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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 Manikot 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):

Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 31-13(6): A New Agenda For the New Western Territory

HON. DON MORIN:

Mr. Speaker, in less than seven months the new Nunavut territory will come into being. Over the first three years of its term this government has invested a huge effort in supporting the creation of Nunavut. Our commitment to a smooth transition will continue up to and after division. On April 1, 1999 a new Western Territory will also be created. Just as Nunavut residents are looking forward to taking greater control of their future, western residents are looking forward to defining a new future for the west. They are looking to us to provide leadership in shaping that future.

Mr. Speaker, it is now time to turn our attention to a new agenda for a new Western Territory. This is a huge responsibility. It is a responsibility that we as a Legislature share with all northerners. Our children and our grandchildren are depending on us to work together for a better future. Each of us must think about the kind of society we want to create, the society we want our children to inherit.

As we consider our future together, we can choose to put our own narrow self-interest first or we can choose respect, understanding and fairness. We can take control of our own future or we can continue to have others make decisions for us. We can choose to blame others for our condition or we can choose to take full responsibility for ourselves. We can choose to remain dependent or we can work together towards greater self-reliance. But make no mistake. We must all live with the consequences of those choices. The decisions we make today will shape the future of the west for generations to come. As we make these choices, we need to be guided by a vision for the future of the west, a vision that all northerners can share a vision that describes the society we want our children to inherit.

Mr Speaker, I believe this vision must include a system of government that respects the inherent right of aboriginal people to govern themselves while protecting the individual rights of all residents. What I am saying is that we as a public government must truly recognize the inherent right of aboriginal people. We cannot ask them to dilute it or water it down. Public and aboriginal governments must come to the table as equals. This government must be willing to share certain legislative authority and we must be willing to change the way we do business. Only then can aboriginal governments take their rightful place, and only then can we form lasting partnerships for the benefit of all residents. Our government must have credibility not only in the north, but in the rest of Canada. We need a strong central government that represents everyone who lives in the Northwest Territories. This government must be the voice of the territory in national affairs and in our dealings with the provinces

Mr. Speaker, our vision must include northern people taking greater control of their future and becoming more responsible for their own well-being. It must include modern health care, education, housing and social programs, which are provided by and for northerners. Mr. Speaker, our education, health and the social services systems have been set up on southern models. We now know that these systems, imported from outside, do not reflect northern or aboriginal traditions and values. They have not worked well. I say it is time for northerners to work together to redesign these programs. As we move ahead to the next century we will be in control and we will be responsible for the outcome. I know we can do better.

Mr. Speaker, our vision must include sustainable development of the north's economic potential in a way that benefits all northerners. This means greater aboriginal participation in the workforce and economy. We have always said that northern people must benefit from the development of our resources and our economy. The sad fact is that aboriginal people still do not have a strong voice in our economy. Aboriginal people consistently have higher unemployment rates and lower incomes. We must work in partnership with aboriginal governments to correct this. Our vision must include healthier, more self-reliant individuals, families and communities. Mr. Speaker, this starts by enabling people to take more control over their own lives. All residents need access to education, housing and quality health care the basic services that all Canadians expect. They need the jobs and opportunities that will allow them to support themselves and their families, because, Mr. Speaker, restoring the pride that comes with self-reliance is the key to healthier families and communities.

Our vision must include steadily decreasing dependence on

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federal transfer payments. We cannot say that we govern ourselves as long as we have to rely on Ottawa for 75 percent of our budget. We have to start producing our own wealth, paying for our own programs and paying for our own services. Public and aboriginal governments can do this with a fair share of the royalties and taxes from the resources that rightfully belong to northern people. Mr. Speaker, our vision must include a strong, unified territory, taking its place in the federation and contributing to the prosperity of Canada. When I say strong and unified, I mean all northerners, aboriginal governments and public government must work together for the best interests of all. If everybody thinks only of their own region, their own community, then we will be divided and weak and we will not be heard. We have a lot to offer and we must be willing to work in partnership to establish a strong presence in Canada, first we need to find ways to see clearly our common northern interests and speak with a strong, confident northern voice.

Our first order of business is getting governance right. This means moving forward on outstanding claims, implementing the inherent right to self-government and defining a new western constitution. In doing so, we must develop a new governing system that is

based on true partnerships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people. The GNWT has long recognized aboriginal peoples' inherent right of self-government. We are committed to working with aboriginal nations and the federal government to ensure a fair implementation. We want to develop models of governance that recognize aboriginal rights and enable aboriginal peoples to take their rightful place in northern society a society that is founded on the principle of people working in partnership working together. Aboriginal governments come to the table as equal partners in a process where we all share an interest in the outcome. We all want to reach workable agreements that will respect the inherent right, honour all northerners' basic rights and support a Western Territory that we can all be proud of. Only by working together can we build respect for legitimate roles of aboriginal and public governments. Only by working together can we create a stable political environment that is essential to encourage investment in our economy. Only by working together can we make sure that all residents in all regions have access to affordable, quality programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is a critical issue for me. I do not want a future where there are rich regions and poor regions, where people are not free to move. I want my children to feel welcome to live and work anywhere in the north. I believe all northerners, aboriginal and non-aboriginal, want this as well. Mr. Speaker, the people and the land and its resources represent the economic potential of the north. Yet key decisions continue to be made by bureaucrats in Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, maybe in 1968 that was fine, but this is 1998 and I find it completely unacceptable. We are not children here in the north. If we are mature enough to manage our own health, education and social programs, surely we are mature enough to manage our own land and resources.

This is our second challenge: to gain control of our land and resources. When these decisions are made by northerners, we can protect our environment. We can make sure northerners get a fair share of the benefits. Our natural resources can also provide the dollars we need to invest in social programs and economic development.

Our third challenge, Mr. Speaker, is to restructure our fiscal relationship with Canada. As you know, we depend on the federal government for most of our budget. As we found early in the life of this assembly, we are very vulnerable to federal cuts. As things stand, we have very little ability to change this. We do not have a share of royalties from our own resources.

Any increase in the tax revenues we raise ourselves is largely offset by a reduction in the transfer payment. We have to negotiate a new arrangement with the federal government so that we can become more self-sufficient and pay our way. We have never said we did not want to pay our way, we want to. Relying more on the money we raise ourselves would bring greater risk when the economy takes a downturn. It would also bring greater rewards in times of economic growth. In my view, we must do this if we are to gain greater control over our own future.

Mr. Speaker, our fourth challenge is to harness our economic potential. We know there is enormous potential in our minerals, oil and gas, tourism, forest resources and a range of small business and service sectors. We need to make sure northerners have the skills to take advantage of the opportunities. We need partnerships with Canada, provinces, industry and aboriginal development corporations. We need to create a stable political and regulatory environment to attract investment dollars. We must develop markets for our products and services, but the bottom line is; we must be in control of our resources.

Mr. Speaker, these are the four cornerstones of our agenda for the new west:

- Getting governance right;
- Taking control of our resources;
- Restructuring our fiscal relationship, and;
- Harnessing our economic potential.

We need to work on all these issues, but we cannot make progress alone. We can only advance this agenda in partnership with aboriginal governments and with Canada.

Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan - Gathering Strength states:

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"The government of Canada is committed to continuing its efforts to advance political and economic development in the northern territories."

With this commitment and the leadership of DIAND Minister Jane Stewart, I believe there has never been a better time to make real progress on this agenda.

We must seize the opportunities. At this critical time in our history, all northerners must share a vision and all northerners work together to realize it. Mr. Speaker, our children are counting on us to do the right thing. We must not let them down. Mahsi cho. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine

Minister's Statement 32-13(6): A Vision of Society in the Western NWT

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to announce that our government has developed a broader approach to western governance that recognizes aboriginal people's inherent right to self-government and is based upon a vision of people and governments working together in partnership at the community, regional and territorial level.

Central to the government's new approach is a vision of society in the western NWT. Our vision is of a society that:

- encourages people to work together in their communities;
- respects the inherent rights of aboriginal people;
- is fair to all people;
- supports the efficient delivery of services;
- brings decision making closer to the people;
- creates a stable economic and political environment; and
- supports a strong and unified territory within Canada.

Later today, I will table the document Key Features of western NWT Society that outlines the principle elements of our approach to western governance. I have directed my officials to review our current mandates and instructions for consistency with our vision. We will then proceed to discuss our new approach at the various negotiating tables. As well,

the government plans to provide a public information package on the vision of society in the western NWT and hold discussions with western leaders and other stakeholders. Mr Speaker, I would like to tell my colleagues in this Assembly about the path Cabinet took that led us to this new vision.

The GNWT has long recognized aboriginal people's inherent right of self-government and we are committed to working with the aboriginal peoples of the western NWT to negotiate a fair implementation of their rights.

On August 1, 1995, the Government of Canada released its policy on the Inherent Right of Self-government. That policy expressed a preference that in the western NWT, the inherent right be implemented primarily, although not exclusively, through public government.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the members of the Inherent Right Working Group for the commitment and open-mindedness that enabled them to forge a set of common recommendations. The matters they dealt with were challenging, but they persevered and produced a common set of recommendations that each party felt met their most basic interests.

Mr. Speaker, that was an important message. The members of the Inherent Right Working Group demonstrated that people can work together to find common solutions to common problems. Mr. Speaker, the government has developed a broader approach which will recognize aboriginal governments and allow aboriginal peoples to develop a more flexible approach, a partnership approach, because when we reviewed our initial vision for governance in the western NWT against these developments, we knew it came up short. In developing our approach, the government has paid close attention to the recommendations of the Inherent Right Working Group on structures of government and extent of jurisdiction and we believe that our approach is compatible with those recommendations.

Mr Speaker, the GNWT understood that leaving things the way they were was not an option. This government recognizes and respects the legitimate roles of aboriginal and public governments. We are committed to recognizing the important role aboriginal governments will play in the new Western Territory. We are also committed to finding an approach to governance that supports people in our communities and regions working together, setting priorities and designing programs that meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker, our vision of a western NWT society will enable people and governments to work together to build a society we will be proud to pass on to our children. Mahsi Mr. Speaker, Thank you.

--Applause

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you honourable Minister. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 72-13(6): Baffin Sealing Agreement

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a Member's statement today on the announcement made yesterday by Mr. Picco, the press announcement on the sealing industry. Before I make any remarks about the announcement itself, I would like to spend a couple of minutes to speak on how important the sealing industry was and still is to my people the Inuit, not only economically but culturally. Also, it is an important source of meat in our diet. Seal pelts in the past, in the 50's, 60's and 70's were the bread and butter so to speak for the Inuit, Mr. Speaker.

Hunters and their families as I recall, were prosperous, relatively rich and we could afford the things in life in the 1970's. Sealing for most of the Nunavut coastal communities was important. It had this type of good economic effect for everyone. Comparable in importance to fishing in Newfoundland or maybe more. Our young Inuit men or boys' abilities were measured in such ways as when you got your first seal. It was the same for women or young girls on how well they could work on seal pelts. It was that important, Mr. Speaker.

Sealing and by-products, are part of the physique of the Inuit. I believe it is that important. This industry which fed us, made us rich, helped us to be able to achieve the good material things in life, which gave our people, both men and women a sense of purpose and means of prosperity was taken away very abruptly, Mr. Speaker. The market was killed, the rug was pulled from under us. Many families, including

mine were left with trying to deal with a way of life that was gone.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Baffin South is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Arlooktoo, you have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, the families including mine, were left with trying to deal with a way of life that was taken away so abruptly. Today as in the past couple of decades, we have seen the after affects of this way of life, of this prosperity taken away without any sort of plan or way of dealing with it. There were no government programs or counselling. As we see today when a mine shuts down for example, or we shut down certain operations of the government. All we had and all we do have today is welfare, social assistance, government handouts, that our formally prosperous hunters must take in order to feed their families. This is so sad, Mr. Speaker. There was some turn around or hope in the carving industry which flourished for a couple of decades, but is now in trouble. We are trying to deal with this issue. Still, there has never been anything that has replaced the sealing industry.

The subsistence lifestyle which many of our people try to lead today is very expensive. They have to buy snowmobiles, boats, rifles and gasoline. Not everybody can afford what we call the traditional lifestyle. There are attempts in things like education, the land claims settlement, regaining control of our resources and in control of government that will make the Inuit hunter's life better but those take a long time.

This brings me to the announcement yesterday which for us Inuit MLAs it basically came out as a surprise, and broad-sided us. The reason it was so important is that we suddenly had to ask ourselves was this our old friend the sealing industry, which made us prosper and had died. Was this old friend being resurrected? It certainly sounded like that. Are we in a position right now to tell our hunters that you can now brush off the rifles and the boats, and the women, you can dust off the ulus and the saviks and is there some hope. I certainly hope there is, but it bothers me in the way the announcement came about and how Inuit

MLAs were left in the dark. The fact that this occurred this way, forced the Inuit MLAs yesterday for the very first time to sit together as a Caucus. Over the past three years we had issues where we thought we should as an Inuk race sit down together. There has always been somebody or a group of other people within the group that have said if you have something to say you can say it in front of Nunavut Caucus. You can say it in front of everybody. This was something that was so important that we thought that we should sit down and talk about it together. I wanted to express my feelings on that and hopefully we can get down to the bottom on what this announcement really meant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 73-13(6): Marble Island Television Documentary

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am making a statement on behalf of the elders of the Keewatin region who have been offended by a television documentary that was made about Marble Island, which is located on the west coast of Hudson Bay, near Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, a great disservice has been dealt to our people and our elders because they were not consulted during the production of this documentary. As a result, the information on the Marble Island Story was incorrect and poorly researched. "Oceans of Mystery" was aired on the Discovery Channel on Sunday, September 6, 1998. It outlined the mysterious disappearance of Captain James Knight and his two ships, the Discovery and the Albany, while in search for the Northwest Passage over 275 years ago.

The remains of the two sunken ships as well as a foundation

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for a sod house were discovered on Marble Island. Almost 300 years later, we have found the remains of Captain Knight's expedition, but there is much speculation about how Captain Knight and his 40 crewmen died. Mr. Speaker, a documentary on the rich history of our north is both welcomed and

encouraged. However, I was deeply disappointed and angered at the conclusions that were drawn by the producers of "Oceans of Mystery".

Based completely on speculation, it was decided by the producers of this show that the demise of the Knight Expedition was a direct result of the Inuit that lived in the area of Marble Island. It was suggested by the narrator of "Oceans of Mystery", that the Inuit killed the remaining crew from the Discovery and the Albany and then sank the ships by piercing their hulls and piling rocks on top of them. As if the Inuit had the time to do that. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Member for Aivilik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Ms. Thompson, you have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you colleagues. Mr. Speaker, there have always been theories about the demise of the Knight Expedition, but to publicly state that the death of the crew was at the hands of the Inuit is disturbing, and more importantly, completely incorrect. There is little evidence, and I stress, no concrete fact that supports such an accusation. Again, to conclude a documentary based on such speculation and theory without taking the time to truly investigate the Marble Island story by interviewing the elders of Rankin Inlet and other communities leads me to believe that the producers of "Oceans of Mystery" were only looking for a sensational ending to their show.

This documentary has delivered a severe blow to the Inuit and to our elders. In an interview by Louis Taparti of CBC radio, with the producer of "Oceans of Mystery", Mr. Taparti had this man finally admit, after being asked the same question three times, that elders were not interviewed about the Marble Island story. The producer said that he received his information from a person who was neither Inuk nor an elder. Rather than confirming this information, the makers of "Oceans of Mystery" used their conclusion to sensationalize their show at the expense of the Inuit who were trying to help the explorers at the time to survive.

Mr. Speaker, as Inuit, we have always kept our tradition and culture strong by listening to our elders.

Oral history is important to our culture. If we wanted to learn about our past, our ancestors, or how to hunt or sew, we went to our elders for our answers. Any time we needed to know the facts about something, our elders, these libraries of knowledge, were there for us.

Mr. Speaker, had the producers taken the time to interview our elders, they would have found that there are no oral histories that support such a fabrication and would have saved us the insult and pain of these unfounded lies. Furthermore, it would have also maintained the investigative integrity of "Oceans of Mystery" as well as avoided great embarrassment for those who produced this show.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one more example of southerners not being familiar with our culture, and sadly taking advantage of a part of our history, or at other times, a situation or a natural resource, by manipulating it for their own personal gain and recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Madame Thompson. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 74-13(6): Plight of Rural Communities

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement today is regarding the plight of rural communities. We have seen in southern Canada, on the prairies, in regards to a lot of farming communities that have vanished from the face of the map, and also on the east and west coast where fishing communities no longer exist. It is fair that I have this view as I come from a rural, small riding where the trapping industry was once strong and where aboriginal people congregated and came together from their trap lines. Today with the downturn of the oil, gas and the fur industry in my riding we are slowly feeling the impact of no economic opportunities and an economic base that we can depend on.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the views I have about the approaching date of division, I do have some problems with division. Coming from a rural community in the far western corner of the Northwest Territories, there may be a time when we too feel like my colleagues from the east where distance is a

factor in the way we are being served and the way we are being heard. Mr. Speaker, I feel that economics, the social well-being and the health and education of all people have to be expanded upon. Especially, in the rural communities where we do not have an economic base and we need our jobs for our young people so they do not go away and we lose a very important part of the population, which is the young people with the skills they have learned through their education and the benefits that they can offer to our small communities.

Yet Mr. Speaker, I see in the west a large influx of our younger people leaving our ridings and our small communities to go to areas such as Yellowknife where a lot of expansion is happening as far as the diamond industry and government. To see the influx of work, jobs and the money that is being spent by this government. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you colleagues. We see the large

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expansion of development in Yellowknife which is going to be the capital of the Northwest Territories, but we have seen very little development happening in the outlying ridings like the ones I represent, the Mackenzie Delta, the Inuvik region where a lot of people are leaving because of not having an opportunity to get a job. A lot of our young people are leaving their homes and communities they grew up in because they cannot find a job. We have to consider the overall approach of the Northwest Territories and ensure that every aboriginal person in every community that there is an opportunity for a person to stay within their community and find a job. It is important that we take that into consideration.

The other area I have a lot of concern about is regarding the whole emphasis that we pass in this House. We have problems with water, our health care system, and we have concerns that we raise in a lot of our small communities. It seems to be a real problem when it comes to getting those things done in

government. Yet we spend hundreds, thousands and thousands of dollars on study after study after study. I would like to know, where is the priority of this government when it comes to ensuring economic values and benefits to all of our communities? Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Roland

Member's Statement 75-133(6): Change in the North

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, change is inevitable as we have come to know since we have all come to the Assembly. The north has faced change on a continual basis since I can remember. I can still remember stories my father told me about the first time he drove an outboard motor. It was a one and a half horse power and he used it for spring ratting season. At times it would move so slowly as he was going against the current he would fall asleep and an hour later he would wake up and he had not moved, he was still in the same place. Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way from that time. In the government we have changed from an appointed system to now a fully elected government. In the years to come as we have heard in the Premier's statement there are more changes that are being looked at.

Mr. Speaker, I know as changes have come along, my father has changed with it, for he saw that there was need to change. He had to provide for his family, he saw that his traditional way of providing for us was not going to cover all of the bases. So he moved forward with that change, but he did so on the basis of need. He did so on the basis of looking at another man or individual for the value they would put forward. I still look back on the times when I have to think about things and how he raised us. I can say clearly, my father raised his children in a way that when you looked at an individual you did not look at him for his background, his history or his culture but instead, he looked at the person with the value they put in their word. His decisions were based on how he could trust the individual. That is the way he raised his family. I hope that as we move forward in change, we will look at values put in people. We need to look at the word and how people stand on their word as they deal with change. Mr. Speaker in closing, in the winds of change we must look also past the person's

outside appearance and look inward and the value they place in their community and fellow man. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 76-13(6): Comments on Western Governance

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise today to speak briefly to the very important statements that were made in this House by the Premier, his statement on the new agenda for a new Western Territory and by Minister Antoine, on a vision for society in the western NWT. Mr. Speaker, we are months away from division and the people from the Western Territory, the southern jurisdictions, the business communities and the federal government would like to know with some certainty what type of governance we envision at the territorial level for the people of the Western Territory.

Mr. Speaker, this issue has been of significant interest to me for well over a year. I have written to Caucus and I raise it in the House. One of the fundamental issues to me, Mr. Speaker, if we want a territory to move forward in the unified, united and cooperative way, then one of the key ingredients is going to be to have a strong, central government with clearly articulated powers and authorities so that there is a glue as the Premier said yesterday that will be able to bind the regions and the people of the Western Territory together. Mr. Speaker, in fact, we have been told, I have been at meetings where the aboriginal summit representatives said that the position now held by the government of the Northwest Territories is unclear, it is vague and it is imprecise making it very difficult to make progress at the tables currently where negotiations are underway for inherent right to self-government. I agree.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there are many models on the table before us trying to outline the possible relationships that may exist or can be negotiated between aboriginal governments and the government of the Northwest Territories. It could be government to government, it could be the combined model if you use the constitutional models on the table. It could be

a partnership model or it could be a parallel model. Those are labels not clearly defined, but anyone of those are a possibility and subject to negotiation. I do not believe that we can go forward and negotiate with aboriginal governments unless we have a clear sense and are prepared to stand up as clearly as possible to articulate the role and authorities of a clear, central public government and what role they will play in this process. I think everybody will appreciate that. It will be a topic of debate. It will be a topic of discussion, but very clearly. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Member for Thebacha is seeking

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unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger, you have unanimous consent.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for allowing me to conclude my statement. Mr. Speaker, I look at these two documents where the Premier, in fact, refers to a central public government and the need for a strong one, but only in the capacity for provincial and federal relations, which I think is somewhat short of a complete definition that there is going to be a role for monitoring standards and ensuring that glue is there that will help bind this territory together. It is unfortunate that the Minister in his document on western governance does not even mention the need for a central public government as we embark upon this journey or try to conclude this journey of negotiating inherent right and self-government arrangements with the aboriginal governments. It is a step in the right direction, Mr. Speaker. It has been some time coming and if it is viewed as a step as part of the process that is going to take us to a strong united territorial government in the west, then I am prepared to take part in that debate. It is essential that all western MLAs do and that our communities do. Mr. Speaker, we have not had much time to look at these statements and I am responding very quickly because it is such a critical issue to me and I look forward at some point to greater opportunity to discuss these statements. I hope to see the fleshed-out implementation documents that will define some of the labels and titles used in the documents and statements made by the Minister and Premier today.

There are some important comments made. There are a lot of laudable principles alluded to, in terms of cooperation, partnership, and working together. The definition of what we mean by that is going to be where the debate is going to take place and it is going to be a critical debate and I look forward to engaging in that with my fellow MLAs, the people of the Western Territory and of course, the many aboriginal governments and leaders, many of whom, are with us today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. To follow up with a statement of Mr. Gargan, when we started this Assembly to be more strict with the rules and procedures of the House, I would like to remind Members that a good number of Members who have made Members' statements have gone beyond the time allotted for Members' statements. Thank you. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 77-13(6): Highway Patrols on Highway 3

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise again to talk about the lack of highway patrols on Highway 3. A few months ago, Grand Chief Joe Rabesca and myself expressed our concern over the lack of highway patrols on the section of highway between Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife. As a result of our lobbying, patrols were increased and I would even venture to say that the community of Rae-Edzo saw our first bootlegger charged and sentenced for the offence. This is not far enough, we still have bootleggers and drug trafficking to be dealt with. I believe this is a positive move, but just the first step. I know that more results like this can happen with the cooperation of everyone involved.

However, over the past few months there seems to be fewer or no patrols at all. I realize that many factors are to be considered; staff on vacations, reduction of staff and time restraints all contribute to fewer patrols. I believe highway patrols are very important and they should be increased to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents who travel our highway system. Without the use of cellular phones along the highway, it is very important that patrols are on duty. Their presence is noticed, people do slow down and are more careful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 78-13(6): High Arctic Nurse Shortage

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise the issue of nursing shortages. Mr. Speaker, this problem is occurring all over the NWT. The government and our health boards are having to rely on private southern nursing agencies to fill the vacant positions for the community-based nurses. Several of the nurses have said that the long hours, stress, low pay and no VTA's have affected the retention and new hiring of nurses. I met several of the nurses at the Baffin hospital earlier this spring when they were holding a public demonstration about some of these issues. Mr. Speaker, does the government have the solid plan to hire and retain nurses? Later today I will ask the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 79-13(6): Integrating Education and Employment Opportunities

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak to the issue of opportunities for employment for Northerners after completing post-secondary education. Coincidentally, Mr. Speaker, my statement ties in nicely with what Mr. Krutko and Mr. Barnabas had to say. As the numbers of young people graduating from northern high schools increases, so will the number of students seeking post secondary education in northern and southern colleges and universities. This was just recently indicated in the Member's statement for the North Slave who had told us of the number of students from his riding that were now in southern post-secondary institutions. I believe this is a great credit to the efforts of Mr. Rabesca's constituents in the area of education. Again today,

we have heard the statistics from a speaker/author at the Prospects North conference that in the

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western Arctic, 30 percent of the population is under the age of 15 and in Nunavut, 40 percent is under the age of 15 years.

I believe that we need to be especially proactive and innovative here in the north in the area of education given the challenges of a very young population and the emerging opportunities for them. It is not enough to pay lip service to this challenge while in reality to see many newcomers arriving in the north daily with the necessary skills to take up the demand in our labour market. While I believe that the support to northern students is significant in terms of student financial assistance, I do not believe that this is enough. Many students complete their post secondary education only to be burdened for many initial years of their working lives by the debts they have incurred in acquiring that education.

I am concerned that there is not a sufficiently focused effort in finding work placements suited to their qualifications here in the north for those who choose to return. We invest a tremendous amount of money in the education of a child and too often when they desire to return to the north to work, they are thwarted by obstacles. I would like to see a program whereby every northern student who acquires credentials in areas employable by the private or public sector in the north could be guaranteed, yes Mr. Speaker, guaranteed the option of hands-on experience for a period of time after graduation, similar to the articling period in the field of law or accounting or an extended practicum such as they have in areas such as nursing, social services and teaching. It could be considered a mentoring, apprenticeship or a trainee period. It could accomplish a number of things. It would give them the opportunity to receive a sound base of experience in the field of their interest and would provide them with an opportunity to repay their student loans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hardly ever seek unanimous consent, but I would like to have it today to conclude my statement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The honourable Member for Hay River is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mrs. Groenewegen, you have unanimous consent.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The benefits of such a program could be significant. In a time when we seem to be having difficulty competing with southern employers for nurses, teachers, doctors, tradespersons, this initial period of employment in the north could alleviate some of the costly recruitment and turnover averages and could even turn into long-term commitment of these students as they become adults to their home community and home territory. Lately, I have heard of too many cases where young northerners with excellent skills and recognition in southern institutions have been picked up by the south because of hiring glitches or policies that did not recognize them as priority candidates. When we speak of the need for an integrated, cohesive approach to goals within the policies of our government, I would like to see this priority attention apply to the educating, training and employing of all northern students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 80-13(6): Health Promotion Survey Results

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year, I participated in a study that surveyed Canadian Legislators' views and attitudes related to health promotion and in particular, smoking and alcohol abuse. The survey included those in the NWT and Yukon. More than half of the Legislators thought the government should have major responsibility in discouraging young people from starting to smoke. Fifty percent of Canadian Legislators felt government has a major responsibility for preventing alcohol abuse. The rate of heavy drinking in the Northwest Territories among adults is 25 percent versus a national average of nine percent. In the area of smoking, a GNWT study completed in 1996 showed 44 percent of adults smoked compared to the national average of 27 percent. Lung cancer kills more people in the NWT than any other cancer. Tobacco abuse is also responsible for higher rates of crib death, burns and fire injuries.

A major study of the economic costs of substance abuse to the Canadian economy was released in

1996. It was estimated that substance abuse costs Canadians more than \$18.4 billion per year. For every child that is born with fetal alcohol syndrome, society pays about \$1.5 million for a lifetime of health and education costs. Clearly, it is in our collective best interest to reduce incidents of substance abuse. Our government has individual programs that address alcohol and tobacco abuse, but I do not know if we have a coordinated, overall strategy to address substance abuse. I would like to know the extent of the NWT's efforts to develop such a substance abuse strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement 81-13(6): Stanton Regional Hospital Foundation

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the Stanton Regional Hospital Foundation's capital equipment campaign. Mr. Speaker, the Stanton Regional Hospital Foundation is undertaking a major fund raising campaign to raise approximately \$2 million to acquire important diagnostic equipment for the hospital. A key piece of diagnostic equipment required is a CT scanner. People of all ages from newborns to seniors benefit from CT scans. A CT scanner produces detailed images of the body and is used to detect disease and internal problems in the head, spine, chest, abdomen, pelvis, arms and legs. For example, it is essential in the diagnosis and follow-up of various forms of cancer, for determining the cause and extent of stroke and the extent of traumatic injuries.

Mr. Speaker, all people in the north who require a CT scan

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must now travel to hospitals in southern Canada. There is no CT scanner available in the NWT. In a typical year, the Stanton Regional hospital pays over \$600,000 in transportation for emergency patients to receive CT scans in the south. Today, the north is experiencing a severe shortage of general practice physicians. The ability to attract and train physicians in the future will be greatly enhanced if a CT scanner can be purchased for the hospital. The Stanton

Regional Hospital is, in fact, a territorial hospital as it serves the entire western Arctic and Kitikmeot regions. Patients from the communities travel to the hospital in Yellowknife for both inpatient health care, outpatient services and emergency care. The hospital also provides travelling clinics of doctors and nurses to all communities to provide a broad range of medical services. In a typical year, over 17,000 patients from communities outside of Yellowknife in the western Arctic and Kitikmeot region alone are seen by the medical staff at Stanton.

Mr. Speaker, the Stanton Regional Hospital Foundation should be commended for embarking on this capital equipment campaign to raise \$2 million, largely from businesses, organizations, individuals and various levels of government in the western Arctic and the Kitikmeot region. Mr. Speaker, I personally support this important initiative as a CT scanner will ensure that northerners will continue to receive a high standard of health care and not fall behind the level of diagnostic analysis and health services provided at hospitals in southern Canada. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Members' statement. Member for Kivallivik, Mr. O'Brien.

Members' Statement 82-13(6): Critical Need for Quality Health Care

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, approximately a year ago, my home community of Arviat suffered a terrible loss when a ten-year old boy fell off his bicycle and his injuries were not recognized as serious. This young boy was sent home and, unfortunately, the next day died of his injuries, which was a stomach rupture. Mr. Speaker, only a few weeks ago, our sister community of Baker Lake suffered a similar loss, when nine-month old Luke Tunguaq was taken to the nursing station on a number of occasions by his parents, but sent home because his sickness was not determined to be serious. Mr. Speaker, this young child died the next day by noon time. Mr. Speaker, the reason I mentioned the death of these two young children is to illustrate the critical need for the nursing stations in Nunavut, in the north, so they should hire the highest calibre of nursing staff available in the country. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe this is happening. Mr. Speaker, our remoteness, our harsh

weather conditions and the fact that most communities have no hospitals, no doctors, this alone should dictate that the nursing centres should have the best staff available. Mr. Speaker, I realize that the Minister spoke of long-term solutions, but I believe that we need, also, some short-term solutions immediately. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Iqaluit, the honourable Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 83-13(6): Dealing with Suicide in the North

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are few families in Nunavut who have not been touched by suicide. This government has spent considerable sums of money trying to address the problem, and we had workshops, training courses, awareness weeks and continued ongoing programs and strategies. Yet, the problem continues. Mr. Speaker, suicide is a very sensitive and emotional topic, but we have to deal with the issue and we have to review the programs and support initiatives we also have in place to deal with the families and communities dealing with the subject. We have to talk, Mr. Speaker, openly and honestly about the problem. I had an opportunity to speak to a large gathering of young people earlier this summer in Iqaluit. I spoke about suicide and tried to convey the message that it is okay to ask for help, it is okay to seek counselling and support from our schools, friends, parents and peers. Mr. Speaker, we have to pay more than lip service to the problem. We have to continue to work together as communities and families. We have to address the causes and then help find a solution. My own family has felt the pain of this issue over the last while and, Mr. Speaker, we are still seeking answers to why it happened. Are our programs working? What can we do differently to help those in need? Mr. Speaker, to the families in Iqaluit, my family and I offer our condolences over the tragedy of this past weekend. Later today, I will address some questions on the issue to the appropriate Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Our condolences go to the family, as well. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Enuaraq, Member for Baffin Central.

Member's Statement 84-13(6): Improving Child Tax Benefits

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on January 22, 1998, in the Budget Address, the honourable Minister of Finance announced a new Northwest Territories Child Benefit that took the form of a tax-free payment provided to low-income families in the Northwest Territories. This benefit was in addition to the National Child Benefit Program that was unveiled by the Government of Canada in June 1998. The amount of money that the Northwest Territories Child Benefit Program supplies to each family is dependant upon the net income of the family. Mr. Speaker, the cost of living is very expensive in the Arctic, and varies from one community to the next. A net income of \$42,000 in an isolated community does not have the same buying power that it would have in less isolated communities. The National Tax Benefit and the Northwest Territories Child Benefit are wonderful new ventures and I commend both governments for putting them into effect. However, Mr. Speaker, we can always strive to take something

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that is good and make it better. As it stands, the Child Benefit packages given by both governments is not enough to cover the extra living expenses for families in remote communities. Mr. Speaker, we could make the Northwest Territories Child Benefit better if we factored in the different costs of living for the different communities. We already do this for government employees, why not for the Northwest Territories Child Benefit? Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement 85-13(6): Collective Agreement Negotiations

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express serious concerns I have with this government's inability to come to an agreement with

our public service union. Mr. Speaker, based on the information I received yesterday, and the House received yesterday, from the Finance Minister, I believe there is a serious problem here with the union and they should, in fact, move towards allowing the membership to vote on whether or not this is a good collective agreement. I rise and say this, Mr. Speaker, because although I do not have many union employees or government employees in my riding, the effects of the shortage of nurses I feel is directly related to the fact that there is no collective agreement in place, which would allow the benefits that are identified in that collective agreement to go to the nurses.

Mr. Speaker, at one point in the past I was an employee of the government and represented by the union. I must say that I always resented paying the dues because I never saw the point in it, and I was not alone in that opinion. Mr. Speaker, I feel many people feel the same way now. I urge the union to do one of two things; allow the nurses to vote or allow the nurses to strike their own union. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question 45-13(6): Docking Facilities in Hall Beach

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Evaloarjuk on September 18th, regarding docking facilities in Hall Beach.

On Friday, September 18, 1998, I took as notice a question from the Member for Amittuq about the Department of Transportation's plan for a docking facility at Hall Beach. Under the Community Wharves Program, the department has, at this time, no plans for either the design or construction of any marine projects at the community of Hall Beach.

If the Member believes docking facilities are needed at Hall Beach that the Community Wharves Program should address, the best way to get a new project started would be for the community to make its requirements known to the department. Once the

department has a request or proposal for a wharf or breakwater, it can schedule it into the capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize three constituents from my riding, Councillor Robert Bouchard, Jeff Griffiths, the Manager of the Southwest Territorial Business Development Corporation, and Kathleen Cole, who is the Executive Assistant to our Mayor in Hay River. Welcome.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Premier.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize a resident of Hay River, my brother-in-law, Paul Harrington, and President of the South Slave Metis. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the presence of a good friend, a poet, raconteur, radio commentator, Mr. Jim Green, from Fort Smith.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly, Mr. Green. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize as well from Fort Smith, Shannon Cumming and Mr. Jim Green, even though my colleagues from Yellowknife, as they want to, take even that from the small communities. They both work for the South Slave Metis Tribal Council and I am proud to have them here today. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great privilege to introduce some of my constituency members coming to visit the gallery and to participate and

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listen to the Premier deliver his position on the new Western Territory. The visiting delegates from my constituency are one of the former Chiefs from the Dogrib region, John Nitsiza. Also along with former Chief of Fort Rae, Joe Migwi. Friends of mine, Morris Lafferty, Johnny Dryneck, Susie Joe Mackenzie, Paul Rabesca, Francis William, Alphonse Eronchic, Charlie Mackenzie, Pierre Tlokka, Jimmy Mantla, Phillip Whane and Joe Williah, all from my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. It is an honour to have you here. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of my constituents from my home community in Tuktoyaktuk, Mr. Donald Kuptana Jr. Mr. Kuptana is the husband of Lucy Kuptana who is one of our Boundaries Commissioners. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Pat Scott, Executive Director of the CWG. Pat.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to recognize, on behalf of the Members of this Legislative Assembly, former MLA, Mr. Wah-Shee.

--Applause

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 91-13(6): Vision of Western Governance

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address my questions to the Premier. It is regarding his statement. I would like the Premier to elaborate, if he could, what he sees as a role for a central public government and the issue of better defining what is meant by partnership relationships? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 91-13(6): Vision of Western Governance

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the new western territories should work together in partnership. We have to negotiate with aboriginal governments to develop those partnerships. We, as a government, believe that is the best way we as a people in the western Arctic can achieve our greatest potential. We also believe you need a strong central government and by the support of the people and you get that by the support through negotiations. We have to vacate

as a government certain legislative authority and certain authorities at community and regional levels. Ultimately, you have to have standards set throughout the Northwest Territories. Those would be minimum standards that all governments would have to meet.

For example, in the health care system you have five basic principles of the Health Care Act in Canada, no matter who you are, whether you are aboriginal or non-aboriginal governments, you have to meet those standards. Our job as a strong, central government, will also be to maintain that we do have a unified voice in the western territories. We have to supply the glue that holds the west together. The Dogrib people, for example, are negotiating their inherent right of self-government. The Delta area are negotiating for the Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and other people in that area for a partnership approach, government approach. Other peoples will be negotiating as well. We have to ensure that people in the Northwest Territories, the new Western Territory, will understand that what happens in Fort Smith affects what happens in Fort Rae and Tuktoyaktuk. You do need a strong central government that looks after and cares for all the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 91-13(6): Vision of Western Governance

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for that response. Could the Premier also indicate what steps or documents are going to be prepared or crafted which will outline the statements and direction that himself and Minister Antoine have laid out in their statements today? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 91-13(6): Vision of Western Governance

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to consult with people and talk to people about our vision, our

clear commitment to a partnership arrangement with aboriginal governments and the Northwest Territories government as well as the federal government. We will be developing a comprehensive communication strategy which will go to every northerner in the Northwest Territories and to every community and region. We will continue to be a party at negotiation tables as well, and we will be considering the work of the Constitutional Working Committee. We have instructed our staff already to put together a package, and that will be shared with all the Members of this Legislative Assembly, also

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shared with all aboriginal leaders and all people in the Northwest Territories, with what we see is the best direction to go for the creation of the new Western Territory. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 91-13(6): Vision of Western Governance

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the important issues mentioned today by both the Premier and Minister Antoine was the whole issue of negotiating an arrangement with the aboriginal governments through the inherent right of self-government tables. A key component of that is going to be money. Could the Premier indicate whether, in fact, we will be able to hold the federal government to honouring their shared responsibility in paying for all the costs involved in negotiating these very important agreements? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 91-13(6): Vision of Western Governance

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the key principles of moving ahead in the creation of a new western governance, a new Western Territory, very key, is it has to be affordable and workable. One of the bottom lines for this government is the federal government has the fiduciary responsibility for aboriginal people.

They have the responsibility to pick up the costs of any self-government agreement. That is not this government's responsibility. That is the federal government's responsibility. For Members' information, we do have a disagreement with the federal government on this issue. It is to be negotiated, but Cabinet has taken the position that the federal government is responsible for 100 percent of the incremental and transitional costs of self-government agreements. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 91-13(6): Vision of Western Governance

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Premier to elaborate a bit on this critical component. He indicated it will be negotiated. With seven months to division and seven months to the Western Territory striking off on its own, could the Premier outline anticipated time-frames that this issue will possibly be brought to any kind of satisfactory conclusion? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Premier, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 91-13(6): Vision of Western Governance

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very important issue and I thank the Member for raising it. It is very important that we, as the government of the Northwest Territories, ensure the same level of programs and services that are delivered, will continually be delivered, no matter which way the negotiating table goes on self-government issues. For example, I will use the Dogrib table. It is very important that the people in the Dogrib region get the same levels of services they have today. The same quality of services and programs. That is to their interests, to our interests. I cannot give you today a time-frame of how long that will take to achieve, but I will commit to you today that our government will be there, willing to work with the Dogrib people as well as the federal government to get a finalization to that land claims process they are in and that self-government process they are in. We will be

committed to working with them and we will also be committed to ensuring the same level of services is delivered in that region today, as well as the days yet to come. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Central, Mr. Ootes.

Question 92-13(6): Update on Health Ministers Meeting

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health, Mr. Ng. It is in relationship to the statement I made earlier today. I understand there was a meeting of the federal, provincial and territorial Health Ministers in Regina last week. The subject was discussed on tobacco and substance abuse as well but major concentration on tobacco abuse. Could the Minister give us an explanation of what transpired at that meeting and what the concentration was on? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 92-13(6): Update on Health Ministers Meeting

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was an agenda item on that federal/provincial/territorial Ministers of Health meeting in Regina. BC basically updated all other jurisdictions on their tobacco prevention and education initiatives because they are quite aggressively pursuing some of the tobacco companies and awareness campaign against tobacco, particularly aimed at children. All jurisdictions were quite impressed quite frankly with what was provided by the ministry from BC and applauded them for their efforts. We gave directions to all of our senior officials, from all jurisdictions to work together to develop in conjunction with what BC was doing, a more aggressive plan, in trying to implement tobacco reduction measures and to bring that back to the Ministers of Health. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 92-13(6): Update on Health Ministers Meeting

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MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if in addition to this national strategy obviously which I think is highly needed and certainly the federal government has to take a tremendous responsibility in this whole area as well, but we have to be concerned about our people in the territories, naturally and since we do have a particular statistical indication that there are problems here in the north. Could the Minister tell us if he is already initiating some sort of program to address this whole concern of smoking abuse? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 92-13(6): Update on Health Ministers Meeting

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as all Members are aware, it is a particularly higher than national average problem in the Northwest Territories and does cost our system significantly. We are in the process in our 1999 Business Plan again, on one of the strategic directions, particularly in the area of health promotion, is one specific priority area is tobacco harm reduction and cessation programs. We plan to actively pursue a territorial strategy in that respect. Hopefully it can tie in with some of the national initiatives that are being pursued as well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 92-13(6): Update on Health Ministers Meeting

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that Paututit has been provided \$500,000 to develop a campaign for Nunavut aimed at young people to quit smoking. I wonder if the Minister is familiar with this. I believe it is federal money that is provided, in that particular

case. Could the Minister tell us if he is familiar with this particular program and if so, if there is a mechanism by which we can also get money for a similar program here in the west? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 92-13(6): Update on Health Ministers Meeting

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes I am aware of that program through Paututit, the Inuit Women's Association. Particularly it is from Health and Welfare Canada, as it relates to aboriginal programming. I think how some of the communities in the west can access that is obviously if they have not already and I will have to check into that, is through the NWT Women's Council which would run similar types of programs throughout the territories. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 92-13(6): Update on Health Ministers Meeting

MR. OOTES:

Thank you. We have been concentrating on the issue of smoking abuse. Naturally, we have a critical problem in another area as well, and that is substance abuse of alcohol. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if he will also address that particular area? I know we need to focus on particular issues, but it seems to me that both smoking and alcohol are critical, critical problems here in the Northwest Territories. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if he is able to address the alcohol abuse problem as well? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 92-13(6): Update on Health Ministers Meeting

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we certainly do recognize the substance abuse problems as well, but they are more indicative of other problems and symptoms of some of the problems that individuals have. We plan on addressing that in more of a global, mental health type of a situation in providing some resourcing there and in the area of child and youth reform in trying to provide additional supports in that area for people in the territories. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Question 93-13(6): Keewatin Health Services

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Health. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I drew attention to the death of two young children in my riding. Mr. Speaker, in one case, the attending nurse who was looking after one of the children, had only six months experience before being hired in my home community of Arviat. My question to the Minister is, is there a policy on hiring diploma nurses from the south? In other words, is there a formula where you would have an x-number of RNs as opposed to x-number of diploma nurses? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ng, Minister of Health.

Return To Question 93-13(6): Keewatin Health Services

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the NWT Registered Nurses Association has the licensing authority for nurses and provided that they are licensed with that accredited organization, then they could work in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 93-13(6): Keewatin Health Services

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister saying that his department has no control over the number of diploma

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nurses hired from the south and that it is in the hands of the nursing association here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. I will allow the Minister to answer the question now, but there is a request from a Member of the House to deal with an important matter. After the Minister has responded, we will take a 30-minute break. Once we resume, I will allow the honourable Member for Kivallivik to continue with his supplementaries. Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 93-13(6): Keewatin Health Services

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The health boards have the responsibility for hiring their personnel. The point I am trying to make is if personnel, if their nurses in the situation have to be accredited by the Registered Nurses Association of the NWT, if they have that accreditation then they can work and practice in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Minister. We shall take a 30-minute recess.

--Break

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. I would like to call the House back to order. When we took a recess about 30 minutes ago, Mr. O'Brien, the honourable Member for Kivallivik was asking questions. The question was directed to Mr. Ng, Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. O'Brien, your second supplementary if you wish to continue.

Supplementary To Question 93-13(6): Keewatin Health Services

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, regarding health care/dental care in the Keewatin I would like to ask the Minister as to what is the status of the full-time dentists who have been promised for my community of Arviat and Baker Lake. It is my understanding that they are to be in place by the first of this month or rather, October 1st, can the Minister update me on the status of this situation?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 93-13(6): Keewatin Health Services

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that a dentist had been in the communities and have another trip planned. I do not have the specific dates with me, but I will get that information and provide it to the Member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 93-13(6): Keewatin Health Services

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying that he cannot confirm whether or not these dates are firm, that there will be dentists in the communities on October 1st?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 93-13(6): Keewatin Health Services

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had indicated that I know a dentist had gone into the communities in his constituency and there are plans for another visit into that community. I do not have the dates in front of me, but once I confirm what those are, the information I have been given, then I will provide it to the Member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 94-13(6): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Professionals

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my Member's statement, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Ng. Can the Minister inform this House if we as a government have a plan to hire and retain our dedicated nursing staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 94-13(6): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Professionals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in answers to questions from other honourable Members of this House, we do recognize there is an issue in recruitment and retention of nursing professional staff. We are in the process of working with our partners and our boards, on the short-term and identifying where the deficiencies are and how we can shore up those services so there is minimal impact to the communities. On a longer term, there is a recruitment and retention plan that has been finalized for Financial Management Board submission now to try to dedicate some resources for a medium to longer scale plan in trying to promote northerners to enter into that profession. We feel in the long term that is where the sustainability of the nursing profession can come from, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 94-13(6): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Professionals

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister met with the NWT Association of Nurses recently to discuss the concerns of our nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 94-13(6): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Professionals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not recently met with the representatives of the NWT Registered Nurses' Association. I have in the past. I believe it was this past spring, late spring, that we did have a meeting in which they outlined their concerns in that area and that is why we started working with them on some of this recruitment and retention plan to try to address that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 94-13(6): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Professionals

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister followed any of the recommendations in the Med-Emerg report about training and hiring of nurses and other medical professionals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 94-13(6): Recruitment and Retention of Medical Professionals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Med-Emerg report was a draft strategic plan that assisted us to facilitate development of a strategic plan of which I spoke of yesterday. That is out there now for a more extensive consultation and for some implementation of some of the strategies within that plan. Our focus in the nursing profession was working directly with the boards and the registered nurses' association in addressing their specific issues to deal with recruitment and retention of nurses, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 95-13(6): College and University Entrance Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had commented on the fact that there does not appear to be a university or college entrance program that students can take when they are preparing to go to post-secondary institutions. I would like to ask the Minister what the territorial government is currently doing to try to prepare students when they are getting ready to go to a college or university? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 95-13(6): College and University Entrance Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member has spoken to me earlier on this issue to raise this concern. The Member makes a good point. The college and university entrance programs we have available to us now are more in the range of upgrading programs in order to ensure students are brought to the proper academic level to be ready for university and college. Perhaps we need to improve the courses to ensure students are aware that it is more than just academics that they have to prepare for at university.

At this point, we do not have any concrete plans within the department to add to programs, but it is certainly something that fits in with the recommendations of the Ministerial Forum on Student Financial Assistance, which recommended that we needed to support students better.

The department is prepared to take a look at what we might be able to do to offer programs in the north that would improve the chances of student success. While I cannot make a commitment that we can offer them in the immediate future because we do not have identified funding to do that, I think that there is a good point that has been made and we will have to look for ways to achieve it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 95-13(6): College and University Entrance Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's comments and I am sure the people who are seeking to go back to school or want to get further education would also appreciate this. The Social Programs Committee had recommended that the Minister look into including Metis students into getting university/college entrance program funding. Could the Minister indicate at this time if he has done that and what the result was? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 95-13(6): College and University Entrance Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following the suggestion that was made to me by the standing committee, I wrote to the federal government and asked that they consider not only including Metis students in the program, but consider increasing the funds because, as things stand now, we have to turn away many potential students because we do not have sufficient funds to accommodate them. I regret to say the federal government has indicated that they are not prepared to increase their funding nor to change the rules to allow Metis students to qualify for the program. Our department has not been able to identify funds that would allow us to add Metis students to that program at GNWT

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expense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 95-13(6): College and University Entrance Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had indicated in his first response that there was a reference in the report on student financial assistance, that there should be more support given in this area. Could he expand on that, please?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 95-13(6): College and University Entrance Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has asked me about preparing students for post-secondary education and having them prepared to leave their homes and still be successful in a larger centre. The student financial assistance forum told me that they heard from a lot of people that there were not enough supports for students. I am not talking in terms of finance, but talking about personal support; counselling and actually making personal contact to help students get through a difficult transition. What the department is trying to do now, is set up a program whereby working with regional offices, we try to identify students who may be in need of support and then follow-up, whether by phone or through personal contact throughout the year to offer additional personal support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 95-13(6): College and University Entrance Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had indicated that perhaps the department could improve the current ABE programs so people are more aware of what their needs are when they are going to attend a post-secondary institution. Would he go so far to say they could look at developing and implementing an actual course so that long-term northerners can indeed take advantage of such a course and go to university or college and be much more assured that they would be successful? Particularly, if we can get the support of the Members here. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 95-13(6): College and University Entrance Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly work with my department and the college to examine the viability of such a program. Obviously, we will have to consider the costs, but if we can find some way to cover those costs, we are prepared to do whatever we can to try to improve on student success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 96-13(6): Diamond Mining Resource Royalties

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. It is on statements that the Minister has made in his Budget Address for 1998-99. Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity as all Members of this House, to work with Mr. Todd over the past three years and to accept and rely a lot on the accuracy of information he has presented. The Minister presented in the budget statement a statement which states that the federal government regarding the BHP Mine would earn \$4.4 billion in royalties and tax regime over the 25-year life of the mine. I listened to Dr. Lazarovitch from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, state that the royalty regime and tax revenue generated by the federal government would be \$1.1 billion so there is a large discrepancy between the two figures of \$4.4 billion and \$1.1 billion.

Mr. Speaker, this is important that this be clarified because if we are to be making a case to the federal government that more share of those royalties should be forthcoming to the government of the Northwest Territories. My question to the Minister, is will he challenge the figures presented by Mr. Lazarovitch and report the results back to this House in an effort to ensure that things are clarified? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 96-13(6): Diamond Mining Resource Royalties

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Lazarovitch, he keeps coming up. What I will do Mr. Speaker, is talk to my deputy minister of finance and have her confirm with me or not that our numbers of \$4.4 billion are accurate in terms of royalties and taxes for the life cycle of the BHP Mine. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 96-13(6): Diamond Mining Resource Royalties

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for that. I have asked the Minister if he would also, in the interest of trying to get as much information as possible, have his officials contact Mr. Lazarovitch and find out where he obtained his figures from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd

Further Return To Question 96-13(6): Diamond Mining Resource Royalties

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am not sure if Mr. Lazarovitch is a tax expert or not, but it is my understanding that he does work for

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DIAND and has no responsibility in the tax regime and that our relationship with respect to taxes is with the Department of Finance. I am trying to confirm with my colleague that when I ask my deputy, Ms. Melhorn to confirm with me if our numbers are accurate based upon our discussions we have had with respect to Finance Canada who after all, collects the taxes and the royalties. I think that is the best approach to take. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 96-13(6): Diamond Mining Resource Royalties

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would point out that Mr. Lazarovitch was on the radio talking about this particular subject, so he had the ears of all the residents of the Northwest Territories. I respect the Minister that will be forthcoming on that information, I think it is important that it be clarified. Would the Minister confirm to me and commit that he will supply that information at the next session of this Legislature? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 96-13(6): Diamond Mining Resource Royalties

HON. JOHN TODD:

Absolutely, we will do whatever we can to get clarity on the issue of Mr. Lazarovitch making some comment to the press about taxes versus the position this government has taken in relationship to the total dollars we anticipate that will come from a 25-year life cycle of this mine. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Question 97-13(6): Retrofit of the Paulatuk HTA Vessel "Arctic Tern"

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to Mr. Kakfwi, honourable Minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity this summer to attend a hunters and trappers annual meeting in Paulatuk where the need was identified by the HTA to have their 35-foot vessel Arctic Tern renovated. Mr. Speaker, this vessel's wooden hull, I believe, was supplied by the government to the community in the early 80's for the purpose of harvesting. The community used it very extensively in the early life of the vessel. However, over the last few years the vessel has deteriorated substantially whereby, now it needs substantial upgrading and repair including to the power unit. I will ask the Minister if there is some program under his department where the HTA could

approach the department for some assistance in having this vessel repaired and put back into use. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 97-13(6): Retrofit of the Paulatuk HTA Vessel "Arctic Tern"

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will speak to the regional superintendent in Inuvik and see what possible assistance we can provide to the community so that the vessel that is in need of repair could be used again. We will see if there is some way we can assist the community. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 98-13(6): Wildlife Act Amendments to Address Land Claim Provisions

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. My question is in regard to the area of wildlife, and in particular the Wildlife Act itself. The question that I would like to raise to the Minister as most people know, is that several land claims have been settled in the north so far and basically pass through federal legislation to be proclaimed. There is also another element that we are still waiting for which is basically ensuring that the appropriate legislation is passed in this Legislature and also through federal legislation to establish boards and also give the authority to the boards to do such things as to establish quotas for wildlife and also give the wildlife officers in this government the ability to carry out those rules that are laid out in these land claim agreements. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what is being done to ensure that the appropriate legislation is being drafted especially in the area of the Wildlife Act so that these claims can be enacted through the appropriate legislation so that the wildlife officers can carry out their duties and enforce those land claim agreements?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 98-13(6): Wildlife Act Amendments to Address Land Claim Provisions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the legislative agenda before division is quite comprehensive and there is no possibility that we could undertake a comprehensive revision of the Wildlife Act before division takes place. Any substantive revisions to the Wildlife Act will have to take place after division. We have been drafting an amendment to the Wildlife Act that could be ready for consideration by the Legislature in the next session perhaps that would make it clear that the provisions of the Gwich'in and Sahtu claims will take precedence over the Wildlife Act. Just to make clear the precedence that the Gwich'in claim and the Sahtu claim have over the existing provisions of the Wildlife Act. This is sort of an interim generic provision that we intend to introduce to make it clear where we stand in regard to the wildlife provisions of the Sahtu and Gwich'in claims. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions.

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Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 98-13(6): Wildlife Act Amendments to Address Land Claim Provisions

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, having the legislation done, is there someone in the department now drafting the appropriate legislation so that it will be available to come forth to this House to be debated and put into force? Is there someone in the department now drafting this legislation?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 98-13(6): Wildlife Act Amendments to Address Land Claim Provisions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have sent letters out to the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Sahtu Secretariat, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board in late August to inform them of this and whatever communications we have sent to these boards as well as draft provisions we may have started drafting. We would be happy to share this with the Member to keep him informed of the work we are doing in this area. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 98-13(6): Wildlife Act Amendments to Address Land Claim Provisions

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's earlier statement he stated that he would have something available for this Legislature, did the Minister state that he would have something at the next sitting of this Legislature, which I believe is going to be the November/December session.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 98-13(6): Wildlife Act Amendments to Address Land Claim Provisions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we can meet that time-line. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 99-13(6): Highway Patrols on Highway 3

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you may recall in my Member's statement I raised the concern regarding the highway patrol on Highway 3. It is very important that we continue to patrol this highway. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Arlooktoo, if he would have the RCMP, who do these highway patrols, if they would increase their presence on Highway 3? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 99-13(6): Highway Patrols on Highway 3

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can certainly do that. What I will do is, I will contact personally chief superintendent Mr. Sweeney who has given me a standing offer to pass on concerns like these and I tell him the Member's concern about having more patrols on this highway. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 100-13(6): Devolving Control of Programs and Services

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, in the Premier's statement earlier, he speaks of a vision. Our vision must include northern people taking greater control of their future and becoming more responsible for their own well-being and further it goes on to say it must include modern health care, education, housing and social programs which are provided by and for Northerners. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Premier if the idea of residents of the north taking more responsibility for their own well-being, could he give us an idea of what does he mean. Right now we know we deliver health care, education, housing and social programs. Would those change much or what responsibility would we be taking on? Are we going down to families or is this organization and groups? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Premier, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 100-13(6): Devolving Control of Programs and Services

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I say that northerners should take more control of developing their own programs and services for example, like the ones Mr. Roland has just said, by

taking more control, we mean by paying for it as well. The only way we can control our own programs and services into the future is to have the ability to have control of our resources and by having control of our resources we have control of also the royalties and taxations from them, so we can pay for those new programs and services that Northerners should be able to develop for themselves. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 100-13(6): Devolving Control of Programs and Services

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, so as we are talking of taking control of our future and taking more responsibility, we are talking of programs and services that are being delivered on behalf of either the federal government or

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 100-13(6): Devolving Control of Programs and Services

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like our good friend in Alberta, Ralph Klein says, good health care does not mean bricks and mortar, more hospitals, good health care means that the people take more control of their health. So you have to have good prevention, you have to have people in control and good government starts right at home. Having a good home. Good government means people have self-sufficiency in their own home the number one issue that we have to face whether you live in the eastern Arctic or whether you live in the new Western Territory is a basic house. If you start off with that. If you start off with a basic need of putting a shelter around your family, a roof over their head, that is the start of self-government, that is the start of becoming self-sufficient, so those are the things I think we have to concentrate on in the west. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 101-13(6): Suicide Intervention Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on my earlier Member's statement, I would like to ask the Minister of Health some questions. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister inform us if we are funding or have in place a coordinated intervention program for suicide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 101-13(6): Suicide Intervention Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the focus of the serious issue of suicide prevention has taken the main role of trying to provide suicide prevention training programs at a community level for the primary caregivers of the communities and expanding from that, having them trained, to be able to pass on those skills to other members of the community because it is felt the focus should be from the community level. As we know, in trying to address community issues, it is felt that it is the best way of having the most chance of being effective. That has been, over the past few years in the direction of the department in working with communities as a result of a major platform, a major conference that was held on suicide prevention for the Northwest Territories, way back in 1990, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 101-13(6): Suicide Intervention Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From January 1998 to August 28, 1998, there were 18 suicides in the Northwest Territories, 17 in Nunavut and only one here in the western Arctic. Can the Minister tell us, does the department itself actually have a specific strategy to deal with suicide and suicide prevention? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 101-13(6): Suicide Intervention Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of suicide as we all know is a tragic one. The reasons for suicide are multi-factorial. It is not just a simple, one answer or one solution to it. We felt as I had indicated after the major conference on suicide that was held in 1990, that the focus should be on having caregivers at the community level to try to work with individuals in the community to deal with this issue. That has been the focus since that time.

There has been a number of "train the trainer" workshops on suicide prevention workshops throughout the Northwest Territories. As we speak now, I understand there is one being held in Iqaluit that has been under way for a week and a half now, a three-week program that has drawn in people from across the territories on this particular issue. Over the past few years, there have been seven other conferences or training sessions held. As a result of that, there have been 123 people who have completed that training. There is a focus in trying to disseminate some of the delivery of caregiving for this issue to the community level, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 101-13(6): Suicide Intervention Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the Minister, that indeed, the workshop occurring in Iqaluit now is a good step. Mr. Speaker, sometimes, when we are talking about suicides we do not have any type of statistic to show where intervention has actually worked and we have stopped someone from committing suicide. We only see when it actually occurs. Since 1990 after the major conference that developed a strategy and the focus that we have taken over the last eight years, is the Minister or is there any plan underway to facilitate another major conference like the one in 1990 to review where we have been and see what type of focus we can take for 1998 and beyond? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Minister.

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Further Return To Question 101-13(6): Suicide Intervention Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that in March of this year, there was through the department, the office of the Chief Coroner and Health Canada, they worked together on a descriptive review of the suicidal deaths in the Northwest Territories over the past five years. With that information they are laying the foundation of evaluating where the programs are going and hopefully being able to refine those programs to provide some effective services, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 101-13(6): Suicide Intervention Programs

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is good news. When will that report be available and will that report be available to the communities to people actually dealing in the field with suicide so they would be able to take that report and hopefully use some of the findings from it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 101-13(6): Suicide Intervention Programs

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that report to my understanding would be available, and I would certainly provide it to those individuals or organizations that would be interested in it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Question 102-13(6): Employment of Post-Secondary Graduates

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Referring back to the Member's statement today on opportunities for employment for northern students after completion of post-secondary education, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Education if he could tell me if the department has any way of tracking how many students from the Northwest Territories have received a degree or diploma from a post-secondary institution in any given time period and how many of those have returned to live and work in the Northwest Territories, if there is any means of tracking that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 102-13(6): Employment of Post-Secondary Graduates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Other than doing a telephone survey to survey recipients of student financial assistance on how they have done at their education and whether or not they have returned to the territories, we have no method of tracking the numbers the Member refers to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 102-13(6): Employment of Post-Secondary Graduates

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that would be useful information if there is any mechanism or means by which it could be gathered. My second question for the Minister is, apart from the Affirmative Action Policy, is there any other assistance offered to students returning to the north with post-secondary

diplomas and degrees to help them find employment in their field of study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 102-13(6): Employment of Post-Secondary Graduates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member has suggested, that would, in fact, be useful information to demonstrate whether or not our programs are working well. In fact, the Standing Committee on Social Programs suggested we should make more of an effort to track that information. The department has conducted at least one phone survey to try and develop baseline information in that area. The Member asks whether there is a program to assist students finding jobs in their chosen field when they return to the north with their degree or certificate in-hand. The answer is no, there is no specific program like that. We have almost no people in the Northwest Territories with a university degree who are not employed. We have very few people in the Northwest Territories who have college diplomas who are not employed. Finding employment for people who have post-secondary training is not a big problem in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 102-13(6): Employment of Post-Secondary Graduates

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I dare say that what the Minister says is correct, but my question was specifically to assistance to help them find work within the field of their study. There are numerous university graduates who are working in the north now who have not been successful in putting what they studied to use. Mr. Speaker, my next question is, has the Department of Education ever considered looking into a cooperative employment program between the Government of the Northwest Territories and participating post-secondary institutions, something that would provide a hands-on approach that would enable the students returning

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to the north to be introduced into the workforce and more specifically into positions that were directly related to their field of study at a university or college. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 102-13(6): Employment of Post-Secondary Graduates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt there are a lot of people in the north who are working in fields that their university degrees are not in. I, for one, am among that group. I do not think we should discount the fact that people choose to follow other paths no matter what their university training is sometimes. We have not done the specific job the Member asks about in terms of trying to initiate a way of getting people involved in their specific field of study. However, the department has been very active at finding ways to get young people to work. We subsidize employers to provide work for young people, we offer specific employment programs for young people, aged 15 to 29, to help employers bring those people into the workforce. We offer assistance for training on the job, we offer assistance for a number of employment initiatives. I would say that we have embarked on a broad range of support activities to help young northerners find jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 102-13(6): Employment of Post-Secondary Graduates

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For students who have been educated in the north and who do go out for post-secondary education, are they ever consulted on this matter, is there any kind of focus group or interest group that specifically would have had first-hand experience in this, that the government or social programs committee would ever consult on this matter because I do believe that from the number of instances we hear of, there is a tremendous loss to

the Northwest Territories of some very skilled people who we have invested a great deal of money in educating. I would like to see this issue brought into a little clearer focus. Are actual graduates, professionals, tradespeople ever consulted by this government as opposed to us always having this conversation amongst ourselves? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 102-13(6): Employment of Post-Secondary Graduates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my first response to the series of questions from the Member, the department has surveyed recipients of student financial assistance from five years ago to try and start a baseline of information in this regard. Yes, this information would be useful and, yes, we are making steps to try and collect more of that sort of information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 103-13(6): Potential Increases to Power Rates

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Charles Dent, Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Recently, I heard reports on the radio regarding potential power increases to communities and I believe most of them are referred to as eastern Arctic. Some of the reports stated examples of Cape Dorset, where power increases could potentially be as high as 50 percent. I realize these decisions were made by the Public Utilities Board, but have to be followed by the Power Corporation. Could the Minister advise this House if he is aware of large potential increases to communities in the Northwest Territories in power rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 103-13(6): Potential Increases to Power Rates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are no wide-scale power rate increases planned. As far as I know, the Power Corporation is not planning a general rate application before a year from now at the earliest. The Member could be referring to a news story about a community where there may be a problem with the power plant. If we are looking at replacing power plants, or upgrading power plants, in any community, then that community would have to bear the costs of whatever upgrade or replacement was necessary. Obviously, though, Mr. Speaker, the recapture of the expenditure of funds would take place over a number of years, because you do not have to pay for all the capital expenses of a business in one year. I cannot say whether or not there are any large increases planned. I would expect that, since I have not heard of any, that there are not and, I believe that, if anything, the corporation would be at an early stage of looking at alternatives to deal with problems that may exist in a community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 103-13(6): Potential Increases to Power Rates

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that information. I think it is reasonably well accepted, Mr. Speaker, that one of the mines in Yellowknife is presently closed down. There is concern about Giant Mine as regards to their power usage, and we do know that the less customers that are paying for power bills, someone has to take up the slack. Could the Minister comment on potential concerns he may have regarding power increases for Yellowknife because of a smaller base paying the bills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 103-13(6): Potential Increases to Power Rates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not heard anything about Giant Mine shutting down, so, I cannot say that I am prepared to answer that question, and with Miramar being on strike what has happened is that the Power Corporation is taking the excess power from Bluefish Hydro and feeding it into the hydro system here which is, in fact, offsetting some diesel usage right now because we have again a situation with low water in the Yellowknife/Rae hydro zone. At this point, though, because of the stabilization fund, there is no plan for an application for a rate increase at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Second supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 103-13(6): Potential Increases to Power Rates

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister was correct in assuming that I was talking about the slow down, not the shutdown, of Giant Mine because of gold prices, but certainly the Nerco Mine is not in operation right now and that was what I was referring to. The Minister had also referred to the excess power generated by Bluefish Hydro being fed into the system. Could the Minister comment on the cost of that power, as opposed to power generated at Snare Lakes, which is lower, and maybe we will just leave it at that for now, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 103-13(6): Potential Increases to Power Rates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer the question. That is more detail than I carry in my head or my briefing book. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 103-13(6): Potential Increases to Power Rates

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be interested if the Minister did provide that information to the House. I would hate to think we were buying power if we can generate it more cheaply, so I would be interested in that information, the rates supplied by Bluefish as opposed to what we would be paying at Snare Lakes. If the Minister would commit to providing that information, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 103-13(6): Potential Increases to Power Rates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Member did not hear me. I said that the power that is coming from Bluefish is replacing diesel, not hydro from the Snare system, so the avoided costs of producing diesel are significant. I can guarantee that, but I would be happy to provide the specific information that the Member asked about, which is the comparison between the cost of hydro produced within the system and by Bluefish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. That brings us to the end of oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, return to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Picco.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like at this time to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Infrastructure has reviewed Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, and wishes to report that Bill 8 is now ready for the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 15-13(6): Key Features of Western NWT Society

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, "Key Features of a Western NWT Society". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Motion 5-13(6): Impact of NAV Canada Service Fees on Air Transportation Costs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, September 25, 1998, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that the Federal Minister of Transport, the Honourable David Collenette, review the impact of NAV Canada service fees on the northern and remote areas of Canada and take the necessary steps to mitigate the impacts on the economies and standard of living in Canada's northern and remote communities.

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And further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories, through the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Jim Antoine, transmit this resolution to the Federal Government and all provincial and territorial governments.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Notices of motion. Mr. Todd.

Motion 6-13(6): Extended Adjournment

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, September 25, 1998, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Friday, September 25, 1998, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, November 4, 1998.

And further, that any time prior to November 4, 1998, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislation Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Notices of motion. Item 15, Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, Motions. Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion that I spoke of earlier today. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Erasmus is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 5-13(6). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Erasmus, deal with your motion.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues, for your indulgence. Mr. Speaker,

Motion 5-13(6): Impact of NAV Canada Service Fees on Air Transportation Costs

I MOVE that, whereas the Honourable David Collenette, Federal Minister of Transport, approved NAV Canada's fee proposal for air navigation services on September 11, 1998;

AND WHEREAS it is unacceptable that NAV Canada's service fees will reduce the cost of air transportation in southern Canada by some \$100 million a year, it will increase the cost in northern Canada by \$7 - \$10 million a year;

AND WHEREAS the approved fee structure contravenes the spirit and intent of Section 35(g) of the Civil Air Navigation Commercialization Act, which indicates that charges for designated northern or remote services and for services directed to be provided under subsection 24(i) must not be higher than charges for similar services utilized to a similar extent elsewhere in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the effect of replacing the Air Transportation Tax with NAV Canada's service fees is to increase air cargo rates;

AND WHEREAS residents of the Northwest Territories living in remote communities serviced by air carriers will feel the most impact with increased costs to the basic food needs and all other goods supplied by air cargo;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that the Federal Minister of Transport, the Honourable David Collenette, review the impact of NAV Canada service fees on the northern and remote areas of Canada and take the necessary steps to mitigate the impacts on the economies and standard of living in Canada's northern and remote communities.

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories, through the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Jim Antoine, transmit this resolution to the federal government and all provincial and territorial governments.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion. I believe that the method in the changing of the way that the billing is done will severely impact the north and how we deal with the way we ship goods. Mr. Speaker, the way it is proposed to be billed would affect the way we see

carriers operate today. For example, out of Inuvik, when we fly out of Inuvik, they fly a combi aircraft, as they call it, which is not full passenger, it is half cargo and half passenger, and I believe the way the rates have been structured, or the billing is going to be structured will impact on that way, because in the south, when you compare it to the north, they have full aircrafts, fully loaded and ready to go, whereas, in the north we do not have that ability, so I will be supporting that motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger, to the motion, please.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I as well will be supporting this motion. I believe the people in the north and their carriers in the north are getting the short end of the stick on this particular deal, and I think we have to give the Minister of Transportation any and every lever we can to make the case with Minister Collenette, who I hope will see the clear reality of the really negative impact of this decision

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that they are making with NAV Canada. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. As seconder to the motion. Mr. Picco.

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seconded the motion because I thought that after seeing the non-receptive way that NAV Canada has dealt with the issue of the service fees, not only now, but last year when it first came up, and again this past summer in Iqaluit when we had the Baffin Leaders Summit, and a representative of NAV Canada, we tried to articulate our concerns with the fees and the detrimental effect it would have on the Baffin region. Over here in the west, in most cases, we do have the road system, but we still have the problem with the service fees and smaller planes. In the east, we have no roads and it magnifies and multiplies the effect of the traffic tariff that is being put in place by NAV Canada. So, with that, Mr. Speaker, of course I will be supporting this motion and, hopefully, our federal Minister of Transportation will be able to make some kind of move on this and use the hammer that is within his legislative ability, and hopefully say to NAV Canada

once and for all that, indeed, the north is a unique place, and let us help keep it unique, and take these service fees and these tariffs that NAV Canada wants to introduce and throw them out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Ootes, to the motion.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to speak in support of the motion. We had a briefing the other day from a representative of the Northern Air Transport Association, and he brought to our attention a number of very great concerns we have here in the north with respect to services that are being provided in the north, and to speak bluntly on it, our services are not equal to what services are in southern Canada, and yet our charges that are being made here are equal to what is being charged.

Now, there used to be a head tax for every passenger carried, and the change that has taken place is that it is going to be based on the size of the aircraft, and because of our great distances here, we require larger aircraft to move from one point to the other, and so northerners are penalized because of that. Additionally there is concern, for example, it was pointed out that there are a limited number of runways in the Northwest Territories that can take a 737 fully loaded on landing, so certainly we in the north here are at a tremendous disadvantage. I think NAV Canada has a responsibility to address this question. We are being placed in a situation where we are being penalized because of our location. I think NAV Canada certainly has a responsibility to hear us out. I am very pleased the Minister is going to have the opportunity to meet with the federal Minister on this. I would indulge the Minister to pay attention to our requirements. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also be speaking in favour of the motion and I congratulate the Members of this House that brought this Motion forward.

Mr. Speaker, there is something wrong with the basic principle, when we have a population of 28 million people in Canada and 40,000 approximately who do

not have the links with roads that are available in southern Canada. There is something wrong with the picture where that percentage of the population are able to save \$100 million a year and a smaller population in the Northwest Territories who this procedure of NAV Canada affects the most, are going to have to pay \$7 to \$10 million. I would give as much weight as is possible to the Minister, to bring this to NAV Canada or the federal Minister of Transportation, to ensure some sense is brought to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. To the motion. I will give the mover of the motion the final point. To the motion, Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have moved this motion for several reasons. First of all because I believe it is inherently unfair for the north to be charged in a similar manner to the way the southern carriers are charged. It is unfair to lower the cost of doing business in the south by \$100 million while at the same time increasing the charges to our air transportation carriers by \$7 to \$10 million. By making this motion, we are certainly not closing the door to further reductions in the future.

As my colleagues have mentioned, there are many reasons why we feel our charges should go down. First of all, being that we are using sub-standard navigation aids, one of the air transportation representatives mentioned that we are using navigation that has been used in World War II, as compared to in the south, where they have radar, that type of thing, we do not.

The second one, is of course that the maximum weight for the planes are being charged and in the north, we can almost never use maximum weights because you have to fly long distances and you have to carry lots of fuel and therefore you can never travel at maximum weight. There is other reasoning there as well, however I will not go into that.

The third reason of course is the en-route fees that NAV Canada charges. By this, I mean the fees that NAV Canada charges to planes that fly over Canada. Those charges are set per kilometre that is flown over us. I spoke last week of four polar routes that will be opening soon, that will fly over us and directly through previously restricted, Russian airspace. Through

these polar routes, the Northern Air Transportation Association representatives have calculated that NAV Canada will make a windfall of approximately \$140 million by travelling through NWT airspace. That is NWT airspace. In any other area, if you mine something from an area, you get royalties. If you get oil out of an area, you get royalties. A similar situation should exist. If they are making \$140 million off of our air space, that should be reflected in our air transportation costs or perhaps they should just pay for our whole fees and then distribute the rest of that to us, that is not needed to pay for the NAV Canada services they will provide to us. So, Mr.

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Speaker, I will be voting in favour of this motion.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question was being called when I recognized the mover of the motion, question. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you. Motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Property Assessment Act and Taxation Act be read for the first time.

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 7 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, that Bill 9, Supplementary

Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1998-99 be read for the first 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 9 has had first reading. Item 18, second reading of bills, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Todd is seeking consent to have second reading of Bill 7. Are there any nays? There is a nay. I am informed it requires two nays to stand down the bill, so proceed, Mr. Todd. You have consent.

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Property Assessment and Taxation Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Education Act and Property Assessment and Taxation Act, with respect to taxation for educational purposes. It establishes an education mill rate for Iqaluit, deems the mill rate establishment order 1997 and the mill rate establishment order, 1998 to have been authorized and deems an amendment to municipal tax authority payment regulations to have to come into force, July 1, 1996. The act was amended to correct errors and provision references, clarify the property that is liable to assessment and taxation for territorial, municipal, local purposes, under the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, is liable to assessment and taxation for education purposes.

Provide that only education bodies that have been allocated the power set out in paragraph 119(c) to

receive annually from the tax authority for the district, the sum of money collected for the property taxes for education purposes, are required to call a meeting of the rate payers of the education district.

Provide that a municipal, taxing authority shall pay the property taxes that are attributable to the levy of the education mill rate, to an education body. If they were levied, pursuant to the request of education body and if not, to the collector of taxes.

Change certain references to the District Education Authority, to education body, the Property Assessment and Taxation Act is amended to change certain references to district education authority to education body.

Provide that the Minister of Finance may establish an education mill rate for each property class in a municipal taxation area where no education body has been allocated the power set out in paragraph 119(c) of the Education Act, to receive from the taxing authority, for the district, sums of money collected from the property taxes, for education purposes.

It is long winded, Mr. Speaker, but that is the bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Property Assessment and Taxation Act has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to committee. Mr. Todd, second reading of bills.

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, that Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1998-1999, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the government of the NWT for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1998. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in

favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 9 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to committee. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, Bill 5, Regulatory Reform Measures Act, Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No 2, 1998-1998, with Mr. Steen in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I call the committee to order. For consideration of Committee of the Whole today, we have Bill 4 and Bill 9. I would like some direction from the committee as to how they wish to proceed? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

That we proceed with Bill 5 at this particular time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

That we proceed with Bill 5 at this particular time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I will ask the appropriate Minister, Mr, Kakfwi to introduce the Bill please.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Bill 5, Regulatory Reform Measures Act. I would like to make some comments about it. The bill has been considered by your standing committee and the amendments that are being proposed are amendments that have been suggested by either the private sector stakeholders or by officials working in the government in the different regulatory programs. We believe that these amendments will make a difference in streamlining various processes and in eliminating red tape. We

also believe the proposed changes will go further than that. What we are trying to do with many of these reforms is to establish a precedent that can then be applied to other regulatory areas. For instance, we are amending the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act, to make it possible for the chief inspector to review information about the procedures a boiler plant operator will use in de-rating his equipment and to approve it without a special inspection. Similarly, we are proposing that electrical plans that have been signed and sealed by a qualified engineer can bypass a time-consuming review by the electrical inspection section. These amendments will demonstrate it is possible to use such streamlining processes and measures without reducing the safety factor and thus can be applied more easily in future reforms.

Similarly, the reforms to the Motion Pictures Act and the Consumer Protection Act, provide a new approach to harmonizing our legislation with other jurisdictions. There may be other applications to coordinating our regulatory frameworks with other provinces and territories in the future. I would suggest to the Members here, that when they look at these reforms, they should be seen as the first step in establishing a modern, less complicated, more efficient model for regulatory activity. While these reforms are valuable in themselves, we are also hoping it will be seen as examples of alternative approaches to our traditional way of doing things. The standing committee raised a number of areas of concern and provided some very helpful recommendations in respect to amending Bill 5. We have reviewed these. We have had consultations with the Department of Justice and relevant departments and agencies. I am pleased to advise that I think we will be able to address almost all of the concerns that were raised by the committee.

There is still a lot of work to be done in this area of regulatory reform. I know of the interest that honourable Members have, in seeing amendments to the Labour Standards Act, Condominium Act and others. I wish to assure you that our officials are working hard to bring forward a second legislative initiative that can address these. There are commitments under the agreement on internal trade to amend provisions of the Consumer Protection Act dealing with cost of credit disclosure. There is a need to examine our outdated regulatory system for pesticides. There are a number of recommendations on mine, health and safety that have been made by the advisory committee of worker and mine representatives. We are working on these and several

other future initiatives. Given the very crowded nature of our legislative agenda and issues facing our Assembly at this point, it is difficult to know exactly when it will be possible to bring in these second-level reforms before the Legislature. However, I wish to assure you that our government is committed to addressing these issues at the earliest possible opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. I now invite the Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Government Operations for comments on the bill. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations reviewed Bill 5, The Regulatory Reform Measures Act, at its meetings on September 1, 2, 15 and 21, 1998. The committee would like to thank the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Minister of Finance and officials for presenting this bill and responding to the issues raised by the committee.

Bill 5 would amend 16 acts and appeal two acts that have never been proclaimed in force. This proposal is the first phase of the regulatory reform initiative which was announced in March 1997. The standing committee raised several questions and issues with the Minister during its review. Six motions were passed to amend the bill at the committee stage.

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amended to provide that the Minister may cause compensation to be paid in these circumstances. The bill would amend the Financial Administration Act, to allow the Minister responsible for a department or public agency, to set or change a fee under the act.

The committee questioned the Minister regarding the lack of any requirement to report fee changes to the Financial Management Board. The bill was amended at the committee stage to require new fees. Changes to the fees or removal of the fees, to be reported to the Financial Management Board within 60 days. Other motions were passed at the committee stage to clarify the wording of proposed amendments to the Public Utilities Act and to provide for methods of notice of cancellation of a direct sales contract to be set out in the regulations under the Consumer

Protection Act. Bill 5 also provides for a system of voluntary reporting, to be instituted under the Environmental Protection Act.

Individuals or corporations that voluntarily report information about non-compliance with the act or regulations obtained through an environmental audit or environmental site assessment, would be immune from prosecution if they comply with any agreement negotiated with environmental authorities or any other made under the act. Committee Members support efforts to encourage voluntary compliance with the act, but questioned the Minister regarding the potential for abuses of these provisions. Members also raised comments received by the committee, that the bill should contain an additional penalty clause for knowingly concealing a breach of the act and that there should be a process for public input into any agreement or order made under the proposed voluntary reporting provisions. The Minister agreed that he would report, that he would respond to the committee on these issues before the bill was discussed in the committee of the whole and the Minister has done so. In the Minister's view, it is not necessary to amend the bill in the committee of the whole or to deal with these issues. The Minister advised that the act already makes it an offense to discharge contaminants and to the extent to which a person was aware of the discharge, could be taken into account by the court during sentencing. Under volunteer reporting provisions, a person will not have immunity from the prosecution unless the person turns over all information in his or her possession. The Minister also suggested that a requirement for public input could reduce the department's ability to act quickly in relation to the environmental damage and remove the incentive for the use of voluntary reporting provisions. The committee was advised that the government would review the issue and develop policy options for a new approach to informing the public about environmental problems and responses. The Chairperson, committee members, may question the Minister on these issues or have additional comments on the Bill as we proceed. This concludes the standing committee's comments on Bill 5, The Regulatory Reform Measures Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I now offer the Minister the opportunity to bring in witnesses. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

The Minister may bring in witnesses. Agreed. Thank you. I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring in the witnesses and seat them. Could I have the Minister introduce the witnesses please?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. On my right, I have with me, Alan Downe, the Executive Director of the Regulatory Reform Secretariat. On my left, Rebecca Veinott, legal counsel with the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Welcome to the committee. I open the floor now to general comments from the Members. Are there any general comments? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is about the Environmental Protection Act in which there was a suggestion that there should be additional penalty clauses where individuals have knowingly breached the act. In response, the Minister stated that he feels there is no reason for it to go in this bill, because there are alternative ways of doing that. Could the Minister clarify exactly what those alternative areas are?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We were on general comments, but I will allow the question. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairperson, Alan Downe will respond to the question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Would the witness respond to the question please?

MR. DOWNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, the Environmental Protection Act already makes it an offense to discharge contaminants. In the event that someone is found guilty of environmental offenses, the extent to which they have already been aware of

their own non-compliance may be something the courts would take into consideration during sentencing. One of the ideas that was discussed during the standing committee, was that there may be a need for a specific offense to deal with instances in which a person might undertake an environmental audit or environmental site assessment, and then not report any non-compliance to the Chief Environmental Protection Officer. Given that offenses already exist within the existing Environmental Protection Acts, we felt that this would be unnecessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Downe. General comments. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when this bill was first proposed in the House, there was a great to-do around the fact it would make things a lot easier for employers, be a great economic boost to legislation that was already in place in the Northwest Territories. I was disappointed when the first portion of the bill came before us because I did not see an awful lot of amendments that would streamline business or make the acts a lot more streamlined for business. I had questioned the Minister on this and he informed me that there was at least two portions of these

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amendments coming forward. I was at least pleased to see some of the important things that I believe the Ministers' staffs are working on, such as the Labour Standards Act. This is an act that is outdated. There was a motion passed in this Assembly directing the government to make the necessary changes, especially to the commission employees, inserting clauses in there to give some protection to employees and employers under that act. I was at least pleased to see that the second portion of this will contribute more to the employment opportunities for people and also to give some sense of something we can rely on, both as employers and employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Further general comments? If there are no further general comments, I would ask

the Minister if he would like to respond to general comments.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendments we put forward have been as I say, largely suggested by the private sector stakeholders involved that are knowledgeable about the regulatory environment in which they have to operate. As well from our own officials within the government. We have focused on doing proper consultation, receiving suggestions, providing feedback on the suggestions and working through a rather labour intensive process to arrive at the amendments we have put together, in front of you, today.

The most recent suggestions made by the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee representative, were very last minute and they had not previously made any suggestions or responses to the proposed amendments that were circulated earlier in the summer. There were two of them, but we received these last week, and we had our officials working over the weekend to look at them and to weigh the merits of the suggestions that were made. In the final analysis, we think the intent of the amendments, the nature of the amendments that were made and agreed to, through the consultative process, with the stakeholders, have to be respected and adhered to, at this time. Consequently, I have written, responding to the suggestions that were made at that time. So, we would like to proceed with the amendments as we had agreed with the standing committee and leave it at that, at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are through general comments, so does the committee agree to go clause-by-clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you. The Bill is quite complicated to find the clauses here, so I will try to guide the committee through the document, as we go along here. Cover sheet, Bill 5, Regulatory Reform Measures Act, reprint. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page 1, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I would like to note, I do not recognize a quorum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I will ring the bell, until we have a quorum. I now recognize a quorum and call the committee back to order. We were on page 1 of Bill 5. Bill 5, Regulatory Reform Measures Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act, clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Now we go over to page 2, Civil Emergencies Act, clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Way over on page 5, we have clause 3, Commissioner's Land Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

It is on page 5. Agreed. Thank you. On the same page, Consumer Protection Act, Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. I am sorry, clause 4, I have Mr. Kakfwi.

Committee Motion 5-13(6): Motion to Amend Subclause 4(5) of Bill 5: Regulatory Reform Measures Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. We have a correction, a slight amendment to make here. We would like to move a motion that the french version of subclause 4(5) of Bill 5 be amended by striking out quote "signification" in proposed subsection 77.2(4) and by substituting "remiss".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you. Clause 4 as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 5 is way down on page 9. Electrical Protection Act, clause 5. Agreed? Did I hear agreement?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 6 is on page 11. Environmental Protection Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 7 is on page 14. Financial Administration Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On the same page, Fire Prevention Act, clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page 17 is clause 9, Gas Protection Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Also on page 17 is clause 10, Institute of Chartered Accountants Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page 18 is clause 11, Legal Profession Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page 19, Liquor Act, clause 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 13 is on page 23, Motion Pictures Act. I recognize Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I was looking at the Liquor Act, before you moved on...can I go back on the Liquor Act in regard to clause 12(5), page 19a?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do I have unanimous consent to return to clause 12, the Liquor Act? Do I hear any nays? Thank you, you have unanimous consent to return to clause 12, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Minister is, there has been a lot of concern especially in regard to clause 12(5) section 49. Regarding the percentage used when you cast a vote for a plebiscite in which 60 percent is what is listed but a lot of times in the communities, where you need a large proportion of people to come, there is always a dispute at the end of the day, where you are so close when it comes to a vote, that the communities that do want to enforce some liquor prohibition or whatever, there is always a battle between the community because they are using this percentage. I believe there have been several letters written, especially for the communities I represent, to the department, on that particular matter. I was wondering why has the department not looked at that particular section in the amendments and is there anything going to be done on that particular matter?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Todd, when he spoke to the committee, in my absence two or three weeks ago, had indicated the government was not prepared to look at any changes in this area. It is my view as well that the requirement for a vote, the percentage requirement had not been addressed in any substantial forum by any number of people from the public. It is our view we will leave it as it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Clause 12. Liquor Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 13. Motion Pictures Act. Page 23. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 14. On page 25. Motor Vehicles Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 15. On page 29. Public Utilities Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 16. On page 30. Social Assistance Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 17. On page 31. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Clause 18. On page 32. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On the same page. Commencement. Clause 19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Bill 5 as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Bill 5 as amended ready for third reading. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Bill 5 is now ready for

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third reading as amended. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for attending the committee. We now have one other item on the agenda. I would like some direction from the committee as to how we should proceed. How do you wish to proceed? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will now rise and report progress.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We are on item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 5, Regulatory Reform Measures Act and would like to report progress with one motion

being adopted and that Bill 5 is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Evaloarjuk. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the Nunavut Caucus immediately after adjournment today. Meetings for tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and at 11:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Thursday, September 24, 1998:

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

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 5, Regulatory Reform Measures Act

22. Orders of the Day

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned to Thursday, September 24, 1998 at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT