



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Day 11

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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, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable Manik Thompson, Honourable John Todd.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 50-13(6): Recruitment and Retention

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce that this morning, my Financial Management Board colleagues approved significant increased funding to support full implementation of the Recruitment and Retention Plan for Health and Social Services. This investment allows us to further our work with boards and other partners to address, in a sustainable way, recruitment and retention of nurses, social workers, physicians and other health and social service providers. Significant work has already begun to support recruitment and retention initiatives.

A recruitment and retention specialist began work in June. This individual has more than ten years experience with northern health and social services as a frontline worker. The Recruitment and Retention Support Specialist takes a very proactive approach to identifying and encouraging potential employees. I believe her experience and network of contacts is very helpful to the boards.

Mr. Speaker, there are many northern students currently in health and social service programs. Statistics from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment indicate that 187 students are enrolled in these programs. The financial support approved today will assist us in recruiting these students and encouraging them to return to the north. Financial support has been provided to boards to ensure on-going access to professional development and interaction. Professional development funds, administered by the boards, have many direct and indirect benefits, including:

- increasing skills in a particular area;
- creating opportunities for interaction with peers;
- creating opportunities to refresh a professional dealing with daily stress;
- highlighting the importance of self-development and self motivation; and
- acquiring new skills.

Access to professional development will be reviewed on an ongoing basis at the board level to ensure the needs of staff are being met.

Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest drawbacks in recruiting and retaining health and social service professionals in most communities is the isolation from colleagues and the on-call expectations. Therefore, some means of providing relief is necessary. Extensive efforts have gone into developing a pool of nurses, doctors and social workers who can provide relief and locum services for boards. The pool is small at this point, but is growing.

Mr. Speaker, we know that if frontline workers are going to give care to community residents, they must be healthy themselves. Our plan stresses the need for support of health and social service workers. Boards are encouraged to make a conscious effort to develop and monitor structured employee support. These efforts will help to ensure that employees feel valued and want to remain in the organization. I believe that we are addressing recruitment and retention issues. The funding approved today will allow us to continue this work. In view of the serious nature of the problems that we are addressing with these initiatives we will need to be very proactive in implementing our plan. We will also need to remain flexible and open to new and creative ideas for

dealing with recruitment and retention of health and social service workers.

We are not alone in facing these difficulties. In fact, recruitment and retention issues have been central in recent federal/provincial/territorial Ministers meetings. These are issues that my counterparts are dealing with as well. These meetings provide opportunities to share ideas and strategies that have worked for others. I have taken the opportunity in those meetings to discuss the difficulties we face in our jurisdiction and to learn from others facing similar problems.

Mr. Speaker, our plan does not contain all the answers to the difficulties that we have to deal with, but we believe that it provides a solid foundation for incorporating good ideas and creative thinking that will allow us to tackle these issues head on. I invite Members to provide us with the benefit of their knowledge of their own communities and put forward ideas, strategies and initiatives that they believe would work for them in serving their communities. We also plan to talk with, and more importantly listen to, frontline workers and managers in their communities to determine what they see as possible solutions to their problems. I believe that community perspective is absolutely necessary in finding and developing

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the most satisfactory answers.

Mr. Speaker, the problems that we face today are not problems that will be solved overnight. In fact, it will take time, hard work and dedication to develop and sustain a strong health and social service workforce. I ask Members to join me in recognizing and thanking the nurses, social workers, physicians and other frontline workers who are providing important services to NWT residents.

To all health and social service workers, I would like to say, "We know you are coping with difficult situations. I ask for your patience while we work with you to develop solutions. Your dedication and professionalism are greatly appreciated. Thank you."

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 51-13(6): Plan 2000 Update

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a few moments to provide the House with an update on the NWT Housing Corporation's Plan 2000. In 1997 the corporation launched Plan 2000 with the objective of improving the living conditions of 2,000 NWT families by the year 2000. Mr. Speaker, considering the remoteness of most of our communities this is an ambitious task, to say the least. Under this strategy the corporation streamlined its programs so that more families could take advantage of them, to either get a new home or to improve the one they already live in. Plan 2000 was widely promoted across the NWT, not just through the media, but by presentations in every community. At the end of the second season of construction since the start of Plan 2000, I am pleased to say that the NWT Housing Corporation is steadily closing in on its goals.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to tell someone they will have to wait for assistance. I hope that those who question the corporation for not giving them a home as soon as they apply for it realize that we have to be fair to everyone. That means we have to set priorities. As we enter the final year of Plan 2000 I call on all Members of this House to support this initiative to assist the maximum number of people possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

Minister's Statement 52-13(6): Update on Pay Equity and Collective Bargaining

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories dismissed the bad faith bargaining allegation made by the UNW and granted the government's application for the appointment of a mediator. Mr. Speaker, collective bargaining has since been scheduled to resume from November 10 to 12, 1998, with the assistance of a mediator.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that we are now in a good position to conclude a collective agreement for ratification by employees. We now have clear direction that we must negotiate a gender-neutral job evaluation system and gender-neutral rates of pay at collective bargaining. However, we do not believe, in view of the position taken by the UNW, that we can

conclude an agreement on retroactive payments for the settlement of the equal pay complaint at collective bargaining.

Mr. Speaker, before I set out the government's overall approach to the mediation talks and to resolving the pay equity complaint, I will list the principles that continue to guide the government in these negotiations:

- The government pays its employees a fair and equitable wage and benefit package designed to attract and retain a northern workforce.
- The government is totally supportive of the requirement for no discrimination in the workplace and for equal pay for work of equal value.
- The government is totally supportive of the Collective Bargaining process and believes that agreements freely entered into in good faith are preferred over settlements that are imposed on the parties.
- The government believes that a negotiated settlement of the equal pay complaint is preferred over the cumbersome, time-consuming and expensive federal Commission, Tribunal and Court processes.
- The government believes that it is in the interests of all the people of the NWT, including past and current employees, to settle the pay equity equal pay complaint and conclude a collective agreement before the division of the NWT on April 1, 1999.
- The government believes that employees should have the right to decide for themselves whether to accept the equal pay settlement offer for the past and a new collective agreement for the future.

Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court made it very clear that the parties must negotiate a gender-neutral job evaluation system and gender-neutral rates of pay at collective bargaining. The Supreme Court agreed with the government that the obligation to negotiate a gender-neutral job evaluation system is the result of the union's allegation that past collective agreements do not contain a gender-neutral job evaluation system and gender-neutral rates of pay.

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Mr. Speaker, a considerable commitment of time and resources went into the selection of the Hay Job Evaluation System and the evaluation of all jobs

against that system. We must implement this system. We do not have the time or resources to start over with another system. Mr. Speaker, we are fully satisfied that the Hay Job Evaluation System, as implemented for our non-unionized employees, is gender-neutral and that the results are gender-neutral. The challenge we face is how best to demonstrate this fact to the satisfaction of the UNW so that we can agree on the implementation of the system for our unionized employees.

At mediation, we will table a revised offer that we believe will address all possible concerns that the UNW may have regarding the Hay Job Evaluation System. If we can address these concerns, we should be in a position to conclude a collective agreement that the UNW can recommend to its members for ratification. Hopefully, this can be done in time to get the increases that we are offering into the hands of employees as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 53-13(6): Keewatin Search and Rescue Conference

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, every year we suffer the loss of loved ones because of tragic events and accidents. The recent deaths in Pangnirtung make it clear that lives can be lost, even when coordinated search and rescue attempts are made. Mr. Speaker, search and rescue and emergency preparedness is a collective responsibility. Individuals, community and government organizations, and the RCMP all work very hard to save lives through coordinated and planned efforts. It is critical to have trained, community/volunteer search teams to help RCMP members carry out search and rescue operations.

I am pleased to report that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the RCMP have designed a search and rescue training program for the regions. These training sessions help communities and residents respond to these emergencies. Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to report that the next search and rescue conference will be held in the Keewatin Region. MACA, the RCMP and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, are sponsoring the conference. It will be held in Rankin Inlet from December 15 to 17, 1998. Search and rescue

personnel from Keewatin communities, RCMP officers, and representatives from federal and territorial agencies will discuss all aspects of search and rescue.

Mr. Speaker, this conference will allow participants to discuss ways to improve the general organization and management of local searches. They will also consider developing a strategy for the Keewatin region. We recognize that our efforts to help communities improve their local search and rescue operations could save lives. This is well worth the investment. It is an initiative the department will continue to promote. Through other promotions, such as public awareness and prevention initiatives, we also hope to save lives by reducing the number of search and rescue incidents required throughout the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 54-13(6): Canada Career Week

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, this is Career Week across Canada. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in partnership with the Canada Career Consortium, encourages everyone to get involved. Career planning programs and services are available through ten career centres across the Northwest Territories. Staff at these centres work with schools, colleges, employers, other government departments and community organizations to ensure programs and services meet needs in every community. These centres have a wealth of information to help people plan and pursue a career. I encourage everyone to drop into their local career centre and check it out. School and college counsellors and adult educators can also help with career planning. On the Internet you can visit the career development website. The address, siksik.learnnet.nt.ca, is on the career development bookmarks placed at each Member's desk today.

Events across the Northwest Territories this week will promote career awareness and the importance of career planning. For example, winning entries in the department's My Dream Job contest will be on display in the Great Hall next week. Prizes include job

shadowing opportunities, t-shirts, mugs, mouse pads and other prizes donated by northern employers. As many of you are aware, yesterday was Take a Child to Work Day across the Northwest Territories and Canada. Resource kits were sent to all schools, colleges, career centres and community learning centres to help plan local career week activities. The resource kits include suggested career week activities, a list of career development resources, a list of community partners and other contacts, promotional items, posters and copies of the career planning tabloids NWT Career Scopes and Canada Prospects. Mr. Speaker, I encourage northerners to get involved in Career Week activities and to get more information on career planning and the opportunities that are out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 55-13(6): NWT Housing Corporation Assists the Homeless

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the most important things any person can have is a safe place to call home. Sadly, in the Northwest Territories there are people who do not have a home. They sleep wherever they can find some shelter. Often, this shelter does not meet basic needs. This problem is particularly severe in Yellowknife and Iqaluit. I am proud to say that the NWT Housing Corporation

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is working with partners in Yellowknife and Iqaluit to provide homeless people with basic shelter.

In Iqaluit, the corporation worked with the Emergency Shelter Society, the Iqaluit Housing Authority, Iqaluit Health and Social Services, the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board and the Illitit Society to replace the town's shelter. The old shelter was closed because it did not meet the standards necessary for healthy living conditions. The corporation provided the Iqaluit Housing Authority with \$57,000 to renovate a one-bedroom public housing duplex for a new shelter.

In Yellowknife, the corporation is working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment on a ten-bed shelter. This pilot project should be

opening soon. I would like to thank the many people who supported this project, especially the Honourable Charles Dent and the Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Roy Erasmus.

Mr. Speaker, these two projects are examples of what can be accomplished when government and community organizations work together. Through cooperative efforts like these, we can all make the north a better place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 123-13(6): Pangnirtung Search and Rescue Participants

MR. ENUARAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking Inuktitut today. On Sunday morning, November 1st, the bodies of two hunters and a ten-year old boy from Pangnirtung were found washed ashore about four hours away from their home community. The hunters were first reported missing October 23rd. Their bodies were found by members of the community who had volunteered for the intensive six day search. This effort included the RCMP, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Coast Guard. Coast Guard vessels, as well as small private craft from Pangnirtung, also participated in the search and rescue effort.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank the local volunteers and members of the RCMP, the Department of National Defence, and the Coast Guard who took part in the search and rescue. Mr. Speaker, the list of volunteers is long and I will be tabling a document containing all their names. They number close to 61. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 124-13(6): Digital Communications Network

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government initiated the digital communication network, or DCN as we call it, back in May of 1996. This was to be the backbone of our communications system in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, the DCN has been plagued with delays from the start. Everyone agrees that our communications systems needs to be updated. There was also a lot of support for this work to begin. There were concerns, however, raised on many occasions in this Assembly regarding the process used to have the north connected. Mr. Speaker, I bring to this House another concern. This one is added to the list of concerns raised already on the issue of the DCN.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Inuvik TV for stepping in and providing free Internet access when this government through this DCN was unable to come through. Once again, this showed that local Internet providers are better equipped to handle the new technological challenges that face us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 125-13(6): Commitment to Raise Constituency Issues

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I made a statement in regard to the unresolved collective bargaining issues. I raised some legitimate issues brought to me by employees from my constituency after being invited to their meeting and tabled a petition in this House. When the House rose and I returned to my office, there was an anonymous phone call on my voice mail by someone who identified themselves only as a UNW member from Yellowknife telling me to mind my own business and stay out of union business.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Nay.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker, I consider the concerns brought to me by employees of the GNWT as my business and I

think it is the business of every Member in this House that there be a resolution to the collective bargaining situation currently before us. I would encourage the government and the union to resolve this and I will not be deterred from bringing these concerns forward by anonymous phone calls. Thank

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you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 126-13(6): Student Financial Assistance Programs

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is about the education funding policy regarding the programs that we deliver to the students. My statement is more in regard to the student financial assistance and the programs and services this government offers. I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister and this government that these programs in no way should put individuals and students in a financial burden with Revenue Canada and all the taxes that a lot of our students end up paying after returning home. Mr. Speaker, I will use an individual for an example who went for her bachelor degree of education, an area that this government is striving for to ensure that our teachers have their certification in the classrooms. She attended school for three years in Saskatoon and received her bachelors degree in education, then returned home to Aklavik. In the meantime, she received a bill from Revenue Canada in the area of, I believe, \$20,000 for taxes that she had to pay back because of loans that she received from this government.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is appropriate for our students, who we entice to go off and get their education, get their degrees, come home and fill those positions for the long-term residents of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I think it is critical that when we do implement funding policies, programs and services, that we also consider the financial implications that may come with those different programs and services. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Education questions on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 127-13(6): Roads to Resources Initiative

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to look into the future. I would like to express my constituents' concern over the comments that my colleague, Mr. Henry, made yesterday during his Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, as you may recall, Mr. Henry was rather adamant about the fact that his road to resources would start from Yellowknife and basically follow the existing route. I, on the other hand, feel this is not the most prudent or feasible solution. I would also like to thank the Mayor of Hay River for his comment and his vision of the future.

Mr. Speaker, for years Rae-Edzo has been in the shadow of Yellowknife. We have never lobbied to take anything away from Yellowknife, we have always been very good, cooperative neighbours and have watched Yellowknife grow and prosper. Now we have an opportunity that could benefit my entire region. If this road were to start from Rae-Edzo, badly needed jobs would be the first benefit. Secondly, it would allow for further expansion of our airport facility by establishing docking yards and storage areas, which of course would also create employment for our residents. Thirdly, by ensuring a good route to the Lac-de-Gras area we could also ensure that our smaller communities of Wha Ti, Rae Lakes and Snare Lake would receive benefits from employment and possibly by the fact that these communities could be connected to this road, which of course would provide a better way of life than is currently available to these residents.

As one can see, Mr. Speaker, by using Rae-Edzo as a starting point, the benefits are considerable. Now I ask, who benefits from having this road start from Yellowknife? I would venture to say a few businesses at the most or nothing else. I feel it is time for the rest of the NWT to reap some of the benefits that are available and not just Yellowknife. Let us share the wealth to benefit the entire western Arctic and not just a few businesses in Yellowknife. I also hope that my other colleagues will give us the much needed support to ensure this very important project benefits as many people as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 128-13(6): Passing of Tooma Netser

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to inform this House of the loss of a close friend and respected elder during the summer of this year in Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, Tooma Netser of Coral Harbour was born in September 1928 and passed away on June 10, 1998. He is sadly missed and deeply remembered by his wife, Annie, and their 11 children and many grandchildren. His children are Ajownik, Amaujoak, Joe, Nellie, Patrick, Leona, Dorothy, Jackie, Jake, Leonie and Jason. Mr. Netser and his wife had one other son, Albert, who passed away as a young man.

Mr. Speaker, Tooma Netser put in more than 20 years of service with the Department of Public Works before he retired. He was actively involved with his community and worked hard to make it a better place. During his lifetime, Mr. Netser was a dedicated mayor, he served as an outspoken and determined member of the hamlet council, he was an active board member of the HTA and the DEA, and was deeply committed to serving on the Special Committee on Suicide Prevention.

Mr. Speaker, Tooma Netser was very vocal about the needs of his community. He was regularly heard on the local radio talking about life skills, youth politics and harvesting practises. Mr. Netser firmly believed in community empowerment and emphasized that the skills of the local people needed to be developed so that they can become employed in their community. Finally, Mr. Speaker, Tooma Netser encouraged us to believe that we, as aboriginal people, are able to live and help our communities to become better places.
Mr. Speaker

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, Mr. Netser was a wise and respected elder. The community deeply misses him and we will always keep his memory alive in our hearts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 129-13(6): Stanton Regional Hospital Foundation Fundraising Efforts

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you and many of my colleagues are aware, the Stanton Regional Hospital Foundation is holding a telethon later this month, on November 29, 1998 to be exact. The telethon is being held at the St. Patrick High School.

All money raised from this telethon will be used to purchase new equipment, in particular a CT Scanner, to improve the quality of health care services provided to the people of the Northwest Territories. It is up to all of us, as residents of the NWT, to support this very worthwhile cause as we all benefit from the provision of better health care services. Telethon organizers have been working extremely hard in recent months to pull this venture off and it is now the time for the people of the NWT to do their part. Already \$1.2 million has been raised, most of that from governments and the corporate sector.

One approach that the telethon organizers are using in attempting to raise money for the telethon are challenges within the GNWT, business community, school groups and other organizations. I know the staff at the Legislative Assembly are working hard to raise donations and pledges for the telethon. They have also issued a challenge to all other GNWT departments to meet or beat their total, which I am told is climbing slowly. At this time, I would like to add my voice to the challenge and encourage all GNWT employees and their departments to try and match or beat the Assembly's total. Already MACA and the NWT Housing Corporation have expressed some interest in accepting this challenge. I urge all other departments to get involved and help the telethon organizers meet their goal of \$2 million.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 130-13(6): Funding for Tourism Market

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I made a statement in this House regarding tourism. At that time, the NWT Arctic Tourism Association had just completed its business plan and announced a vision toward increasing its marketing and promotion efforts. Its funding of \$540,000 is only half of what was previously spent on tourism marketing by this government. Yet the association reported that visitor numbers had remained steady at pre-budget cut days.

This clearly points to the increased efficiencies achieved by the association. There is no doubt that there is a direct relationship between the number of visitors coming here and the spending on marketing. Compared with other jurisdictions such as Yukon or Alberta, the NWT tourism sector still has tremendous growth potential, providing marketing dollars are spent on that initiative. The association has submitted to this government a proposal and request for increased funding. For next year, their budget request is \$1.48 million and for the following year, based on a job well done in the previous year, they are asking for \$2.2 million.

What needs to be done now is for RWED and the association to come to an agreement over specific roles and responsibilities. For example, RWED could maintain responsibilities for strategic planning, as well as tourism research and licensing functions. The association could assume primary responsibility in such areas as media relations, consumer and travel industry shows, and operator standards. I urge this government to meet the funding needs of the association and address the coordinating roles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement 131-13(6): Wedding
Congratulations

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my constituents, who were recently married in a civil ceremony in Yellowknife. Ms. Edith Girouz and Mr. Darryl Mack became husband and wife on November 4, 1998 in a small

ceremony. I would like to extend my personal best wishes to Edith and Darryl.

Edith has been my most capable executive secretary since 1996 and Darryl is employed with the Department of Justice. I would like all residents and colleagues who know Edith and Darryl to join me in wishing them a lifetime of happiness together. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement 132-13(6): Minimum Wage
Rates

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks I have been doing some research on the national minimum wage rates. Mr. Speaker, the minimum wages across Canada run from \$5.25 an hour in Newfoundland to \$7.15 in British Columbia. The Yukon rate is \$6.86 an hour.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories minimum wage is \$6.50 and off road is \$7.00 an hour. A large number of the Northwest Territories employees and students continue to be paid the minimum wage. If a person works 40 hours a week for 12 months a year, their gross yearly wage would be a little more than \$13,000 a year. Mr. Speaker, that amount is well below the cost of living and indeed puts that person below the poverty line.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest that this government review the current minimum wage amount both off and on road and look to increasing it at least to a point that reflects the higher cost of living in the north. To have jurisdictions like British Columbia further ahead of our minimum wage rate and having other jurisdictions within 40 or 50 cents of ours, is not acceptable. Later today, I will ask the appropriate Minister about this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 133-13(6): Prayers for Mike
Kachkowski

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for Members to remember a long-term northerner in their prayers. I am speaking about Mike Kachkowski, a very long-term northerner who is seriously ill with cancer in the Stanton Hospital. Mike has been in the north for over 50 years and can be said to have been a true pioneer. He worked as a prospector, cat skinner and those types of things. He is probably best known for starting and running Mike's Trucking here in Yellowknife for many years with his wife, my aunt, Theresa Paul. They later sold this company, but it is still operating today in Yellowknife. As I said, Mike is seriously ill in the hospital and we ask that people remember him in their prayers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the gallery today we have Ms. Judy Aniliaiak who is a former resident of Pangnirtung and a resident of Iqaluit. She is currently working here in Yellowknife at the Legislative Assembly. With her is Nancy Tupik, who will soon be moving to Iqaluit to work with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a former resident of Baker Lake, Ms. Rhoda Perkison, who recently took on the responsibilities of deputy clerk for Nunavut. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 151-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Plan Funding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. He talked about the retention and recruitment plan which has been tabled for ten months, but was silent on exact figures and the amount of money that has been put to this program. Could the Minister indicate for this House the amounts of money being put towards this very essential program? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 151-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Plan Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker

the exact amount approved by the Financial Management Board this morning in a supplementary appropriation was \$2.386 million, which works out to approximately \$3.6 million on an annual basis, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 151-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Plan Funding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister has indicated, this will be added to the base and there will be a yearly amount. This is not just a one-time injection of funds. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng

Further Return To Question 151-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Plan Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

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yes, the intent is that the approximately \$2.4 million dollars is to carry us to the end of this 1998/1999 fiscal year and the plan is to have approximately \$3.1 million dollars added to the bases for the 1999/2000 fiscal year, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 151-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Plan Funding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate what the first steps are going to be in terms of putting this money to use, considering that we are halfway through the fiscal year already? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 151-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Plan Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are significant areas that have already been identified in the plan and, as I had indicated, there is a lot of work that has been done, so it is to enhance and complete the implementation of those things. I will mention some of them and I will provide a more detailed list if that is what the Members want.

In respect of development of northern resources for scholarship opportunities for nursing and social workers, summer employment internship opportunities, to fund those, of course, that would not work so much this year for the summer employment aspect of that. Mentorship programs for social workers, nurses, recruiting of northern graduates and students, high school students orientation, recruitment, coordinators for northern work force development, the establishment of locum relief pools, facilitating professional development, these are some of the more major areas where some of the more

significant resources will be dedicated, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 151-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Plan Funding

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate or clarify whether this money is outside, or over and above, the money on the table through the collective bargaining process?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 151-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Plan Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these funds will be in addition to the current budget. It is over and above the current budget of the Department of Health and Social Services. It is new funding for this year and for next year when it is added into the base. The collective agreement has nothing to do whatsoever with this. Those are the more specific pay and benefit issues that are on the table in respect to our government union. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Krutko.

Question 152-13(6): Tax Exemptions for Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. It is regarding to my statement of problems that my constituents have run into, especially the ones that are going off to post-secondary education and striving for their bachelor degrees in education. This particular constituent of mine has found herself in financial difficulty with Revenue Canada. Yet she is an aboriginal, Inuit person and I would like to ask the Minister regarding the education funding policy and programs that this government delivers on, what association does, the

acts have in relation to the Indian Act and aboriginal peoples' rights to education and also the exemption from paying taxes for that particular right? I would like to ask the Minister, can he tell me, are there any exemptions available to students that we do send to southern institutions to get their bachelors degree in education and also how we can assist these students when they find themselves in difficult times? Can the Minister tell me, what is available to this individual who has found herself in difficulties with Revenue Canada?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 152-13(6): Tax Exemptions for Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the problem the Member is addressing here. I have today signed a letter in response to his constituent. The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes indigenous aboriginal people, whether they are Dene, Metis or Inuit, and provides the same assistance to those individuals. The person would have qualified for a basic and a supplementary grant. Unfortunately, Revenue Canada and the federal government only allow tax-free status on funds to treaty Dene people. Therefore, Metis and Inuit people wind up owing taxes on monies that are provided to them by way of grant. This is not something that we can change as a government, though we have tried to address the issue with Revenue Canada. They hold firm to the position that only treaty Dene will be tax exempt and, therefore, the monies that are provided by way of grant are considered taxable income in the hands of the Metis and Inuit students. This is true whether the student travels to the south or stays resident in the north. This is one of the areas in which I had hoped to make some modifications to the Student Financial Assistance Program, which is currently under review. I am hopeful that I will be able to propose some changes that might address this issue in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

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Supplementary To Question 152-13(6): Tax Exemptions for Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me if he and his Cabinet colleagues have made an effort to approach the federal government to make an amendment or an exemption to the Taxation Act in regards to the Northwest Territories to allow for all aboriginal people to be treated on the same basis when it comes to taxation for education?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 152-13(6): Tax Exemptions for Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This approach has been made in the past, and Revenue Canada has held very firmly to the idea that only those people covered by treaty will be exempt from taxation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 152-13(6): Tax Exemptions for Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he has made an attempt to approach the federal Minister for clarification under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, which identifies aboriginal people in the context of aboriginal people in Canada? If he has looked at the possibility of getting a legal opinion on the definition of aboriginal people under that section?

Further Return To Question 152-13(6): Tax Exemptions for Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not specifically approached the Minister on that point with regards to student financial assistance. However, I did raise that issue with the Minister of Indian Affairs about the UCEP funding, which again, is a program which is aimed at aboriginal people to allow them to upgrade

for university or college entrance and which will not fund upgrading courses for Metis people. I brought up the point that aboriginal people are defined to include Metis and suggested that indicated a broader definition, but was unsuccessful. Indirectly, that approach has been tried and has not worked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 153-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Funding

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker going back to the statement made by the Minister of Health concerning the funding of the recruitment and retention of health and social service professionals. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, when can the boards and the staff expect to see the benefits of the FMB decision announced by the Minister today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng.

Return to Question 153-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I think that is a very subjective question, in respect of it is hard to measure. Some of these initiatives are more of a medium and longer term range in trying to develop a northern work force. I think one of the things that could be expected to impact directly on the board currently would be the development of a locum relief pool, where we would be able to send individuals in to assist communities that require assistance on an immediate basis. As I indicated, it is a small start in that area, but it is starting to grow and we are hoping that now that we have some additional resources we can hopefully accelerate that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 153-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Funding

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker does the extra funding announced to implement the recruitment and retention include funds to start up the Nunavut Nursing Program as outlined on page 5 of the report?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 153-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that, as you know, does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Social Services. Funding for Arctic College programs are with ECE. I can say that there was a request that had gone forward as well and in conjunction with ours and Mr. Dent would be planning on making an announcement, I believe tomorrow, on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 153-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Funding

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on page 21 of Mr. Ng's report it talks about the flexibility necessary in hiring, an incentives fund would be established. I am wondering if the incentives fund that is in the report tabled by Mr. Ng. is part of the funding that was approved today? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 153-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Funding

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the

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report was not tabled in this particular session of the Assembly, but knowing the background of it, I will respond to the Member that no, that is not a part of

the submission that was put forward and approved by the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Enuaraq.

Question 154-13(6): Pangnirtung Airport Runway Update

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be directing my question to the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Jim Antoine. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please update this House on what is happening on the runway in Pangnirtung? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 154-13(6): Pangnirtung Airport Runway Update

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, the department has not really done anything other than they normally do with the runway in Pangnirtung. I guess I have reported in the House in previous Assemblies that there has been a request for major funding to go to Pangnirtung to move the airport to another location. I had indicated that the department did not have any funds to do such an expenditure at this time. However, we were working with Transport Canada to see what could be done with it. That is the only source of possibly trying to meet up with the requests of the honourable Member, by this route. At this point in time, I have not really had an update with my department with regards to how that is progressing. I will have to check with the department in this regard and get more further detail on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 155-13(6): Highway 3 Reconstruction

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions is also for the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine, and it is with

respect to the Highway 3, Rae to Yellowknife reconstruction. I wonder if the Minister could update us as to the schedule of work in relationship to the current contracts that are now being let or have already been let? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is very detailed and two questions were asked. Would you like to respond, Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine?

Return to Question 155-13(6): Highway 3 Reconstruction

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department had approval by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to give us the permits to go ahead and commence the work on the section of Highway 3 between Yellowknife and Rae-Edzo. Therefore, clearing and brushing has begun on both ends. That is already in progress. In regards to the actual work to start the reconstruction of the section, it is to be out for public tender by the end of this month, by November 30th. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 155-13(6): Highway 3 Reconstruction

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the Highway 3 reconstruction and part of the \$2 million dollar strategy in regard to the Highway 3 reconstruction, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if the department is also looking at funding sources for future reconstruction of that highway?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 155-13(6): Highway 3 Reconstruction

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in our highway strategy one of the four strategies was to look at the section between Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife to see

how we could accelerate this program. What we are doing in the department is that we are currently having a public tendering process to begin the initial work in the normal process. Once we publicly tender the work that is approved by the Legislative Assembly by the end of this month, then we will be moving into the phase of organizing an advisory committee of some sort and undertaking some studies to see how we could accelerate this program, including the financial aspect the honourable Member is inquiring about. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 155-13(6): Highway 3 Reconstruction

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us what date or approximately when he might be looking at the formation of the advisory committee on the Highway 3 strategy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. That was your final supplementary. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 155-13(6): Highway 3 Reconstruction

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, we are awaiting the awarding of the public tendering contract at the end of the month. After that, we will be getting into awarding some contracts to do some studies to look into these matters. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 156-13(6): Pay and Benefits for Nurses

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance in relation to some questions and statements that were made yesterday regarding the pay and

benefits for nurses. We have heard that some places are losing nurses and actually shutting down some programs because of loss of those nurses. We have also heard that Mr. Ng is now moving ahead on the recruitment and retention plan. That is good. What I wanted was clarification on what the Finance Minister indicated yesterday, that in some cases there is approximately \$11,000 sitting there waiting to be offered to nurses, but that cannot be implemented. I was wondering if the Minister could indeed clarify if that is what the case is? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 156-13(6): Pay and Benefits for Nurses

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my honourable colleague for giving me the opportunity to further elaborate on the situation that was raised by Mr. Steen yesterday. When we did the Job Evaluation System and put into place the Hay Plan system, it became obvious that there was going to be a significant change in the way nurses, particularly community nurses, now, have to define the difference between community nurses and nurses who work at the Stanton hospital or the future Inuvik hospital. Community nurses, in my understanding with my discussions with Mr. Voytilla earlier today, a community nurse should we get the pay equity and the collective agreement solved, would just on pay equity and the changes to our classification get somewhere between \$9,000 to \$13,000 annually on a salary. On top of that, if we get the collective agreement signed off, there will be a two percent increase plus, in some cases depending on the community, a significant increase on the northern allowance benefits, et cetera. In simple language, there would be significant increases to the wages and benefits package offered up should we get an agreement reached, both on the pay equity and on the collective bargaining situation that we placed before the UNW. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 156-13(6): Pay and Benefits for Nurses

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is also my understanding that this cannot be offered to the nurses because of the collective bargaining. Is there anything that can be done to improve a monetary situation of what we are offering nurses outside of the agreement?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 156-13(6): Pay and Benefits for Nurses

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, Mr. Speaker, the short answer would be no. I think it would be inappropriate for the government to pre-empt collective bargaining that is currently underway. As I said in my earlier comment today, I am optimistic that we can come to some resolution, that common sense will prevail. This government and this Cabinet wants to put new money, more money, in the hands of our employees and hopefully we can conclude that before Christmas. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 156-13(6): Pay and Benefits for Nurses

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this is accepted, the increase would be from \$9,000 to \$13,000 for the community nurses. Would this be substantially more than what is being paid to the nurses in southern Canada?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 156-13(6): Pay and Benefits for Nurses

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to be able to answer my colleague. I am advised by my colleague, Mr. Ng, that it is different in jurisdictions across Canada. I would be reluctant to say unequivocally today whether we would be more or less. What I would say, though, is there is a significant change in the compensation package as it relates to community

nurses when we look at the redress we are making with respect to pay equity and the additional collective bargaining components that we put on the table. Again, if I may, just to be a bit repetitive, I am optimistic that we will be able to come to an agreement in the next week or so, so that we can put more money into the hands of our employees by Christmas. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 156-13(6): Pay and Benefits for Nurses

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Somehow I am not too sure that more people will come flocking over here if they are going to be getting paid the same amount in BC or southern Alberta. Would the Minister admit to providing us with a comparison of what is being offered in the south to the nurses as compared to what is being negotiated now? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 156-13(6): Pay and Benefits for Nurses

HON. JOHN TODD:

I will provide the House or the Members by letter with some comparisons once I have my staff have it done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 157-13(6): Formula Financing Agreement

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the

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Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd. Yesterday, the Minister of Finance talked about the Formula Financing Agreement that was signed by Minister Martin and himself a couple of weeks ago. I think it is fair to say that all Members of this House were excited about the deal that was negotiated. Mr. Todd

talked about the hard work that all parties put into the deal. My question is to the Minister, I would like the Minister to advise this House of some of the potential negative parts of this agreement in the event that the population numbers of the Northwest Territories decline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 157-13(6): Formula Financing Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice so I can answer it correctly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 158-13(6): Digital Communications Network Delay

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time is directed to the Minister responsible for Finance regarding the DCN, or Digital Communications Network. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister inform us where this process lies and if the timing of this communications network that was supposed to be operative in many locations, is it on-line and moving ahead? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 158-13(6): Digital Communications Network Delay

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I am advised by my department that in most cases we are on target for putting in the digital communication system in the communities. There appears to be and has been consistently some problems in Inuvik, perhaps because of a variety of different reasons as it does not exist in some other communities. To date, we are on-line and on target for having the digital communication system up and in place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 158-13(6): Digital Communications Network Delay

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister further inform us if it is on budget as well? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 158-13(6): Digital Communications Network Delay

HON. JOHN TODD:

I better clarify. I think when I presented to the House in previous sessions I gave a detailed listing of the communities and when it was expected that some of the digital communication system would be up and running. Now, this is a creative, visionary approach that we want to take and it is not going to be without. As they say, it has glitches and it has warts. As to whether it is on budget or not, I would have to check with my department. There has certainly been no request for any additional funds, thank goodness, because we are still trying to maintain a balanced budget, but as I said earlier, I am optimistic in the smaller communities and the other communities I have talked to, that we are going to meet the targets we set and that it will allow the Northwest Territories to enter into the 21st millennium as an active participant in the digital communications highway.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 158-13(6): Digital Communications Network Delay

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister pointed out, it has its glitches and warts and I think they have found more than they thought they would. If he could further inform us, there was a time-line when the whole north would be connected. He says it is visionary, but when the 21st century comes around I think we will find we are still living in the past. Can he

inform us if that end time-line will be met with all the communities connected? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 158-13(6): Digital Communications Network Delay

HON. JOHN TODD:

Perhaps only in Inuvik, Mr. Speaker. It appears that in the other communities that we certainly had no complaints. We had some complaints out of Fort Smith and Inuvik. We have had no complaints anywhere else. Well, I did say Fort Smith. I am saying to my honourable colleague, a concerted effort is being made to put the Northwest Territories into the 21st century when it comes to high tech digital communications. I am sure my honourable colleague will appreciate, when you move forward on something as creative and visionary as this it is not going to be without its warts and problems. It may end up that all the warts and problems are all sitting in Inuvik, but I certainly will make every effort to have them removed accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 158-13(6): Digital Communications Network Delay

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that there is more than just Inuvik who has these warts and problems, so if the Minister could give me information as to the specifics, I have raised them before with the Minister regarding concerns raised in Inuvik. If he could provide me with the information as to when those will be cleared up? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

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Further Return To Question 158-13(6): Digital Communications Network Delay

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague's concerns, and I think his concerns, relate to the local service provider. I believe it was a similar situation in Fort Smith. I am telling my honourable colleague in all sincerity, there are no other areas of problems right now, with respect to the ones he has in Inuvik. We are trying to make a concerted effort. We have not done as well as we should have in that community, make a concerted effort in that community and resolve the problems he alluded to earlier in his statement. I want to assure him, by April 1, 1999, one way or another, a territorial-wide digital communications system will be in place. As I have explained on a number of occasions, it is not going to be without its problems. Hopefully, we will be able to resolve as many of them as we can. I will be only too happy to provide my honourable colleague with a complete update as to the status of the digital communication system as it relates to all the communities in the Arctic. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 159-13(6): Pelly Bay Gymnasium

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Madame Thompson. The Hamlet of Pelly Bay wrote to me and to the MACA department in one of the other communities in the central Arctic regarding a gymnasium in Pelly Bay. Mr. Speaker, at that time in 1999, we understood construction was to begin on this new gymnasium, but on a smaller scale. Now, the hamlet board has indicated their request for a bigger gymnasium to be built at a later date. My question to the Minister is, can the Hamlet of Pelly Bay receive further funding to expand on the current size of the gymnasium that is planned to be built in that community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 159-13(6): Pelly Bay Gymnasium

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the Member for Natilikmiot. I understand the

question as I have received correspondence to the same effect. Perhaps the mayor of the community, Mr. Angutingnugiq of Pelly Bay, is the person I have to apologize to, first of all. I was supposed to visit the community this spring, but because of my work schedule, I was unable to do so. I did not get a chance to speak with him myself. I did speak with Doug Crossley, who has been to the community, from Cambridge Bay.

I understand they had a meeting in which the request for an expansion of the gymnasium is clear. The school had been built without a gymnasium. They currently use the gymnasium that belongs to the community or recreation authority. We are trying to make plans to make an extension, costing \$1.5 million, which would make an attachment to the school. The people of that community find that gymnasium would be too small. The education board had been advised about this concern and funding was provided to that effect, but it was short by \$952,000. The education board was aware of this concern and they offered \$350,000, but no explanation was provided when they took that funding back. This is a concern and I plan on handing it over to the new government. I know it is a concern to the people over there. I plan to work again closely with the education board to address this concern. The money that was scheduled for a building has been earmarked for that gymnasium. I know their request has been for a bigger building and I will be speaking with the Minister of Education regarding that concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 159-13(6): Pelly Bay Gymnasium

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to my question. I thank the Minister for her adequate response and for making her response clear to me. I understand that funding is a problem. Can the Minister indicate to me as to when she can expect to get back to me? Hopefully, it will be prior to my return to my community, before December 11th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 159-13(6): Pelly Bay Gymnasium

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to December 11th, and hopefully during this session, I will be able to get together with the Member for Natilikmiot and with the Minister of Education regarding this concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 160-13(6): Update on Post-Division Power Corporation

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister for NTPC. Can the Minister update us with the status on the NTPC division issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Dent.

Return to Question 160-13(6): Update on Post-Division Power Corporation

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this point the parties are preparing to meet to discuss a transition document which would outline the process for the next two or three years. That agreement would most likely see the administration of the Power Corporation remaining in Hay River, under an operating arm of the

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corporation, but clearly setting out the process for dividing the utility into two operating utilities at the end of that agreement. However, it is my hope in the meantime that the two governments will find some way to come to the table and conclude an agreement that would see one utility maintained. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Supplementary To Question 160-13(6): Update on Post-Division Power Corporation

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is a division with NTPC, and I understand in Nunavut, our area, we would have to pay seven percent and then in the western Arctic it would be five percent. If I understand clearly, both territories would be out of deficit. Would there be any subsidies if there was a division within the Power Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 160-13(6): Update on Post-Division Power Corporation

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is approximately right the estimate would be an increase of about five percent for western power users and a minimum of seven percent for Nunavut power users. Probably ten percent or higher, over what they are paying now. That is just an ongoing power cost. The residents of Nunavut would also have to finance the cost of a new headquarters, like an office building, which would drive up their costs even farther, Mr. Speaker. Those would be one time costs.

As things stand right now, there is no provision for the transfers from Ottawa to make up that difference, so all of those costs would come out of the pockets of rate payers. If the Member is asking about the power subsidy program, that is a government program. It would still be up to the two governments to determine whether or not that program still exists. It is not something that is tied to the existence of one power corporation or two power corporations. That is a government program. The current government chooses to fund that program out of dividends that are paid by the Power Corporation. I think it is important the public recognize it would still be a government decision as to whether or not there is a power subsidy program. I am confident both governments will decide there must be such a program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 161-13(6): Employee Rental Rates

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Housing. It is in reference to the rents that are presently being charged for government employees, teachers, nurses and so on. Mr. Speaker, my question is, is there any mechanism or monitoring device in place that watches over what the rental rates are for the various employees?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return to Question 161-13(6): Employee Rental Rates

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two possible ways that rental rates for housing is set. One is economic rate, and that is just the rates of operating the housing units, and the other way is that reserved for lower income tenants of social housing and staff housing. These rates are set by policy of the local housing authorities. If there are discrepancies or concerns, there is a rental housing officer that can review complaints in these matters. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 161-13(6): Employee Rental Rates

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question was more directed to who will enforce this? I understand the situation with public housing, but I am more concerned about the housing provided for the teachers and nurses and so on.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 161-13(6): Employee Rental Rates

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are specific concerns from individual employees or tenants, what I would suggest is that those concerns are raised with myself or the Minister of FMBS and we can look at them on a case-by-case basis. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 162-13(6): Apex Drug and Alcohol Centre Closure

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. After much consideration, the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board recently announced the closure of the Drug and Alcohol Centre in Apex. I wonder if the Minister could update this House on the Department of Health's involvement in that decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 162-13(6): Apex Drug and Alcohol Centre Closure

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department had no involvement in that decision. I think it is a good example of board empowerment. They are recognizing the

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lack of use of the facility, the ineffectiveness of some of the alcohol and drug programs that have been provided. Stepping back, with the temporary closure, in trying to take a look at how they can more effectively deliver programs for their constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 162-13(6): Apex Drug and Alcohol Centre Closure

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Department of Health then be monitoring the review of the services and help expenditure the resumption of services offered by the Treatment Centre in Apex? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 162-13(6): Apex Drug and Alcohol Centre Closure

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after we did learn of the closure, of course our staff did contact the staff of the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board to find out what exactly was being contemplated and to be assured there were services that would be provided to those individuals who would need it. At the same time, recognizing they made that decision, confirming there is going to be services available, whether or not locally or having to be sent out. The fact remains, it is their decision. If they request some assistance in developing the new programs and what they want to provide for their service area, then certainly we would be more than willing to assist in that regard.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 162-13(6): Apex Drug and Alcohol Centre Closure

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from those answers I gather that indeed, the Baffin Regional Health Board has made the decision themselves to close down the treatment centre in Apex and not with consultation with the government itself, if it is up to the board through our community empowerment process. My follow up supplemental question would be, can the Minister then assure the people of Iqaluit, of the Baffin region of Nunavut, that indeed there will be no disruption to the services previously offered by that facility in Apex, until it reopens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 162-13(6): Apex Drug and Alcohol Centre Closure

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I can reassure him in the respect that the board is still expected to provide residential treatment services to those individuals within their service area that require it. That is the agreement they have with us. If there are any deficiencies or people not being treated as a result of the closure, then we would actively intervene and make sure that situation was remedied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 163-13(6): Recruitment of Health Professionals

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health, Mr. Ng. Today, the Minister talked about the Recruitment and Retention Program and has already answered some questions in this House.

The Minister stated that he is going to put some additional funds in, but the largest thing that I see here in this report is that he has hired an individual, a specialist as he called it, a front line worker, to assist the different health boards with recruitment and retention. I believe some of the questions he has answered has talked more about the retention of employees and also its long-term retention. I am not hearing any immediate concerns addressed for health care professionals as was brought up in this House in the past number of days. Could the Minister address what is being done to address the shortage of health care professionals in some communities, such as Mr. Steen alluded to in this House the last couple of days? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 163-13(6): Recruitment of Health Professionals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member is correct. A lot of the initiatives, as I have indicated, are

more of medium or longer term in trying to develop a sustainable workforce, but in the short term there is the locum relief pool as I had indicated is the main focus. There are significant resources dedicated towards that area providing, hopefully, a base of individuals that would be able to go in and assist communities where there is immediate need. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 163-13(6): Recruitment of Health Professionals

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. Could the Minister give us a time frame on which this locum group will set up that will be able to address the concerns that have been raised in this House of immediacy for health care professions, particularly nurses in some of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 163-13(6): Recruitment of Health Professionals

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HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I had indicated, that was one of the aspects that had already, even prior to being specifically funded, been initiated. There are some human resources in that area right now but obviously we would like to see it developed more. This will give us an opportunity to accelerate that process and hopefully be able to provide more individuals in that area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 163-13(6): Recruitment of Health Professionals

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I recall the Med-Emerg Report, that \$750,000 document, I

believe many of the recommendations that it alluded to are only now being implemented. I mean, it did talk about professional development and such things as the Minister is proposing. Could the Minister maybe give us some indication as to why it would have taken so long for him to get to this, for his department to get this to a stage that he could present it to the FMBS for putting some funds toward this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 163-13(6): Recruitment of Health Professionals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as all Members are aware, the Med-Emerg Report was a development of a strategic plan that is still ongoing. As it stands now, a lot of the strategies that were identified are into the implementation stages and into full consultation with some of the health care providers throughout the Northwest Territories. Quite frankly, one of the reasons why we did not accelerate, I guess, the aspect of the financing of the preliminary retention plan is that there are a lot of other needs out there as well, as you know, that the department has been actively pursuing and it is time management, quite frankly, of some of the resources that we have in addressing ongoing issues, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 163-13(6): Recruitment of Health Professionals

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the question of retention and recruitment, does the Minister sincerely believe that, as we have taken away the housing, sold all the housing, that nurses in particular who lived in the communities, we have removed the travel benefits, we have reduced our salaries by six percent, does the Minister have some good feelings that what he is proposing in this latest initiative will go much further to improving a situation that is already taking place in some of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 163-13(6): Recruitment of Health Professionals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt it is recognized that, you know, the removal of the vacation travel assistance and the housing benefits has had an impact on all our employees throughout the government, nurses as well. I think that what is important to recognize is that some of the non-financial supports are outlined, as I have outlined today, in our recruitment and retention plan that will go a long way towards assisting the health care professions. I think in the long run, some of the collective agreement process, hopefully, will alleviate some of the pressure in the long term. It is an issue that we are going to have to continue to keep on top of and continue to be promoting and working towards improving, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 164-13(6): Invitation to Meet with Rae-Edzo Residents

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the honourable Minister of Housing, Goo Arlooktoo, regarding the visit and recent public meeting they had in the community, that the community had confusion over the housing policy as it is. They wanted to know whether the Minister would be able to come to the community. I was asked to ask the Minister if he will be able to have time to come and meet with my constituency members from the Rae-Edzo community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return to Question 164-13(6): Invitation to Meet with Rae-Edzo Residents

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received an invitation to attend a public meeting in Rae-Edzo this month, but unfortunately in the time period that the meeting will

be held, I will be out of town. What I have arranged for is to have senior officials from the Housing Corporation here in Yellowknife to be available to go to the public meeting. What we have also done is to have some meetings between our staff and the staff of the Rae-Edzo Housing Authority to see if we could alleviate some of the concerns and deal with some of the issues that are being raised immediately. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 165-13(6): Youth Addiction Centre Closure

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Kelvin Ng, Minister of Health and Social Services. Yesterday, I was able to address several questions to the Minister regarding the closure of the Territorial Youth Addiction Centre here in Yellowknife. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if, in the plan to do an overall review between now and

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December 31st of all treatment services for youth, I wonder if the Minister could tell us, who will be involved in this particular development of the overall review? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 165-13(6): Youth Addiction Centre Closure

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have all the details of the individuals involved. I certainly can get that information for the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 165-13(6): Youth Addiction Centre Closure

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could also tell us, in his decision to work with Northern

Addiction Services to close the youth centre here in Yellowknife, if there was a study done of the costs of sending youth south, comparatively to keeping the treatment centre open until April 1st of next year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 165-13(6): Youth Addiction Centre Closure

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, not at this time. What has been recognized is that there has been a low turnout in respect to services that have been provided in the current youth treatment program with Northern Addiction Services. There has been a high vacancy rate, quite frankly, and that is one of the reasons that led to this decision as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 165-13(6): Youth Addiction Centre Closure

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could tell us, he mentioned yesterday that the youth will be assessed on a needs basis and I wonder if he could tell us where those ones that are found that do need assistance will be sent? I understand in the south, but if he could tell us some of the treatment centres that are used. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 165-13(6): Youth Addiction Centre Closure

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I do not have the detail of actual facilities. We also have, of course, the Territorial Treatment Centre and Trail Cross in the Northwest Territories, as well, that may be able to provide some of the services. As I indicated, it would be on a needs basis, on a case-by-case assessment, and depending what the needs are. The facilities, I

will certainly get that information for the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 165-13(6): Youth Addiction Centre Closure

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since there is a possibility of using the Trail Cross Centre, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if he will look at the financial implications of keeping the Yellowknife centre open until April 1st versus, for example, using other centres here or in the south? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 165-13(6): Youth Addiction Centre Closure

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not prepared to, at this time. As I said yesterday in answering the questions, there has been an agreement reached between the department and Northern Addiction Services and we are committed to continue to provide services to youth who may require it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 166-13(6): Invitation to Meet with Rae Lakes Residents

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the right honourable Minister for MACA. Regarding revisiting the community of Rae Lakes, I guess we have made some attempt in the past regarding the trip to Rae Lakes. I was wondering if the Minister would be able to have time to visit the community of Rae Lakes to explain the community's problems and concerns in the community of Rae Lakes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 166-13(6): Invitation to Meet with Rae Lakes Residents

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did have the opportunity to go up, but it did not happen. We just saw a herd of caribou and turned back because of the fog. My calendar is pretty full right now, but I will have my officials contact the community and see what the concerns are and deal with those problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Just to remind the Members about when you are addressing the other honourable Members, the title to right honourable only belongs to the prime minister or former prime ministers. Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

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Question 167-13(6): Minimum Wage Rates

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just referring back to my Member's statement on the minimum wage rates, I am wondering if the Minister could indicate how the minimum wage rate for the Northwest Territories is ascertained? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

This was addressed to the Minister of Finance, but it is the Minister of Justice.

Return to Question 167-13(6): Minimum Wage Rates

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minimum wage is set out in the Labour Standards Act, and from the information I have in my binder, it is set at \$6.50 an hour for those over 16 and \$6.00 for those who are under 16. In order to make a change or amendment to the minimum wage, it would require a change in the legislation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 5-13(6): Project to Reconstruct Highway 3

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The road between Yellowknife and Rae has been a safety concern for many years. I understand the Department of Transportation will soon begin construction to pave and realign this portion of the highway. Mr. Speaker, my written question is:

1. How much money has been allocated to this project?
2. Over how many years will this project be undertaken?
3. How much money will be spent in each of these years?
4. Who are the contractors and for what portion of the contract have they been hired for?
5. Will local preference be taken into consideration when contracts are awarded?
6. Who will be taking the right of clearing of the highway?
7. Will the Department of Transportation use some principles it used for the residents of Fort Providence, such as local aboriginal negotiating the right of way work on a portion of the highway nearest to the community?
8. Will the majority of services be done by local businesses?
9. Will heavy equipment operators with journeymen tickets be given first preference in hiring?
10. Will the GNWTs share of the benefits of this project remain in the north, in the communities that are affected by this project?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees

on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 28-13(5): Letter from Holman Community Corporation Requesting Changes to Nunakput Electoral Boundaries

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a letter here from the community of Holman. It is a petition in letter form from the community of Holman, in my riding of Nunakput, addressed to the House through yourself as Speaker.

The petition relates to the boundary commission report and requests consideration of their wishes for an amendment to the existing boundaries of the Nunakput riding. With your permission, I would like to table the document.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. Enuaraq.

Tabled Document 29-13(6): Pangnirtung Search and Rescue Participants

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to table a document containing 61 names of all the people who were involved in the search and rescue in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Motion 8-13(6): Establishment of the Special Committee on Nunavut Legislation

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 9, 1998 I will move the following motion:

Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that this Assembly establish a special committee to be named the Special Committee on Nunavut Legislation;

And further, that notwithstanding Rule 88(2), the Special Committee on Nunavut Legislation shall consist of six Members;

And furthermore, that the following Members be appointed to the Special Committee on Nunavut Legislation:

Mr. Levi Barnabas, Member for High Arctic

Mr. Tommy Enuaraq, Member for Baffin Central

Mr. Mark Evaloarjuk, Member for Amittuq

Mr. John Ningark, Member for Natilikmiot

Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Member for Kivallivik

Mr. Ed Picco, Member for Iqaluit

And furthermore, that the Special Committee on Nunavut Legislation shall consider such bills related to Nunavut as are referred to it by the House;

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And furthermore, that the Special Committee on Nunavut Legislation shall be bound by the rules, practices, conventions, guidelines and precedents of this House and its committees respecting the review of bills;

And furthermore, that the Special Committee on Nunavut Legislation and its mandate shall cease to exist on March 31, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Todd.

Motion 9-13(6): Approval of Formula Financing Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 9, 1998 I will make the following motion:

Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that the Legislative Assembly hereby approves Tabled Document 25-13(6) titled "Territorial Formula Financing Agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories, 1999/2000 to 2003/2004". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. 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):

There will be a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Friday, November 6, 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
 - Motion 7-13(6) Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission Report to Committee of the Whole
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

- Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Worker's
Compensation Act, No. 2

- Bill 12, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment
Act, 1998, No. 2

- Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriations Act,
No. 3, 1998/99

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday,
November 6th at 10:00 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT