honourable colleague so I can fully understand what she requires, and be able to provide in the House, exactly what she is requiring because at

this stage of the game, with all due respect, I thought I had explained it. So I will take the question as notice.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question has been taken as noticed. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 69-13(6): Highway 3 Condition

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Antoine. In my Member's statement today, I spoke about the poor condition of the highway between Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine, if he could provide this House with a brief update of the work planned to upgrade this highway and bring it up to standard of the highway, which is in excellent condition south of Rae? Could he address the amount of money that was approved in the Legislature last February? I would appreciate some background. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 69-13(6): Highway 3 Condition

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the reconstruction of Highway 3 from the Rae turnoff to Yellowknife, the funding for beginning of this construction was approved in this Legislative Assembly last budget session. The department's capital plan, was proposed to start construction this fall. We have made arrangements to begin clearing from the Rae turnoff this way to about Stagg River, which is about 15 kilometres and from Yellowknife towards Rae another section. We have negotiated with the Dogrib Corporation out of Rae to do some clearing and we have negotiated with the band from Yellowknife to do some clearing on the Yellowknife end of it. That work will start this fall and later on this fall, there will be a public-tender issued to begin the actual start of the work. They will be working in the fall after freeze-up in these two areas. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 69-13(6): Highway 3 Condition

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister may recall there were other highways and work on highways and upgrades also approved in that budget. Could the Minister give us an update on where those particular improvements are at this stage, compared to the sections he mentioned from Rae and from Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 69-13(6): Highway 3 Condition

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the honourable Member could be more specific about his question? He mentioned he wanted to compare the beginning of the construction of the highway between Edzo to Yellowknife compared to other projects. It would be worthwhile for me to know specifically which project he is making reference to. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 69-13(6): Highway 3 Condition

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was wanting the Minister to give us some information on why it is taking so long. If this budget was approved last February, why is it taking so long to see some action on the construction of this highway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. The microphone was off when you made that last sentence. Perhaps I will allow the Minister to answer and take it from there. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 69-13(6): Highway 3 Condition

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Rae-Edzo section of this highway has been tendered as a design built contract and the requests for proposals was submitted to three project teams who pre-qualified through a call for expressions of interest. The proposal calls will close on October 14th with a tentative award date for November 12th. It is expected that the successful team which would start construction in December with completion of construction scheduled for July 15, 2000. The Yellowknife section has been designed by the Department of Transportation staff and it has been scheduled to publicly start tendering on October 26th. It is anticipated that construction of this section will start in December of this year with a completion in March 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the application for land use permits were submitted for each separate section of the project which was

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to be tendered this year. Upon receipt of these applications, DIAND ruled that the Department of Transportation could not apply for permits for separate sections, but must apply for a land use permit for the entire section of Highway 3 from Edzo to Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, the department had done some intensive work on the two specific sections and made two separate applications, but DIAND ruled that we should make one big application for the entire length, so the department had to do some more work between the two sections that were out there. This ruling resulted in a complicated process with extended timelines and that required the Department of Transportation to obtain and provide information for the middle section of the highway, as well, even though it is not scheduled to be tendered until future years.

To date, the Department of Transportation has not obtained a land use permit and is currently working to obtain additional information required for the process. This caused some delays because of the necessity to obtain the land use permit and it was necessary to redefine the scope of the work on the Yellowknife end of the project. As a result, the late tendering dates for

both projects allows additional time to obtain this land use permit. Although the Department of Transportation does not currently have the permit, we expect that....

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

That is a lot of detail for oral questions. I think the honourable Minister has answered the question. Mr. Henry, would you like the use of the final supplementary? Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 69-13(6): Highway 3 Condition

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understood the Minister correctly, he suggested that he had anticipated the work would begin in December of this year and it would be completed in the year 2000. Could the Minister explain why it is going to take so long? He did suggest that this is a multi-year project and if a similar amount is approved in next year's budget, or is accelerated, we are going to have a lot of overlaps. How does the Minister propose to handle this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 69-13(6): Highway 3 Condition

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these two projects are multi-year contracts, as the honourable Member indicated. The Rae-Edzo section is a design built and we have a request for proposals out there. This is a two-year project and the amount of money which we have allocated for it will require reconstruction. As you know, to rebuild that section of the road, because it is in the precambrian shield similar to the terrain around Yellowknife, is very difficult. It is not like the section from Edzo south where you do not have any rocks. I guess that is why my predecessors left it until the very end to complete because it is very difficult. My understanding of the amount of money that we spend on the average between Edzo and down south is about \$300,000 per kilometre and I understand that the section we are going to build is going to be three times that amount per kilometre. We are looking at a different type of terrain that we have not done and we need two years

to complete the work that was approved in the House. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Erasmus.

Question 70-13(6): Stanton Hospital "Light Treatment" Program

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is in regard to a "light treatment program" at Stanton Hospital. Mr. Speaker, last year we learned that the hospital was going to access a light treatment machine and program to treat eczema and other skin conditions that give some people a lot of problems. We were told that it would probably be put into effect this fall and I am just wondering if the Minister could reassure us that this program has actually gone into effect.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 70-13(6): Stanton Hospital "Light Treatment" Program

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for giving me a bit of advance notice on this issue in order to give us an opportunity to check on it. It is light treatment for psoriasis and eczema. It is my understanding, after having my staff confirm with the Stanton Regional Health Board personnel, that they are slated to put it into effect in late November or December. As it stands now, they are 90 per cent sure that the program will be run out of the clinic at the medical centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. O'Brien.

Question 71-13(6): Decentralized Nunavut Model

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Division, Mr. Todd. Some time ago in Rankin Inlet, we discussed the decentralized model and the various jobs that would be transferred to the various communities and so forth. As of this date, I do not believe we have heard what the final plan is or the final modifications or changes to the decentralized model. Could the Minister update us as to where things stand to date?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. The Minister responsible for Division Secretariat, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 71-13(6): Decentralized Nunavut Model

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HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was just conferring with my colleague here, Mr. Arlooktoo. As I recollect, at the Rankin Inlet Summit, if you would like to call it that, we had asked at that time for the Interim Commissioner to outline to all parties what changes, if any, he was going to make in relationship to the Footprints in the Snow I and II. At that time it was not presented, but there was a commitment made by him to present that to the parties as quickly as possible. To date we have not received it, but it is my understanding that there is a meeting planned for early next week between Mr. Anawak, Mr. Kusugak and Mr. Arlooktoo and the federal Minister. I am hoping during that meeting that we will receive some paper which will indicate what changes, if any, he intends to make.

At the same time, I am hopeful that we will receive from Mr. Kusugak an update as to where the construction lies in relation to the infrastructure as some of that still needs to be done to meet the decentralized initiatives that the government and all parties support. Unfortunately, today I cannot give my honourable colleague a more clear reply than that, but I am optimistic that by the middle or by the end of next week either myself or Mr. Arlooktoo will be able to provide him and all Members in the House with an update as to where that lies. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 71-13(6): Decentralized Nunavut Model

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, aside from not knowing which employees are going to be moved where, is the Minister aware of any thought being given to moving the various offices from one area to the other? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 71-13(6): Decentralized Nunavut Model

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said I am not aware of any changes at this stage of the game which have actually come to pass. I know there have been some discussions about the possibility of moving offices around. I thought that was what was going to be discussed in Rankin Inlet, but it was not. It was agreed that there would be further discussion and debate on it and I am optimistic that in Mr. Arlooktoo's meeting next week we will get some paper and some recommendations made by the Interim Commissioner so that we can translate this to all parties and either concur or not concur with it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Iqaluit, Mr. Picco.

Question 72-13(6): Sport North Update

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I would have been remiss earlier in saying that it was the Honourable Manitok Thompson who led the recent NWT Trade Mission to China and helped facilitate the meeting with Mr. Ell and I apologize. I would like to thank Minister Thompson for helping with that.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs and concerns the status of Sport North and the division plans with Sport Nunavut. I wonder if the Minister could update this House at this time about Sport North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs, Madame Thompson.

Return To Question 72-13(6): Sport North Update

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for his correction.

There are plans for the transition of two sports delivery systems. There is an interim board for Sport Nunavut at this time which was elected by the Nunavut members at the NWTAM that happened already. The interim board for Sport Nunavut will be guiding the creation of the two federations. It is also anticipated that Sport Nunavut will ratify the by-laws and the constitution and elect a full board at the next AGM, which will be held in May 1999. There is an interim board right now to deal with Sport Nunavut. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 72-13(6): Sport North Update

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns that we do have in Nunavut is the ability of Sport Nunavut to raise its own funds. To that end, over that last two years we have been able to open up 649 terminals in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit to help generate revenue. I am wondering if the Minister knows of any other type of revenue generation ideas or indeed more of these terminals being opened in Nunavut to help sustain Sport Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madame Thompson.

Further Return To Question 72-13(6): Sport North Update

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been terminals opened in Nunavut other than Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay. There is also a terminal in

Rankin Inlet and we are pursuing ideas on how we are going to generate revenue for Sport Nunavut. I still do not have all the details on that. As soon as I get that, I will give the information to the Member or to this House on how we are going to raise revenue for Sport Nunavut. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Madame Thompson. Oral questions. The Honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland.

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Question 73-13(6): Northern Student Graduation Statistics

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time would be directed to the honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Minister's statements, Mr. Dent mentioned a number of things regarding the number of graduates and the increasing numbers of enrolments we have in the territories. I think that definitely is a good sign, but I would like to ask the Minister, what is the total number of grade 12 students? He mentioned there is a total number of graduates of 325, but could he inform us the total number of grade 12 students? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 73-13(6): Northern Student Graduation Statistics

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot provide the Member with the number of grade 12 students. I can tell him that in grades 10 through 12, there were 3,055 students in the 1997/98 school year, but I do not have it broken down into grade 10, grade 11 and grade 12. I just have all three years together with me in the House. I will endeavour to provide the Member with the year by year breakdown, if I can, tomorrow. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 73-13(6): Northern Student Graduation Statistics

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister, as well provide information as to the comparison of our grade 12 within the rest of Canada, whether our grade 12 program is equivalent to the rest of Canada? I know we have been doing some work in tying with the western provinces on a number of different fronts, but could the Minister inform us, is our grade 12 equivalent or close to equivalent to other grade 12 programs in the rest of Canada? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 73-13(6): Northern Student Graduation Statistics

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe I could just go back to the Member's previous question. He can probably calculate the numbers of students from grade 12 from this: the 325 graduates represents 30 percent graduating. In 1992/93 the average in Canada was 73 percent. There is no question we have a long way to go.

The Member's most recent question now was about whether or not there is comparability, I believe, to standards for grade 12 in the Northwest Territories and across the western provinces. The Member is right that we have started to do some work to tie our curricula together in the north with the western provinces and the Yukon Territory. A better indicator of how our standards compare, I think, is the fact that 50 percent of the final mark in grade 12 for a subject is based on the Alberta departmental exam. Our students are, by the way, compared to students in Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 73-13(6): Northern Student Graduation Statistics

MR. ROLAND:

Fifty percent is made up of curriculum compared with Alberta's, the other 50 percent is work done within the school local, region or community? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 73-13(6): Northern Student Graduation Statistics

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the grade 12 marks are based 50 percent, as I understand it, on the class work throughout the year, as determined by the teacher, and 50 percent on the mark obtained in the departmental exam. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 73-13(6): Northern Student Graduation Statistics

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister inform us if that 50 percent is based on, although we know it is classroom instructions and so on, but are the standards within the classroom similar to, or the same, as other jurisdictions? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 73-13(6): Northern Student Graduation Statistics

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the standards are the same, yes. I believe the curriculum is one we can compare to other jurisdictions. I think there has been some concern among some of our residents in the north, with the extension of grade 12 into the smallest of communities, that it has been increasingly difficult for teachers to adequately deal with the groupings they have in their classrooms. The goal is to have the instruction be the same in all communities, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 74-13(6): Northern Carver Copyright

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Resources,

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Wildlife and Economic Development. My question is, what has the government done to avoid copying patents of carvers? (Translation ends)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 74-13(6): Northern Carver Copyright

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would have to take the question as notice. I am not able to provide any useful information to the Member at this time, so I will get back to the Member when I have put the information together in order to properly answer the question. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 75-13(6): Mackenzie River Basin Agreement

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of RWED. It is in regard to the agreement that was signed last year among Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories, I believe, in regard to an agreement to oversee the waters coming into the north. This Mackenzie River Basin Agreement was signed and I would like the Minister to update us, if he could, on the status of the formation of the board, the appointment of members and the activities that are going to be undertaken, hopefully by this new secretariat. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 75-13(6): Mackenzie River Basin Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Mackenzie River Basin Trans-boundary Agreement set out some principles for the establishment of a co-management board, which consists of Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories for a total of about 13 members on the board. A secretariat has also been set up in the interim to help support this board.

At this time, there is an interim secretariat located in the Environment Canada offices in Edmonton. It is our intention that once a quorum of board members have been appointed to this board, their first meeting hopefully which will happen sometime in November, they will begin to discuss probably administrative housekeeping issues such as the issue of where to locate the office of the secretariat.

I believe we should be able to see this board and conduct its first meeting in November. It has been the view of the governments and agencies involved that the issue of where to locate the offices of this board and secretariat should be left to the board, once it is established, to decide. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 75-13(6): Mackenzie River Basin Agreement

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that information. Very clearly, Fort Smith is interested in the location of the board, but of even greater importance of course is the work to be done by this secretariat. The board is yet to be appointed. Could the Minister indicate the status of appointments of board members? I understand getting the five jurisdictions to, in fact, select their board appointees has been one of the hold ups. Are we going to be ready in that regard as well? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 75-13(6): Mackenzie River Basin Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe to date seven members have been appointed. There are some outstanding. However, there is a quorum of seven that have been appointed to date. It is possible for this board to plan for a meeting, which as I said, they have tentatively set for the month of November. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 75-13(6): Mackenzie River Basin Agreement

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister referenced earlier on some key principles had been agreed to. Could the Minister just highlight the one or two key principles that are going to be directing this board and the secretariat in terms of what they hope to achieve in dealing with all these particular environmental issues related to the rivers and waters flowing into the north? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 75-13(6): Mackenzie River Basin Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, thank you, but I will not be able to reiterate the principles that were attached or set out by this report, but I will be willing to share that with the Members through perhaps another forum.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. (Translation) Member for Amittuq, Mr. Evaloarjuk.(Translation ends)

Question 76-13(6): Inadequate Gymnasium in Pond Inlet

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. This concerns a letter you were sent from the

people of Pond Inlet, copies of which I have. They have indicated the gymnasium for the new school is inadequate. Has the Minister made any further developments or responses to this concern, has he disagreed or agreed with this assessment? I understand the hamlet was supportive of this decision, as well as receiving support from other groups for the Pond Inlet Education Council. Could the Minister please update me on the progress for this building? Thank you. (Translation ends)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 76-13(6): Inadequate Gymnasium in Pond Inlet

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the new school being built in Pond Inlet will have a gym of 396 square metres, which is the standard size we use for schools that are built for a capacity of less than 396 students. In the community last year there were 213 students registered. We are expecting it will be some time before the school would be required to handle a student capacity beyond 396. Mr. Speaker, we have had, in the past, requests from a number of communities asking that the size of the gym be increased for one reason or another. In some communities we have been able to accommodate that when the community itself has found a way to pay for that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

(Translation) Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk. (Translation ends)

Supplementary To Question 76-13(6): Inadequate Gymnasium in Pond Inlet

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know he answered my question, however, supplementary to my question. Why is the size of the gymnasium in Pangnirtung different? I have been informed that the designs were rerouted to the community from Pond Inlet. Is that the case, Mr. Speaker? Thank you. (Translation ends)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 76-13(6): Inadequate
Gymnasium in Pond Inlet

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct that the same plans are being used for the schools in the two communities. The plans for the school in Pangnirtung were modified to increase the size of the gym when the community came to the department and said, we have the extra money to pay for a bigger gym. This government will only pay for a gym of a certain size, so the community itself came up with the extra funds to increase the size of the gym.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

(Translation) Oral question. Supplementary, Mr. Evaloarjuk. (Translation ends)

Supplementary To Question 76-13(6): Inadequate
Gymnasium in Pond Inlet

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister please, or if the Minister will respond to the people of Pond Inlet by written correspondence on this matter that they take very seriously. Can he give me a copy of his response to the people of Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 76-13(6): Inadequate
Gymnasium in Pond Inlet

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 77-13(6): Proposed Burial of PCBs

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister for RWED, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi. I understand, Mr. Speaker, that sometime last week my honourable colleague from Iqaluit, Ed

Picco, was asking about PCBs, so I will make these follow up questions. The federal government proposes to change the toxic waste laws to allow PCBs to be buried in the Arctic. The proposal may result in cost savings to the federal government in DEW Line cleanup, however, environmental consultants have concluded that the plan is not safe. If animals burrow into the landfill containing the waste, there will be room for water to run through and carry the PCB material into the Arctic environment. Is the government aware of the federal government's proposal to change the toxic waste proposed laws? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 77-13(6): Proposed Burial of
PCBs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was aware that the Department of Defence had suggested a couple of years ago that they wanted to be exempt from the

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requirement by Environment Canada regarding the requirements limitations on the burying of PCBs in the Arctic, using of landfill sites. I am not aware at this time whether or not there is, in fact, a request by a federal department to Environment Canada asking for a change in that environmental requirement at this time. I know that Christine Stewart, the Minister of Environment, in a meeting we had recently in Inuvik said, categorically there was no suggestion by her department or herself at this time to comply with any such request if it was received. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 78-13(6): Highway Maintenance Foreman
Position

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. It is regarding the highway maintenance foreman position on the Dempster Highway, which has been vacant for almost a year. The position did go out for a public process where

individuals submitted names and there was an individual from Fort McPherson who was picked for the job. Later there was an appeal process that took place in which the individual was declined the position after the appeal. Mr. Speaker, I feel that through that process, there was no regional or community involvement in the interview process where the individuals who did do the interview through the appeal process came from the Fort Simpson region.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, are there any guidelines regarding how these interviews are done and at what time do they consider the Affirmative Action Policy and the involvement of the local regional public through the aboriginal organizations or involving the construction association within a region? I would like to ask the Minister, have these steps that should have been followed and if not, why not?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 78-13(6): Highway Maintenance Foreman Position

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am told that the department followed the government's policy with respect to the competition and that there was a subsequent appeal procedure that was followed. The only thing I can say at this point in time is, as far as I am told by the department, the proper procedures were followed. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 78-13(6): Highway Maintenance Foreman Position

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the role I see this government playing in allowing aboriginal people to get themselves into senior management positions within this government. We have to keep in mind that there is affirmative policy in place and that we do have local individuals, in the case of the Dempster Highway, who have over 20 years experience working on that highway system. I think it is critical that this government seriously consider when they do these interviews that they do consider the policies we have

in place. Such as the Affirmative Action Policy, the highway work experiences the individuals have and also consideration of disabilities. I would like to ask the Minister, have they looked at the history of a lot of these individuals who, the Dempster Highway as I know from my experience living there, is probably one of the most hazardous routes, especially in the winter time because of the hazardous conditions that road runs through, especially through the Richardson mountains. I would like to ask the Minister again, will he consider a process to allow the interviews to take place with the consideration of all these elements as part of the interview qualifications to be classified so that there be certain credits given in certain sectors for hiring.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 78-13(6): Highway Maintenance Foreman Position

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as far as I know in the Department of Transportation, they follow the government policies and the guidelines and Affirmative Action Policy and so forth. As far as I know, they do a professional job and the people who do the interview, like all interviews that this government and this department does, they do it in a very professional and systematic manner. I think all the things the honourable Member is saying is taken into consideration. However, there was an appeal by another aboriginal person. As far as I can say, we have to honour that appeal and go through that process as well.

Once again, I am told by the department that all proper procedures were followed in trying to deal with this situation. This situation is not concluded yet. It is in an ongoing process. I think it is inappropriate to discuss any specific personal issues in this Legislative Assembly because the parties concerned do not have the speaking privilege on their behalf. I just wanted to say again, my instructions to the department said that we have to follow all the policies that are there and I think they have followed the proper procedures to date. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 78-13(6): Highway Maintenance Foreman Position

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier on in the week, I raised a question regarding the poor condition of the Dempster Highway and I believe that one of the main purpose to have a highway maintenance foreman is to ensure that the safety of the highway is maintained and for him to report back to the superintendent in the region to ensure that work is

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carried out. There has not been a foreman in place for almost a year, I feel it is critical that position be filled as soon as possible. I would like to ask the Minister, how soon does he see this position being filled?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 78-13(6): Highway Maintenance Foreman Position

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the case of the foreman and looking after the Dempster Highway, I did indicate the other day that there was an individual who was hired on a contract basis by the Fort McPherson Band to do this on a contract basis. We did have somebody there that was monitoring the highway in the Dempster Highway system. As for getting somebody in place here, it is important to follow the proper procedures and these things take some time. I would like to assure the Member that we are working on it and I think we are going to have some solution to the situation fairly soon. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 78-13(6): Highway Maintenance Foreman Position

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister be more specific on this question regarding how soon he can have this position? Are we talking another six

months? Are we talking two weeks? Are we talking a year? I would like to get a more specific answer on exactly the date and how long are we really talking here because I would like this position filled as soon as possible.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 78-13(6): Highway Maintenance Foreman Position

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know the exact date. The department is working on it. They are trying to work out a solution. Hopefully we will have something within the next couple of weeks, but I will get hold of the department as soon as we can here and we will get back to the Member on roughly the exact date of when this position will be filled. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 79-13(6): Employee Confidentiality Agreement

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Premier responsible for the Personnel Secretariat. As I mentioned the other day, it has come to my attention that those of our civil servants who are working on the P3 projects are asked to sign a confidential agreement. The purpose, apparently, for the necessity for this agreement is simply to emphasize the necessity and importance of secrecy. As I mentioned the other day, the civil servants already signed an oath of secrecy. My question is, does the Premier agree that employees should now be required to sign a second oath of secrecy and one specifically related to the P3 initiative? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 79-13(6): Employee Confidentiality Agreement

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I took this question as notice the other day because I do not have any idea what the Member is talking about. Still today, I have not received an answer yet, so I still do not have any idea what you are talking about, so I cannot give you my opinion about it. Once again, I will take it as notice. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Premier is taking the question as notice. Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to oral questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Member for Nunakput is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will take a break and return to item 6.

--Break

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I would like to call the House back to order. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Steen.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 80-13(6): Wildlife Officers' Patrols

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Members for unanimous consent to return to this item. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the honourable Mr. Kakfwi, Minister of Wildlife. Mr. Speaker, my question is in relation to wildlife officers and in particular, the visibility of these officers in specific areas where they operate. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if wildlife officers have a requirement to do scheduled patrols in their specific areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Steen. The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 80-13(6): Wildlife Officers' Patrols

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that each region plans with the wildlife officers within the region a schedule of activities, taking into account the type of activities and requirements that are perceived to be needed and how their roles and responsibilities would require them to travel and be present in

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certain parts of their jurisdiction in different parts of the year. That is what I understand. There are patrols made and visits, trips made out on the land at different parts of the year. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 80-13(6): Wildlife Officers' Patrols

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for that response. I understand that officers are required to do specific patrols at specific times of the year. My question is, I presume then, that specific times of the year would include harvesting times of caribou, for instance. Mr. Speaker, part of my question is that I believe visibility of officers at specific times of the year, particularly during heavy harvesting times would encourage good hunting practices. Therefore, I ask the Minister, would, in fact, this apply to harvesting of caribou?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 80-13(6): Wildlife Officers' Patrols

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last fall, following some questions from the Member, I had given indications to the Inuvik regional office of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development to assure me that this fall they would make some effort to make sure they paid some attention, demonstrated presence and some monitoring capacity, during the caribou hunting season in that area to ensure that the government presence was felt and acknowledged, to ensure that there was no wastage of meat, and that

good hunting and harvesting practices were adhered to. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 80-13(6): Wildlife Officers' Patrols

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that in order for these wildlife officers to do their job and be visible out in the land, they have to have the proper equipment. My second supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is in regard to are the wildlife officers supplied with proper equipment to go out on the land and make themselves visible and do their job? Mr. Speaker, I ask this question in relation to the fact that wildlife equipment in Tuktoyaktuk last fall was heavily vandalized to the extent that some of it is no longer useful. I am not sure whether the officer has the equipment any more to actually go out on the land and do his job. I would like the Minister to confirm to the House that the officers, in fact, have the equipment to do the job. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 80-13(6): Wildlife Officers' Patrols

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will give assurance to the Member that the wildlife officer will have the necessary equipment to carry out their job in that particular jurisdiction, and if they do not, then we shall try to move quickly to make sure they have the equipment that he says was damaged and vandalized last year. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Question 81-13(6): Mackenzie Delta Tourism Development Officer

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in regard to a letter I wrote to the Minister regarding a tourism development officer position for the Mackenzie Delta. I think it is crucial that Mackenzie Delta gets their own tourism development officer because I feel that the individual we have in place at the present time is stretched to the limit where she has to cover some 13 communities in an area, especially in the Western Territory, which covers almost half the geographical area of the new Western Territory. It is not fair to that individual to try to do an adequate job with the resources she has, but also trying to do a sufficient job to serve all the residents of the Nunakput region, the Mackenzie Delta region, the Sahtu region, where she covers three jurisdictional areas, I think for her to do an adequate job, especially for the amount of traffic we do get in the Mackenzie Delta region. I would like to ask the Minister, has he taken into account the area that this individual has to cover and also the number of communities she has to serve?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 81-13(6): Mackenzie Delta Tourism Development Officer

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Members will remember that in the amalgamation of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development from the previous three independent departments there was a considerable reduction in the budget. There was a total cut of something like \$10 million, in fact, originally we were asked to cut \$5 million, then we got an additional cut of \$5 million after that. We reduced the number of staff that we had, mostly at the headquarters level, but what this resulted in is a smaller department with less resources to carry out the functions and the duties that we have set out.

Having said that, we have also continued to devolve and transfer the economic development officer positions from the regions to the communities, and from the community level of the department to specific agencies or organizations at the community level through community transfer initiatives. What we have is limited staff positions now within the department to carry out these economic development support functions, both

at the Yellowknife level and also at the regional level. To look at transferring an existing position from the department to say, for instance, the Gwich'in Tribal Council at this time, is difficult to carry out. We have the Inuvialuit who would also be requiring such assistance, as well as a number of other organizations throughout the Northwest Territories, and we are unable to comply with such a request at this time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 81-13(6): Mackenzie Delta Tourism Development Officer

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was not talking about economic development officers, I was talking about a particular sector of the economy which I feel is very crucial to the development of the riding I represent with the downturn of the oil and gas industry. We have to find alternative ways of trying to stimulate the economy and generate jobs. I am talking in general, the tourism development officer position in Inuvik, and tourism in general.

This summer was probably one of the better summer seasons we had for tourists travelling up the Dempster Highway from the States and also from southern Canada. I think it is critical that we have people in place in all the regions, not just in the riding I represent, to ensure that sector of the economy is enhanced. We talk about stimulating the economy, but it seems like this particular area is crucial, especially for the riding I represent where there is no real economic value and we have one individual, but for that one individual to do an adequate job, we are sharing her with the 13 communities of the Nunakput riding, Mackenzie Delta and the Sahtu.

We are talking about all this money we are spending on a highway strategy, we are talking about this economic strategy where we are spending a lot of dollars there, but I think it is these type of issues that we have to concentrate on developing now. I would like to ask the Minister if he might consider his department to seriously look at this matter and put some serious consideration into promoting this particular tourism development officer positions in all ridings, not have one person taking care of three

ridings. It just does not make economic sense, and it is not fair to the person doing the job.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 81-13(6): Mackenzie Delta Tourism Development Officer

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for the question. For the last couple of years we have been funding the NWT Tourism Association, an organization that is mandated to represent the operators and business sector of tourism, working in partnership with our department to advise the government and to take a direction on its own on where to take us in regard to promoting and developing the tourism sector of our economy. I had a meeting just last week with the board members of the tourism board and I have indicated that it is now time for them to start articulating what it is they want done. What type of resources are required for the strategy or plan they may wish to propose to me as a Minister?

I have indicated to them that Members of the Legislature and community leaders are all interested in seeing what it is we want to propose as a tourism strategy and we require them to make some suggestion on what it is we should be doing and what type of resources are going to be required. To go further, suggest how these resources should be best allocated. What should be done at the territorial level? What should be done at the regional and community level?

Hopefully within the next two or three months, we will have a strategy and a plan that we can share with the Members, that will lead to perhaps looking at additional dollars if it comes through the federal new economic development agreement, if we reach that and we propose a new program to them on how we would use resources like that to promote and develop the tourism sector of our economy. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 81-13(6): Mackenzie Delta Tourism Development Officer

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know which other way to put this, but I asked the Minister if it is possible that the individual, since we cannot seem to get any more positions allocated, be allocated to each community in each of the three ridings who will serve in those communities for a particular period of time. Say three or four months, in the Mackenzie Delta riding, three or four months in the Nunakput riding and three or four months in the Sahtu riding, so we all distribute the person, so she can get a feel for what tourism development is really all about in our communities, where the individual does not just fly in one day and fly out the next day.

To do an adequate job, you have to have people on the ground, working with the tourism sector in each of the communities, so they get a feel of what each of the individual business people are doing in the tourism industry. I do not think we are serving justice to this individual and we are not serving justice to the people that we represent. I would like to ask the Minister if he has seriously considered that we expand these positions to allow more involvement in the communities and that the people spend more time in those communities to ensure their activities are being considered and seriously developed so every community and all the regions have a product that is sellable and marketable so we can get as much mileage out of these proposals when they come forth from the communities? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 81-13(6): Mackenzie Delta Tourism Development Officer

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would

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be prepared to consider the suggestion made by the honourable Member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 82-13(6): Chip Sealing Strategy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of Transportation. It is in regard to the issue I raised in my Member's statement and that is the need for a comprehensive, longer term strategy to deal with chip sealing, which will free up operations and maintenance money that can be used on other, more pressing needs up the valley. I wonder if the Minister can indicate his thoughts on that and his plans on trying to deal with that issue? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 82-13(6): Chip Sealing Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly the objective of this department's very long range plan is to eventually do something more with the existing highway system that we have, to try to get it into better shape. The long-term plan is for doing reconstruction of the highway systems and eventually putting some hardtop and chip sealing and maybe even paving. We are doing this work between Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife as a highway strategy. That is where our efforts are, into upgrading the highway system there, straighten it out and eventually paving it all the way to Yellowknife. That is a very long range plan, like 10 to 12 years.

On the other parts of the highway, like the honourable Member's constituency, Thebacha, Highway 5 runs over there and I believe he mentioned there are some paved roads there. I think 122 kilometres of road in that area is paved. When I say paved, I mean that 40 kilometres is pavement. About 80 or so kilometres is chip seal. There is a remaining 140 or 144 kilometres of highway on that road that is gravel surface and is treated dust control. Towards the junction of Highway 3 and Highway 1, towards Simpson, there is a substantial amount of highway there that is still gravel. Highway 7 down from Highway 1, from the BC border up to Highway 1 is another section that is gravel. Up in the Dempster, we have gravel sections. We have a lot of areas in the north where there are gravel sections that should be looked at. The department is looking at a long range plan on this, and it does not fall currently within this coming five year capital plan. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 82-13(6): Chip Sealing Strategy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister aware of the significant yearly savings that could be accrued by, in fact, making that part of the initial investment at the front end, as we have heard the phrase used, so we would get a savings at the back end? Would you free up a considerable amount of operations and maintenance money, to deal with some of the projects the Minister has listed? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 82-13(6): Chip Sealing Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes there is a savings in the operations and maintenance side if we do chip seal the highway system. Chip sealing the highway system is a substantial capital investment. This is reconstruction of the existing highway system and getting it chip sealed. I just wanted to maybe add, usually the chip sealing is the latter part of the reconstruction of the highway, so there is a substantial up front cost to chip sealing a highway system. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 82-13(6): Chip Sealing Strategy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the Minister is in regard to the condition of the roads in the part of the constituencies we are talking about, in the South Slave and in his constituency. In fact, the road bed itself is in fairly good shape and based on that consideration, the reality is you could chip seal small portions on a yearly basis, over the long-term and not incur a huge up front, one time initial capital investment. You would also start to realize savings on the operations and maintenance side, that would help offset that program. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 82-13(6): Chip Sealing Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the existing highway system on Highway 5, Highway 1 into Fort Simpson, I am told by the department, is constructed in a very sound manner. The manner in which the base is very solid and I have also been told by certain engineers that not very much would be required to get the surface into good enough condition so we could chip seal certain areas, if we maintained the existing width. As you know, the highway system between Edzo and the border, when it was reconstructed, they added some more width to the road, therefore, it required more culvert work and so forth. I am told in certain sectors that if we just keep the width of the road and chip seal it with some minimum amount of work to get it in shape to chip seal, I think it could work and I think it would not require that much capital to get it to that state. Thank you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 82-13(6): Chip Sealing Strategy

MR. MILTENBERGER:

You have indicated in this House, as the Minister of Transportation as well as the Minister of Finance, that there is a transportation strategy underway, which is going to be a critical component of the broader economic strategy. It is going to be critical for any kind of roads to resources. Keeping in mind that in fact, transportation like every other government department, had to anti up and pay their share for the deficit reduction. Should there, as a result of the new economic strategy in the west, after division, should in fact there be money allocated or new money put into transportation? Would the Minister be able to commit to re-looking at these priorities, should those funds be made available for these very key sectors? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 82-13(6): Chip Sealing Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the economic strategy, which the transportation strategy is a component of, is in the early stages of being developed. Once we get more data, more information together, we would have an indication where to go with this. Development of our infrastructure to eventually have development of the economy is key in the overall big picture. Certainly that has to be taken into consideration. I cannot commit right now to say yes, we will pour every single dollar we find into this process to transportation, but certainly it will be a big factor. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Henry.

Question 83-13(6): Direct Deposit to Northern Business

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Department of Finance, Mr. Todd. Yesterday, I made a statement in this House regarding the need to implement an electronic payment system of direct deposits for northern businesses that are providing services to this government. I had hoped to ask my questions yesterday regarding this issue, but we ran out of time, Mr. Speaker. This government is trying to foster, and it is a priority, to develop northern businesses by supplying grants and loans. It seems to me that the minor expense in creating and producing a system that would accommodate direct deposits to businesses providing service to the government, would add to this. On April 1, 1999 many small northern businesses may experience a period of confusion as to where their invoices or where their payments may be received. The direct deposit system could link the two new governments and the businesses that are providing services to them. By adopting an efficient direct deposit system, we would not only benefit northern businesses, but we would also facilitate the transition between businesses and the two new governments.

The question to the Minister of Finance is, some departments are presently using a direct deposit system for services they are purchasing from the private sector. I would hope the Minister of Finance would agree a direct deposit system of payment would be beneficial to northern businesses. I would like to ask the Minister if he would be prepared to pursue this implementation as soon as possible, certainly prior to division? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister for Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 83-13(6): Direct Deposit to Northern Business

HON. JOHN TODD:

I will certainly endeavour to look into the matter and see if we can expand the program, as my colleague outlined, to departments that may not be doing it at this time. I cannot make any commitment today as to whether we can complete this by division. We have got 200 systems right now and we are only working on four for April 1st, so the work load is pretty heavy. Certainly I will look into it and I think it is a fair question and probably a good method in which people can get compensated in a timely manner. If it is doable we will certainly do it and I will look into it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 83-13(6): Direct Deposit to Northern Business

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that and I think his encouragement to northern businesses is commendable and it is consistent also. I would like to ask the Minister if he would commit to having his officials look at it and report back to this House at the next sitting, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 83-13(6): Direct Deposit to Northern Business

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think that is a fair request, Mr. Speaker. Certainly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 84-13(6): Renovation Contract to Southern Firm

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that last summer there were renovations done in Arctic Bay to the RWED office. I understand the contract was awarded to a southern company from Edmonton. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for contracting, Mr. Antoine, why the contract was awarded to the southern company, when the government has business incentive policies, to award

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contractors from local communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 84-13(6): Renovation Contract to Southern Firm

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take the question as notice because I do not have details on that specific question. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 85-13(6): Compassionate Travel

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the implementation of the strategic health plan released by Mr. Ng today, he is looking at shaping our future through that strategic plan for health and wellness. I am wondering if the department has looked at the

issue surrounding compassionate travel and medical escorts? This past summer I had a situation in my community where some people had died in Montreal and Ottawa and we were not able to bring them back home for burial because there was no money available through the government. I am wondering if the Minister has looked at compassionate travel and non-medical escorts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 85-13(6): Compassionate Travel

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if an individual happens to, for whatever reason, become deceased while outside the territories for medical treatment it is our responsibility to bring that individual back to their home community for their burial services. With respect to the issue of compassionate travel, as you know this has been an ongoing issue to all boards and health professionals and certainly to politicians that have brought up the issue.

As I have indicated in the past, we have a lot less flexibility now because of more demands on our services and our focus on providing core health programs before we enter into any of these auxiliary support programs such as escort travel. However, in the instances of required medical escorts, where if the patient happens to be a minor or is a unilingual individual that needs or is not capable of travelling on their own, then certainly those provisions are allowed to assist those individuals that need that assistance, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 85-13(6):
Compassionate Travel

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, where are those provisions outlined?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 85-13(6):
Compassionate Travel

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe they are outlined in the policies that the boards have in respect to medical travel. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 85-13(6):
Compassionate Travel

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the policies that the boards follow, are those GNWT developed policies, authorized policies from the GNWT or actually those policies that the board can come up with? For example, if a health board in particular would like to finance, if they had it within their budget, medical escort travel or compassionate travel, are they able to do that or do they have to follow this policy which is set by the territorial government? Maybe the Minister could give us some clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 85-13(6):
Compassionate Travel

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe they are policies of our Ministry of Health that we provide to the boards, but to ensure that is the case I will find out and advise the Member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 86-13(6): Economic Strategy Development

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to Mr. Todd, the Minister responsible for FMBS and it relates to the proposed economic strategy that is being put in place. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell

me whether or not the new Department of Sustainable Development for Nunavut is involved in this study?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if my honourable colleague could repeat the question. Sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien, could you repeat the question?

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Speaker, my question was, regarding the

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proposed economic strategy for the GNWT, will the Minister confirm whether or not the new Department of Sustainable Development for Nunavut will be involved in this particular study and review?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 86-13(6): Economic Strategy Development

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, my apologies. Mr. Speaker, my understanding of what is going on in Nunavut is there is a collaborative effort of a number of parties in Nunavut right now looking at an economic strategy for the new Nunavut territory. NTI, GNWT, the Interim Commissioner's Office through Ms. Catherine Trumper's office, et cetera, are all intimately involved in that. The current and the future Departments of RWED are involved in this process. It has been undertaken along with some private sector people, I believe, through the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce, et cetera, are involved in this process of developing an economic strategy for the Nunavut area. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 86-13(6): Economic Strategy Development

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated, I believe, the costs produced by sub-contractors, can the Minister tell the House actually who the sub-contractors will be, if any, for the Nunavut portion of the study?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 86-13(6): Economic Strategy Development

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That has been done by this other group through this collaborative effort headed up by the groups I mentioned: NTI, Interim Commissioner's Office, GNWT and the new Department of RWED under the Interim Commissioner's Office. My understanding is that they are moving on their own on this issue. We are providing for them all the information they require and all the statistical information they require and I am not aware at this time what consultants they have hired to work with them on this issue. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 86-13(6): Economic Strategy Development

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be able to tell the House exactly what the Nunavut costs of the study will be? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 86-13(6): Economic Strategy Development

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not know, Mr. Speaker. I said already that there is a reticence, if you want, on the part of Nunavut. We are intimately involved in what we are doing and

what they are doing is their own separate study in which we are a partner in. We are not heading up that study, that is being done through a collaborative effort of all the parties, including the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce, I believe. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 86-13(6): Economic Strategy Development

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister had indicated that he had spoken to a number of parties and invited various individuals, business people, into Yellowknife to discuss the parameters of this particular study. Can the Minister indicate who was requested or invited to come in from the Nunavut region?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 86-13(6): Economic Strategy Development

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to remind my colleague that this was an informal discussion that I asked for to get a general feeling of whether we are heading in the right direction. As a matter of fact, I did ask Mr. Bob Leonard from Arviat, from his riding, a man that I have a lot of respect for the advice and guidance he has given me over the years, along with a member from the Kivalik Partners. However, unfortunately, both parties chose, for a variety of reasons, not to attend. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 87-13(6): Impacts of Collective Agreement on Recruitment

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the honourable Mr. Todd, Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board

Secretariat. Mr. Speaker, my question is in relation to the ongoing problem of the government's ability to recruit sufficient nurses and teachers. I wonder, since I am not all that familiar with what is actually in the collective agreement this government has with the Labour Union, I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to the House whether or not there are some positive things in that agreement that would help to offset the problem of recruiting nurses and teachers? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister for FMB, Mr. Todd.

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Return To Question 87-13(6): Impacts of Collective Agreement on Recruitment

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the question raised by my honourable colleague. I think I, along with my honourable colleague, Mr. Ng, and everybody at this table understands the urgent need to find a solution to the recruitment of nurses. One part of that recruitment, and there is only one part of it, is in the compensation that that profession receives.

In our Hay Plan Job Evaluation system we recognized that was one particular profession that was underpaid and it would be our intention, assuming we can get a collective agreement signed off and get agreement on pay equity, provide the nurses with a renewed fiscal rewards for the jobs that they have. In fact, if my memory serves me correctly, should we be successful in ever getting this to our membership, which I hope we will in the coming weeks, I believe community nurses salaries increase somewhere in the range of \$10,000 to \$12,000 on an annual basis and that is on salary alone, never mind the additional increases in northern allowance and the natural two percent increase, et cetera. It is a significant increase and I think it is only one part of the issue which Mr. Ng is trying to address, but it certainly is an issue that would enhance the take home pay of our nursing fraternity at the community level.

I think the other important issue here, and I have said this consistently and I mean it sincerely, if we get pay equity signed off it could be as much as \$30,000 before tax money retroactively for nurses who have spent a long time in this part of the country. There is a concerted effort on our part to compensate people

for the work in which they have performed and fortunately community based nurses get a significant increase should we be able to get the UNW to ever get this issue brought to the people to vote on it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 87-13(6): Impacts of Collective Agreement on Recruitment

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by that response from the Minister. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether or not another alternative would be that this government would use some of the existing surpluses identified in Mr. Todd's Interim Financial Report for the Year Ending March 31, 1998. The government identified a surplus of \$61.7 million, which would include \$25 million for pay equity. Interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, it identifies, and I quote, "one of the largest reductions in expenditures was in salaries and wages, which were \$33 million less than the previous year." Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether or not we are, in fact, to some degree, balancing or having surpluses based on the backs of the poor and the needy. Obviously, if some of this money could be invested back into the salaries and benefits for the nurses that might be an option. I wonder if the Minister would consider it. If there is some way we could consider putting some of this money back into the salaries and benefits for the nurses? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 87-13(6): Impacts of Collective Agreement on Recruitment

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that is, in fact, what we have done. I think when we did the Hay Plan Job Evaluation System it was clearly recognized that some professions were, if you want, out of whack with their responsibilities that they have. There was a genuine effort made to try to bring about a more balanced approach to the way in which we compensate our staff based upon the responsibilities they have. As I said to Mr. Steen's earlier question, there is a significant increase in the annual salaries of

community based nurses should we get an agreement signed off both in the collective side of things and on the pay equity end of things.

I would like to caution everybody about reading a statement on March 31, 1999 as it relates to surpluses, et cetera. I have already said in this House, and I will say again, that when I know exactly what the anticipated surplus is going to be and when I know we have paid down the accumulated debt and we are going to balance the budget, I will be only too happy to provide that to all the Members as I will to the Premier and to my Cabinet colleagues. I think it is a little early at this stage of the game to suggest the level of surplus that we are going to have. Clearly, if there is one, we will have to analyze, listen to what has been said in this House and try to target the areas where the monies should be spent. I cannot intervene in the collective bargaining process. I believe the offer, and I am going to say again and I will say it until March 31st if I cannot get an arrangement, that the offer that we have put on the table is a good one. It puts significant new money in the hands of our employees and the UNW has an obligation and responsibility to let the membership vote on this important issue.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

Question 88-13(6): Nunavut Government Design

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, hopefully I will be clear enough. I would like to pose my question to the Minister for Division. The deputy ministers in that region, and probably the Minister I am sure, have meetings occasionally concerning languages within our communities. The language policies were approved in Igloolik originally, but later on in the future there were amendments made to those policies. Whether it was by way of the Interim Commissioner I do not know, but the Baffin leaders held a summit in July and a motion was brought forward to return to the original documents under the Languages Policy. At that time it was moved, I believe by people representing Kugluktuk/Coppermine. I wonder if he can elaborate on that? Thank you. (Translation ends)

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Minister for the Division Secretariat, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 88-13(6): Nunavut Government Design

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was just conferring with my colleague so that I might answer the question properly for Mr. Evaloarjuk. Any changes to the Footprints in the Snow II model, I think which is what Mr. Evaloarjuk was speaking about, is subject to the approval of three parties, NTI, GNWT and the federal government. We understand that the Interim Commissioner's office, because of a variety of circumstances, is going to put forward some recommendations for some change. At this time we have not seen that and we are hopeful that would be presented to Mr. Arlooktoo and the others at their meeting next week in Ottawa. If, in fact, there are some changes that have been recommended by the Interim Commissioner that we can support, then we would provide to my honourable colleague and to this House an update on that information at that time. At this time, we do not have a definitive response from the Interim Commissioner as to what changes, if any, he wishes to make. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

Question 89-13(6): Compensation for Unsuccessful Contract Bidders

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works. It is in regard to a tender that was let go in my riding, in Aklavik, for a warehouse for the Department of RWED. The contract which was originally called was given to a joint venture company, Tetlit'zheh Construction Ltd. and the Inuvialuit Project Corporation. They won the bid, but apparently the bid was over budget. The company, along with the Department of Public Works, made an attempt to negotiate and look at the possibility of revising the amount of the budget. At that point they were almost there with a \$3,500 difference. At that point, the department went back to the Department of RWED and rejected it on the basis of the \$3,500.

I would like to ask the Minister regarding the attempt that was made by this company, which was successful in the original bid and made the attempt to

sit down with the government and the Department of Public Works, to try working out an acceptable amount by bringing their price down to a level where they felt was reasonable. Three thousand five hundred dollars is not a lot of money, yet we talk about a surplus in this government, we talk about big projects, we talk about doing multi-million dollar studies. I find it very unacceptable that we make an attempt in good faith with a contractor to sit down with them and try to work out the arrangements, yet at the end of the day, they are rejected on the basis of a small amount of money.

Is there any way that these companies can be compensated for the time and effort that they put in when they sit down with this government, especially the Department of Public Works, to try to resolve an issue and at the end of the day they are left out in the cold with no contract in hand and basically their bid does not mean anything on the market because their price is of public knowledge because it was a public process? I would like to ask the Minister, is there a way that these companies can be compensated for efforts that they put forth in good faith trying to resolve issues with this government, at the end of the day being turned down totally and losing out on a contract for \$3,500?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister for Public Works and Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 89-13(6): Compensation for Unsuccessful Contract Bidders

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just became aware of this situation very recently, so I have to depend on what the department provides for me with regard to information. What I have been told is that originally there were two tenders that came in for this project. Again, I have to say that this project itself came in after the budget. RWED was able to arrange funds to replace the warehouse, so it did not go through the normal process. On this particular contract, there were two tenders. One was rejected and the other one, the company mentioned, was high. Their costs were over the estimate of the project, so there were a series of attempts to negotiate, but their price was still high and I am told that the Department of Renewable Resources was unable to provide additional funds for this project. Therefore, this joint venture could not reduce their price further, so this

whole project was re-tendered on a reduced scale and another firm got the contract through a public tendering process. That is the nature of the public tendering process. Once you get into the public tendering process, there is not much we can do about it. I became aware of this after it was in the public tendering process, so there was not much we could do about it at this point in time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 89-13(6):
Compensation for Unsuccessful Contract Bidders

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to myself getting involved in this process, I was called by the contractors in question. It was at the point where there was \$3,500 difference and I made attempts to call different departments where Ministers were not available because they had other commitments. I spoke to the deputy minister of RWED Mr. Joe Handley, and he attempted to come forth with this money to offset the contract. Yet with the whole question about timing, where the contract went out less than ten days later, they reissued the contract without allowing enough time for the contractor and the government to work out an adequate arrangement. For \$3,500 I do not feel that this serves justice to the construction association in the north.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Question, please.

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MR. KRUTKO:

Can the Minister tell me, is there a time period which allows a contractor or a company to have an opportunity to sit down and negotiate in good faith without doing it for a short period of time? Is there a time frame in place which allows from the time the contract is issued to the time the contract is cancelled? Is there a time period before the contract lapses?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 89-13(6): Compensation for Unsuccessful Contract Bidders

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know that question, therefore, I will take his question as noticed. I will get back to the honourable Member with complete details of what happened here. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Question 90-13(6): Grade Extension Policy

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent. I am referring to his statement in the House yesterday regarding students' success. In particular, I would like to talk about the grade extension policy. I note that the Minister has advised the House that the number of communities that have the ability to provide secondary education is at 90 percent. The Minister stated that students no longer have to leave the support of their families and communities to pursue secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, a number of students, who I am aware go for post-secondary education from a community such as Yellowknife, have a difficult time when they go to larger centres. They have a difficult time adapting to the numbers of people, the traffic and so forth. I am wondering if the Minister if having this policy of having as many high schools as possible in communities is not creating a bottleneck for students who will achieve high school education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 90-13(6): Grade Extension Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when this government introduced the grade extension policy, only 45 percent of those young people who were of

high school age were attending high school. That meant that 55 percent of our youth had no chance of post-secondary education. Today, Mr. Speaker, we have 85 percent of our youth in high school. We have had more graduates this year than any other year in history. I would argue that the bottleneck has been all along that we could not get students to complete high school. We do have problems with student success at post-secondary institutions, but it is no where near the problems we have had with students in secondary institutions. I would say that we are dealing with the biggest bottleneck by getting young people to attend high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 90-13(6): Grade Extension Policy

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has told us about the increase in the number of graduates. Can the Minister give some hope to the number of graduates that he is graduating through the schools in the smaller communities? What do they hope to do in the smaller communities where there is little chance for creating meaningful employment? They will still, as I say, have to leave in many cases, as other Canadians have to do, to find gainful employment. What programs is the Minister promoting within the schools to create employment for the graduates in the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 90-13(6): Grade Extension Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, educated people do not have a problem finding a job in the Northwest Territories. Last year we had over 3,000 people move to the Northwest Territories and I do not believe anyone moved here to retire. The problem is that we do not have enough northern people trained to take the jobs that are available right now in the Northwest Territories. Training students in the communities will increase their self-sufficiency and their self-reliance and their health. Therefore, I think

that the best form of economic development is in education. Educated young people will find their own jobs and if that means that they have to move, then they will be prepared to move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 90-13(6): Grade Extension Policy

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister referred to 3,000 jobs being created in the territories and most of these people have moved to the territories. I still go back to the question of the possibility of getting the students from a high school education qualified where post-secondary education is required to be able to take those 3,000 jobs. I still go back to the question of the bottleneck being created there. I compliment the Minister and the department for raising the number of graduates, but unless there is some path available to those students after that to be able to take advantage of post-secondary education, I still think the bottleneck is there. Again, what encouragement is created in the communities to encourage these students to go on to post-secondary education and maybe to make it easier for them to

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do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 90-13(6): Grade Extension Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think that there is a bottleneck. I think that an educated person will be able to find a job in the Northwest Territories. Our statistics demonstrate that. We have very few people who are unemployed who are educated. The numbers speak for themselves. With a university degree, with a post-secondary degree or with a journey certificate, with a college certificate - the two-year college diploma has demonstrated tremendous success at helping people get jobs -

there are all sorts of avenues. One of the things the Member is talking about is student support, and I know that during the Minister's Forum on Student Financial Assistance, one of the comments that we heard from people across the north was that we needed to do a better job of providing support to students who do have to leave their home communities. That is something the department has adopted as a policy, trying to find ways to better support students when they have to move. Through counselling, which we work to make available in all schools, through student support, we are going to try and improve on the success of students who have to leave their home communities for post-secondary studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Question period is over. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, return to written question 3-13(6), asked by Mr. Henry to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, concerning the fiscal situation of the Workers' Compensation Board.

1. The operating reserve had a balance of \$35 million at December 31, 1997, the end of the WCB's last fiscal year.

2. All of the WCB's revenues contribute to payment of claims and administration expenses. The excess is transferred to the WCB's reserves, including the operating reserve.

Since 1992, when it was in a deficit position, the WCB has collected \$118 million in assessments and has earned \$73 million in investment returns.

3. The board of directors of the WCB considered a rebate as one of several options in addressing its surplus position; however, it would not have been in keeping with the board's funding policy. It should be noted that the employer base in the NWT is relatively stable from year to year.

4. The WCB's current fiscal year ends on December 31, 1998, so it would be difficult to speculate on the balance of the reserve at March 31, 1999. The

estimated operating reserve at December 31, 1999. The estimated operating reserve at December 31, 1998 is \$33.4 million. This figure is subject to many largely uncontrollable variables such as investment returns, claims experience and economic activity to year end.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. 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. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Madame Thompson.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 8: An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 8 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Madame Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The honourable Minister Thompson is seeking unanimous consent to have second reading of Bill 8. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Madame Thompson.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 8: An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill extends the period of time within which an assessment, supplementary assessment or a

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revision of the assessed value of assessable property may be carried out before the assessed value lapses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Bill 8 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Thank you. Second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of the committee of the whole. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: Family Law Reform Statutes Amendment Act

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that Bill 1, Family Law Reform Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 2: Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) Act

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 2, Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) Act be read for the third time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 2 has had third reading. 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 this evening. Meetings for tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, at 11:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members Caucus and at 11:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, September 23, 1988:

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

- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Property Assessment and Taxation Act

- Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1998-99

18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 5 Regulatory Reform Measures Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned to Wednesday, September 23, 1988 at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT