



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
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**HANSARD**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Erasmus, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Steen, Honourable Maniok Thompson, Honourable John Todd.

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

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

**SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):**

Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Minister's Statement 56-13(6): Minister Absent From the House

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Charles Dent will be absent from the House today to attend the Beaufort Delta Leaders Conference in Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement 134-13(6): Quality of NorthwesTel Services

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have received concerns about the quality of the NorthwesTel services in the community I represent. As well, I have heard concerns raised to me in Yellowknife about the quality of services, about interac services crashing on busy days in grocery stores, and people being told when they pick up the phone that all circuits are busy, try again later. It is

the opinion of the people in Fort Smith that the system they have there, in spite of the good and hard work of the technicians who live there, is inadequate for the needs of Fort Smith. I have had banks tell me in Yellowknife that they cannot get multiple lines into their businesses. I wrote to the president on October 20th. I got a very nice, compassionate letter from the acting assistant vice-president of customer services. This lady who replied to me, seems to be very caring, but my concern is what does the president have to say about the services. Can he not be bothered responding himself? I know they are just a subsidiary of Bell Canada and they are a monopoly up here, but those times are changing. If they want to ensure customer loyalty, I think it would be important for them to make the effort from the highest level on down, to address the needs of the people in the communities.

I would venture to say, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the people in Fort Smith and Yellowknife are alone in their concerns about the service from NorthwesTel. In fact, on my computer this morning was a message saying, NorthwesTel still cannot figure out what is going on with their communication systems in the north and bear with them, they will try to fix it up. While I thank the acting assistant vice-president for her letter, I am very disappointed that the president himself could not find time to put some attention to this issue. We are not alone in this and competition is coming and, if they want customer loyalty, they are going to have to start working at it because, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, NorthwesTel, in spite of its good employees in the communities, has an image problem if nothing else. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 135-13(6): Construction of the Rae-Edzo Airstrip

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to inform this House that despite the lack of support from this government the Dogrib Rae Band has continued the construction of the Rae-Edzo airport. Mr. Speaker, with very limited resources the Dogrib Rae Band is training 20 people in the use of heavy equipment operation. Aurora college and 20 other government agencies have refused to provide support for a project which is probably more successful in training operators than many courses offered by the college. These young people are being

trained to work in the construction industry by working long hours, six days a week. I am very proud of the work that has been done by these trainees. Mr. Speaker, unless the airstrip is completed and employees working at the mines are flown directly to their home community of Rae-Edzo, it will continue to be difficult to retain all these people who have to travel through Yellowknife before they get home. Experience has shown that unless employees are flown directly to their home community, social problems will increase. Mr. Speaker, the airstrip being built in Rae-Edzo will bring business opportunities to the community. It is not the intent of this project to compete with the capital city, as honourable Members from Yellowknife have expressed. Rae-Edzo has an unemployment rate of approximately 43 percent and my constituents feel that the residents of Yellowknife will also benefit from the airstrip. Studies have shown that 80 percent of the incomes earned in Rae-Edzo are spent in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, the work completed on this project has already

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saved this government a significant amount of money. The Dogrib Rae Band is prepared to arrange the funding for this project if it can obtain a commitment from this government to include the airstrip in its capital plan. Mr. Speaker, unless funding can be found to stockpile material and complete the design work this winter, the project will be unable to continue next year. Will the Department of Transportation provide interim funding for this work? When will the project be included in this government's capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 136-13(6): Workers' Compensation Board Division Transition Measures

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak about some concerns that are out there regarding the potential division of the Workers' Compensation Board. The decision to pursue a transition arrangement was taken after the Western Coalition notified the government that there was no compelling

reason to support the territorial government's proposal for a joint WCB. As a result, in August, Minister Todd indicated that discussions were underway to develop a transition plan for the division of the Workers' Compensation Board. In September, the Minister spoke about a \$20 million operating surplus for 1997, and a catastrophe reserve of \$10 million. There is \$200 million accumulated in the investment account.

The question of course is, what will happen to these monies? The board has not notified employers, nor workers, on what plans have been made to deal with the impact of division. A number of stakeholder groups such as the NWT and the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, the NWT Fire Chiefs Association, St. John's Ambulance, the NWT Construction Association and the NWT Chamber of Mines have been trying to meet with the WCB Board and key staff to discuss these surplus funds and other issues. These organizations have a right and a responsibility to look into this concern and ask questions - after all, they are the ones who contributed the funds in the first place. They are concerned that policy decisions may be made without consultation from the employers who pay into the fund, nor the workers who are the beneficiaries.

Some concerns relate to such questions as how will the investment and catastrophe reserve monies be divided, or will those reserve funds be returned to those who made the contributions? There is also concern by these organizations about the recent downturn in financial markets and how it has affected the investments of these funds. In other words what is the true value of these funds today? There is a need for the WCB to address these questions and the many others these organizations may have. I would urge Minister Todd, being the Minister responsible, to immediately address the concerns of these organizations. Later, in question period, Mr. Speaker, I will be addressing some questions in this regard to the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 137-13(6): Infrastructure Committee Visit to Tuktoyaktuk

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Steen alluded to the visit that the Infrastructure Committee made to his community of Tuktoyaktuk and I would like to talk

about that today also, Mr. Speaker. On the weekend of September 25th, I was fortunate enough to travel with Mr. Steen and the Standing Committee on Infrastructure to Tuktoyaktuk. At this point, I would like to thank the Mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, Mr. Eddie Dillon, and the hamlet council and the MLA for Nunakput, Mr. Vince Steen, for the wonderful hospitality that was extended to our committee. We were given tours of the hamlet, opportunities to meet with local residents and attended a community feast and drum dance in honour of our visit. On the evening of September 25th, the standing committee met with the hamlet council and members of the public for close to four hours. During this time, we covered a variety of issues which included the erosion of the shoreline, the nursing shortage, funding for roads, community empowerment and regional self-government. The experience of the trip to Tuktoyaktuk was of immense value to the committee and certainly for myself.

In the past three years, the issue that has dominated the proceedings and plans of the 13th Assembly and the territorial government has been the need to manage the precarious financial situation that we as a government have found ourselves in. Austere measures have been implemented; in some situations, we had to do more with less. The austerity has affected the very essence of the Northwest Territories consensus style of government.

Mr. Speaker, for consensus government to operate properly, it is absolutely necessary for the Members of the Legislative Assembly to know what individuals in a riding 1000 miles away from our own are concerned with. What will be the ramifications of our decisions outside our own riding? It is imperative that those who are involved in making decisions travel to different communities, meet with people and understand the problems within that community. If we had not had the opportunity to see for ourselves, the problems that are faced in other communities it is easy to become focused upon those within our own riding. For consensus government to function properly, all MLAs must pursue the collective interest of northern residents. If Members do not look past the interests of their own ridings, we destroy the very foundation upon which consensus government operates. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we

have any nays? Mr. Henry, you have unanimous consent.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk for the wonderful experience and also Mr. Steen for inviting the committee to experience the

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hospitality of that community. I would like to also point out that hopefully next time my colleague, Mr. Ootes, and myself will be able to join in the drum dancing too with better skills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 138-13(6): Availability of Housing in Iqaluit

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit is experiencing very strong pressure with regard to the availability of housing. Social housing, as well as private family homes that are available for sale, are in short supply. The private marketplace is building new housing, but already much of this is spoken for. The local housing authority is also under pressure to supply homes that are not available. Mr. Speaker, proactive work and support of Mr. Arlooktoo, the Minister of Housing, has helped us replace our homeless shelter. The need for more housing will continue to grow as the community expands. Mr. Speaker, would extra funding for EDAP programs or other housing programs be available to help our situation? I have met several times now with our local housing association and our local Housing Corporation manager and believe that the new Nunavut government will have to address this serious concern very quickly in its mandate. Later today, I will have an opportunity to ask Mr. Arlooktoo some questions on the availability of EDAP programs for Iqaluit.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 139-13(6): Tsiigehtchic Airstrip Requirements

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to talk about the concerns of airports, especially in the community of Tsiigehtchic that I represent. The community does not have any air transportation links either for aircraft or a site which has been located for airplanes to land. Mr. Speaker, the community of Tsiigehtchic, 12 to 15 weeks of the year, is cut off from the rest of the communities in the Mackenzie Delta during freeze-up and break-up. Mr. Speaker, one thing that we also have to realize that in case of emergencies and also for delivery of goods and services, the community does not receive produce and also access to the benefits that other communities get because of having an airstrip or access year-round.

It is important that all communities in the Northwest Territories have adequate air support in regard to airports. I think what Rae and the community of Tsiigehtchic are asking for, is something not more than any other community has, year-round access by air. It is important, especially during emergencies, that they do have the ability to have a way of having their emergencies dealt with by aircraft which are accessible and also during those times of the year when there are a lot of cases where we find ourselves in an emergency situation, where there are no nurses in these communities. Also the whole cost of living goes up because of having to find other ways of getting your goods and services in. Because these communities do not have airports, they are not eligible for federal funding in regard to the subsidies communities get for groceries and what-not which are mailed to your communities. I think also that should be looked at by this government. At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister a question on the problem in Tsiigehtchic and what is being done about it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 140-13(6): Quality of NorthwesTel Services

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Similar to Mr. Miltenberger, I had also written a letter to NorthwesTel concerning

some complaints I had received. I received a letter indicating that basically there is nothing wrong. Mr. Speaker, there have been many occasions, and too many of those occasions for my wife, that when I have had to phone home from a community and when we were talking we could hear echoes and sounds like the ocean is in the background. One time she thought I was calling from Hawaii.

--Laughter

Also, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of times when you phone information and you have to wait and wait and wait and wait, or you could phone the operator and you have to wait for an awful long time. These things, I think, are unacceptable when we are moving towards that area, a time, when we are going to open up this territory for competition. There are also other times when you are in the middle of a telephone conversation and you get disconnected. We should not have to deal with those types of things, Mr. Speaker. When we put in letters of complaint, we will expect that the company moves to try and rectify these problems. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement 141-13(6): Concerns Regarding Communications Infrastructure

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while my colleagues are talking about a communicating line problem in the territories, I want to talk about the same issue, which relates to the Kitikmeot region. Mr. Speaker, when I attended the Kitikmeot Leaders' Forum in Cambridge Bay, that took place from November 13 to 15, many issues I indicated yesterday were discussed. One of the important issues, I think, was the communication line in the Kitikmeot region. Mr. Speaker, communication is critical, especially in the smaller remote communities. The Kitikmeot Leaders' Forum recognizes, Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot region have continually experienced problems when attempting to call outside half the communities. Mr. Speaker, the isolated communities of the Kitikmeot region depend on a reliable communications system. Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Leaders' Forum were looking for the alternative means of communication that can be accessed in emergency situations. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of

Health for alternative communication solutions in the event of a medical problem in

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement 142-13(6): NWT Protected Areas Strategy

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak a little on the NWT's Protected Area Strategy. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this Protected Area Strategy would apply to almost anywhere in the Northwest Territories and my particular concern is for the Inuvialuit settlement region. Mr. Speaker, under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, there were certain boards and committees established for anyone to have access to the development process that would be planned by developers. This was to allow all interested bodies and groups to put forward their concerns. However, the initial plan was that rather than have Greenpeace or Friends of the Earth, or other environmental groups controlling the Inuvialuit lands and development of Inuvialuit lands, the Environmental Screening Committee, the environmental review boards were established to make those types of decisions and recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that the GNWT has membership on these boards. Therefore, the people wonder why another agency is being set up that does not seem to recognize the existence of these boards that were established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement for basically the same reason. Mr. Speaker, Inuvialuit have already designated 29 percent of their lands in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region towards parks, wildlife, sanctuaries of all types, and we are now finding that in order to have development, we are competing or having to address concerns of other groups in our area. If you take Paulatuk for instance as an example, in that particular park, we have lost the ability to have development proceed in that particular area. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in concluding my statement, I would like to point out to the RWED department, who are sponsoring this Protected Area Strategy, that we need to have flexible rules and governing that will govern our Inuvialuit region. Right now, we do not need any more rules from any other agencies that would, in fact, serve just to prevent us from developing our region and supplying economic opportunities and jobs for the people that are much needed. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, at the proper time today, I will be directing questions to the Minister of RWED in this regard. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Return To Oral Question 146-13(6): Transpolar Flights

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ootes on November 4th, in regard to transpolar flights.

On Wednesday, November 4, 1998, the Member for Yellowknife Centre asked me about the implications for the Northwest Territories of Russia opening up its national airspace for transpolar commercial flights.

Geographically, transpolar air routes are often the most direct and efficient great circle routes to and from points on the earth's northern hemisphere. During the Cold War, potential routes across Russian airspace were closed to international traffic. Given the vast size of Russian airspace, this imposed tremendous distortions and inefficiencies on the routing of international traffic. The promised opening of Russian airspace will prove a great blessing for the air industry in time and fuel savings. In turn, literally everyone in the world stands to gain from the new shorter and less expensive transpolar routes.

For all that, the opening of a transpolar route across Russia, will have almost no effect on the Northwest Territories. Commercial air carriers have been flying

transpolar routes over the Northwest Territories for many years now. Very few transpolar flights have occasion to land at our airports and when they do, it is most often for passenger-related reasons. The new Russian routes will certainly generate more transpolar traffic but this will have little or no direct impact on the Northwest Territories or our airport system. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Thompson.

**ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize in the gallery, Geela Qaqqaiq, my previous secretary, and her Mom who is visiting her here.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 168-13(6): Communication Systems Concerns

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I made a Member's statement regarding alternative needs of communication, my mind was focused at the Minister of Health. In essence, I indicated I would ask a question. My question should more appropriately be directed to the Minister of Public Works and Safety instead of the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the Kitikmeot Leaders Forum talked about the communication system, a problem with the communication system in the Kitikmeot region. We have heard from our colleagues that they have similar problems in the west. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to emergency situations, having a problem with communication is very critical. My

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question to the honourable Minister of Public Works and Services is will the Minister communicate the need to have an alternate means of communication in our region? In this case, perhaps we can provide

MSAT to health centres in the Kitikmeot region in the event the communication system of the conventional type is out of order. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return to Question 168-13(6): Communication Systems Concerns

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I think it is a very good idea. My colleague, the honourable Member, the Minister for MACA, had indicated that some of the hamlet councils do have MSATs in their offices. I could check with her and also with my colleague through Health and Social Services to see what kind of arrangements could be made. In the far Arctic communities, I think it is very essential for these communications to stay open. Once the telephone goes down, we could run into some serious problems so I think it is a very good point and I will look into it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 168-13(6): Communication Systems Concerns

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in order to ensure the Kitikmeot Leaders Forum is informed, I am wondering if the honourable Minister would direct his staff to communicate a request and a positive response from the Minister to the Kitikmeot Leaders Forum office in Cambridge Bay? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 168-13(6): Communication Systems Concerns

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you have the Minister from MACA who is also responsible for emergency measures and I think this is an item that I

will raise with my colleague. I will deal with it in that manner. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 168-13(6):  
Communication Systems Concerns

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister, since he indicated positively, ensure this House and the people in the Natilikmiot region that a dedicated line will be provided at no additional cost to health centres in the region? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 168-13(6):  
Communication Systems Concerns

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will look into it and get back to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 169-13(6): Application of Protected Area Strategy

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement I have a question for the honourable Mr. Kakfwi, Minister of RWED. I welcome him back. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time my constituents are concerned about the Protected Area Strategy and how it is going to be applied to the Inuvialuit settlement region. As I pointed out in my statement, we already have under the final agreement agencies in place to have controlled access to the land and access to the wildlife areas, and in particular, hunting areas. We also have land rules, which in many cases, exceed federal legislation. My question to the Minister is, what is the necessity for the Protected Area Strategy in the Inuvialuit settlement area? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return to Question 169-13(6): Application of Protected Area Strategy

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was in Ottawa earlier this week making a presentation to the Senate Committee that was reviewing the proposed park, the Tukut Nogait National Park. I made a point to the federal government and the Senate, that the Inuvialuit have made tremendous contributions to providing protected areas within their settlement region already, and that we were currently drafting an overall Protected Area Strategy for the whole of the western part of the Northwest Territories at this time. I was concerned that unless the federal government showed some flexibility in regard to the concern that the Inuvialuit had about the proposed national park that it may affect the way in which we go about completing the Protected Area Strategy. At the end of the day, I think the Member knows that the Inuvialuit do not need a Protected Area Strategy. It is more for everyone else that would love the comfort of knowing what an overall strategy would be. Namely, the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

It is true that the Inuvialuit have already made substantially more than their contribution in comparison to everyone else in Canada. They have gone again as willing partners in the development of the Protected Area Strategy. When it comes to a point where the flexibility and the goodwill and the spirit that they went into the development of the strategy with, is not reflected by the federal government who make up a significant portion of the partnership and made up the strategy, it does cause concern. I will be speaking to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation early next week to decide what should be done, if

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anything at all, in regard to these recent developments. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 169-13(6): Application of Protected Area Strategy



**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that response. I find it very favourable and I am glad to hear that the department recognizes the fact that the Inuvialuit have contributed far more than anyone else in allowing their lands to be used for parks, both federal and territorial, and for areas of protected wildlife. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is in the future are we going to have to address specific concerns drawn up by Friends of the Earth or Greenpeace through the Protected Area Strategy rather than simply dealing with it through the existing boards and agencies set up by the Inuvialuit under their agreement? That is my concern right now, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 169-13(6): Application of Protected Area Strategy

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent of the strategy was simply to take the aboriginal organizations like the Inuvialuit in partnership with the federal government and the territorial government to develop an overall strategy on how to go about identifying and putting in place protected areas, coordinating our efforts and prioritizing our work together. There is no intention to undermine or circumvent the institutions and the processes that are in place in the respected regions. There is no intent to circumvent that whatsoever. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 170-13(6): Air Links to Tsiigehtchic

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation, regarding my Member's statement and the situation that Tsiigehtchic finds itself in with the isolation every year of almost three to four months in which the community is cut off from the rest of the other communities in the Delta that surround it. Also, in the case of emergencies, it is difficult getting goods and services into that community during that period of time. I would like to ask the Minister, what is being done to

improve the air links to the community of Tsiigehtchic at this time?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 170-13(6): Air Links to Tsiigehtchic

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the situation in Tsiigehtchic has been there for a number of years now. During the spring break-up and the fall freeze-up, the community finds itself isolated to a certain degree. However, there are helicopter services there for medical reasons. The department has done studies to look at different options and I am told by the department that the studies indicate that the existing transportation system with helicopter medevac services is the most cost-effective means of transportation access at this time. Although the helicopter landing situation is not really safe, the department had gone into the community of Tsiigehtchic this summer and made plans to relocate the helipad to a new location during this coming fiscal year so that should alleviate their problem. As for a permanent airstrip, again I have to go back to the financial situation of the department, it is difficult to make a large financial commitment at this time for any type of airport. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 170-13(6): Air Links to Tsiigehtchic

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me exactly what the amount of the expenditure is going to be for this particular project? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 170-13(6): Air Links to Tsiigehtchic

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is something that will be going into the business plan and has not been approved yet. It is just an estimate at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 170-13(6): Air Links to Tsiigehtchic

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me in a ballpark figure, are we talking similar expenditure for other helipad facilities, for instance, in Fort Good Hope or Fort McPherson, that already exist? Is that what we are talking about, the general helipad constructed on a similar basis as in other communities? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 170-13(6): Air Links to Tsiigehtchic

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it will be a helipad comparable to other ones that we have constructed in other communities. I cannot give the Member a round figure at this time, it is still in the process of being put into the business plan and we still have to go through the process of approving it. It is in the plans to get it done. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 171-13(6): Communications Concerns in the NWT

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**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Public Works and Services in regard to the concerns I raised in this House earlier about NorthwesTel and the complaints I have received. The concerns I have raised and we have heard in this House, are symptomatic of concerns across the north. I recognize the issue of

telecommunications is very complicated with rates, zones, large centres and small centres, but there is a concern that NorthwesTel as a monopoly is complacent and tend to take things for granted. I do not think that the digital communications network is going to resolve all of the problems or existing concerns. My question to the Minister is, would he be prepared to write to the president and pass on the fact that there are concerns raised in this House and that he thinks the president should devote some personal attention to these issues? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return to Question 171-13(6): Communications Concerns in the NWT

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is correct that the company, NorthwesTel is a private company, and we cannot really tell it what to do. However, since this government is NorthwesTel's single largest customer, whenever we give them some direction or pass on our concerns they usually listen. I think in this case, I will pass on the concerns of the honourable Member to the president of NorthwesTel and see if he can put his own personal attention to this matter. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 171-13(6): Communications Concerns in the NWT

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister also indicate that in fact, the concerns are not just restricted to Fort Smith or possibly Yellowknife, but I would bet if you approached the MLAs they would have concerns that they have heard from their constituents. The point I think is important, if the Minister would commit to addressing, is pointing out to NorthwesTel that competition is coming and customer loyalty is hard to earn and easy to lose. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 171-13(6):  
Communications Concerns in the NWT

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mr. Speaker, I will pass on the concern to NorthwesTel. Even today here with the number of different concerns that were raised in Members' statements regarding communication and especially with the type of services that is being provided by NorthwesTel, there is a serious concern out there and I certainly will pass on the concern to the president of NorthwesTel. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca

Question 172-13(6): Funding Assistance for Rae-Edzo Airstrip

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, I discussed the success of the Rae-Edzo airstrip considering a lack of support this government has provided. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, the honourable Mr. Antoine, if he is prepared to assist the community by providing necessary funding for resources to stockpile material needed to complete the design of this very important initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 172-13(6): Funding Assistance for Rae-Edzo Airstrip

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I have been dealing with this issue with Grand Chief Joe Rabesca for a number of months now. Their last meeting was in mid-September and at that time the Grand Chief had also requested some funding for the airport that they are attempting to build in Rae-Edzo and requested some financial assistance. What the department had asked him to do is to see if our officials in the Department of Transportation could work with their officials to determine exactly what stage in the whole airport development they are at. From there, we will determine what the cost of this whole initiative is going to be so that we have an idea

of what type of funding is required to build this airport. However, at this point in time, we are still in that type of mode. We need to know from the work that is supposed to get done by these people that we are tasked with, and once they come back to us, we will have a better idea what it is that we are dealing with. At this point in time, we have not really committed any funds to do any work there yet, but we still are wanting to explore what we are dealing with first, before we make any decision in that matter. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca.

Supplementary To Question 172-13(6): Funding Assistance for Rae-Edzo Airstrip

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for giving me a good response, it is something the community wants to hear. However, in my earlier statement this morning, I have alluded to the Capital Plan Project and the future, if the Minister is prepared to include anything in the future capital projects on this very important initiative regarding the Rae-Edzo airstrip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 172-13(6): Funding Assistance for Rae-Edzo Airstrip

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

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to include this project in the capital plan is difficult because of the financial situation that this department is in. We all know the type of cutbacks that this department has gone through the last couple of years and we are still in a very difficult financial position. We are lucky to be able to maintain what infrastructure we have in terms of airports that are out there now and the highway system. Particularly on the airports, we do not have any capital money to build any new airports at this point in time. It would be very difficult to make any commitments to the honourable Member in committing such a large

amount of money towards a project of this nature at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 173-13(6): WCB Transition Plan Status

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for Minister Todd, responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, and as I referenced in my statement earlier today, there is concern out there about the potential division of the Workers' Compensation Board. The Minister and I believe the Workers' Compensation Board is working on a transition plan. My first question will be, I wonder if the Minister could tell us what the status of a transition plan for the organization is?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return to Question 173-13(6): WCB Transition Plan Status

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important to give a little bit of background or some history. The position of this government up until several months ago was that the Workers' Compensation Board should stay as one and, in fact, had supported the NIC Commission's recommendations a year and a half ago.

Unfortunately, there is a difference of opinion out there as to keeping it as one and it would be fair to say that there has been a significant amount of political pressure being put to bear by all the stakeholders, both on labour's side and on the employer's side that we should look at the possibility of two new Workers' Compensation Boards, east and west. Therefore, with that position being fairly entrenched at this time, it was incumbent upon us and myself as the chair of the Division Secretariat, if you want, to work towards a transition plan that would allow an orderly way in which two new Workers' Compensation Boards could be set up, and also to ensure that, particularly on the asset and liability side, that there was a transparent fair and equitable process to deal with that.

Currently, Mr. Bargery who works for the Division Secretariat was working with all the parties involved trying to develop an appropriate process that would allow the transition to take place, and to determine an appropriate time schedule through a sort of phased approach. He is currently working on that. I am advised on the notes that the work is proceeding on an intergovernmental transition plan and draft legislation amendments. The target set for the first drafts will be this week apparently and we will have to move forward on the legislative amendments in December of 1998. The discussions are under way. They are trying to reach a reasonable compromise. I am confident we will get that. I would caution everybody that the transition plan will have to be phased. There is no set-up in the eastern Arctic to put a Workers' Compensation Board in place but that will get done. There will be a fair hands-off approach to assets and liabilities and that will probably be done through that asset and liability table which is a technical exercise, not a political one. I am confident at the end of the day we will be able to move forward and ensure there is no disruption in service to both workers and employers and that the costs will be kept to a minimum. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 173-13(6): WCB Transition Plan Status

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you. I want to thank the Minister for that explanation which helps. There are a number of organizations that have been pressing for a meeting with the Workers' Compensation Board. I wonder if the Minister could press the officials of the Workers' Compensation Board to proceed with that because we are starting to run out of time, heading for April 1, 1999. I know we have to deal with legislation and so forth, but I think it is important for these organizations to be informed. Could the Minister get on to the board and direct them to meet with the organizations, or at least use his influence on that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 173-13(6): WCB Transition Plan Status

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think that is an important issue and if I can, it gives me an opportunity to give some clarity today. In defence of the Workers' Compensation Board, the chairperson of the board was prepared on March 13, six, seven months ago, to give a number of stakeholders a luncheon address, an update on the division strategy. Unfortunately, that did not take place. There have been discussions under way now since September and early October in an effort to address some of the concerns being presented by, for example, the NWT Construction Association, which has been a very aggressive advocate for the need for a public discussion on this. On October 7, 1998, Ms. Deneron wrote to the president of the NWT Chamber of Commerce, Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, NWT Chamber of Mines, Nunavut Chamber of Commerce, NWT Federation of Labour, NWT Construction Association, indicating that she was prepared to work with them as quickly as they can, and also indicating that Mr. Bargery and others were prepared to meet with all of these organizations to give them an update on the status of the Workers' Compensation Board as it relates to division.

The other important thing to point out, for my honourable colleague's benefit, is that both the Yellowknife and the NWT Chambers of Commerce are represented on the Western Coalition and the Western Coalition has been extremely active in this whole process since the beginning. There are also two

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members from the Aboriginal Summit, there is one member from the NWTAM. The point I am trying to make is, there have been ongoing discussions by a fairly representative group on the Workers' Compensation Board. The second part is, the legitimate concerns have been raised by the organizations that represent industry and labour. They are going to address that as quickly as they can. My understanding is the transition plan is being provided today to all the Members and that Ms. Deneron, her letter which I have a copy of dated October 7th, indicates that she is prepared to meet with all parties as quickly as possible in an effort to try and reassure both labour and the private sector that this process is a fair, transparent and equitable one. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 173-13(6): WCB  
Transition Plan Status

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister referencing the correspondence and the potential efforts made. I would like to, in that regard, make reference to the fact that on the 16th of October, the NWT Construction Association again asked the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board for a meeting and clarification of the process and to date, they have had not had an answer. My question, Mr. Speaker, further on the WCB, I wonder if the Minister could also give us, and those stakeholders concerned, an indication of the current value of the various funds, given the recent six month's downturn in the financial markets around the world? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 173-13(6): WCB  
Transition Plan Status

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I could appreciate that Mr. Bushey talks on a regular basis to my honourable colleague, Mr. Ootes, and he represents one particular interest, but I am telling you right now on October the 7th, Mr. Bushey got a copy of this letter where Ms. Deneron was prepared to meet with them and we are prepared to do that. I do not hear anybody out there ever saying, thank you very much Workers' Compensation Board, for the 35 percent decrease in the rates or for the fact that tomorrow, or next week, we will approve the YMIR which will be the best YMIR in Canada. Let us applaud the Workers' Compensation Board where it should be applauded and I never hear the Members saying anything about that. I suppose Mr. Bushey does not have the time to decide to talk about it.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have the current update on the fiscal framework of the Workers' Compensation Board, but I will provide it to him next week.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. I would like to caution Members regarding mentioning names of people who cannot defend themselves in this House. Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 173-13(6): WCB  
Transition Plan Status

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true that I am in touch with the Construction Association, both the chairman and the executive director on a regular basis. I would also like to make reference to the fact that the Minister points out the reduction, yes, it is very true, but the responsibility of the board is to ensure that there continues to be a lowering of costs if possible. That is the workers' and the organization's money. My question Mr. Speaker, when can we, as a House, see what the transition plan will be for the workers' compensation plan, in terms of approximate months?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 173-13(6): WCB  
Transition Plan Status

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I suppose it is fashionable in today's world to identify the problems. It takes a great deal of effort to find the solutions. Mr. Speaker, I will assure my honourable colleague that I will table the transition plan as quickly as I can. I believe if it is being provided, as I said in an earlier statement, it is being provided to these organizations that work closely with us. Today I do not see a problem that we could not provide the Members with the transition plan, I will check with Mr. Bargery, but as quickly as we can. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Question 174-13(6): Availability of

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Housing in Iqaluit

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, referring back to my earlier Member's statement on the housing situation in Iqaluit, I know that the Minister for Housing is aware of the severe housing and private housing shortage in Iqaluit. Can the Minister inform the House if his department has looked at this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return to Question 174-13(6): Availability of Housing in Iqaluit

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it well known that there is a severe and growing shortage of housing in all parts of the NWT, particularly severe in a place like Iqaluit, the Member's constituency, which is growing at a very fast pace. Although there are houses being built, they are in no way keeping up with the demand. We recently have been working with the district office and the local housing authority to try to look at options on how that can be dealt with. What it really comes down to is resources, and there is a limited amount of resources but we continue to try to find options on how to deal with the shortage of housing. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 174-13(6): Availability of Housing in Iqaluit

**MR. PICCO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it possible to readdress any available slippage funds under EDAP or other monies to help out this situation?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 174-13(6): Availability of Housing in Iqaluit

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any slippage funds, the statement I made yesterday confirmed that because of the demand for the EDAP program, the funds had very quickly been depleted and that we are now trying to deal with the third and final year of applicants. I can assure the Member that I am doing all I can in working with my Cabinet and making sure that the federal government, the federal ministers who are responsible for DIAND and Housing, that they are well aware of our critical need.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 175-13(6): Update on Status of the Aurora Fund

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, it has been a while since we have heard any information on the Aurora Fund. I wonder if the Minister would give the House an update on the Aurora Fund? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 175-13(6): Update on Status of the Aurora Fund

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, the Aurora Fund. I believe I sent a complete update to each of the Members last week indicating that...Mr. Speaker was shaking his head, perhaps I did not. I thought I did. I am sure I sent a letter out to all the Members indicating what the latest....thank you, Mr. Steen, he obviously reads his mail....indicating where the Aurora Fund lending has gone. I do not have that detail with me here today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 175-13(6): Update on Status of the Aurora Fund

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I wonder if the Minister could tell us what will happen to the fund post division? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 175-13(6): Update on Status of the Aurora Fund

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you. Well, the fund really has a sunset clause and once the money all comes in and it is all out, it is the end of the fund if you want, it really does not exist. At some point it will fade away as they would say. If there are any additional lending monies available after division, I would assume that we would just keep it in place. I would not see it as part of, if you want an east/west fund, because it really is just a one-time fund, it ends, it is not ongoing.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 175-13(6): Update on Status of the Aurora Fund

**MR. O'BRIEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have the information that Mr. Todd sent out last week, but I wonder if he could recall what the amount of the fund is as of this date.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 175-13(6): Update on Status of the Aurora Fund

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

No I cannot, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, but I am sure if you have not got the information I will get if for him this afternoon. As I indicated many times on this issue of this fund, that I would provide the House on a continuing basis with a list of who the fund has lent its funds to. I am sorry but I do not have an update today at my fingertips as to what its position is. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 176-13(6): Proposal for Increased Transpolar Flights

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Transportation. I would like to ask him a few questions in relation to the response that he provided to the Member from Yellowknife Centre in reply to an oral question the other day on transpolar

flights. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicates that the promised opening of Russian airspace will prove a great blessing for their air industry in time and fuel savings and that, literally, everyone in the world stands to gain from new shorter and less expensive transpolar routes.

I think that he should have qualified that, it is everybody except us who stands to gain. Sometime ago with some northern transportation representative we had estimated that these new polar routes would garner NAV Canada something like \$125 million because of more flights going over us but that was based on 60,000 flights. Now the Russians are talking about 150,000, so the money that NAV Canada would make would be twice as much as what we had estimated. What I would like to ask the Minister is, is all that money that would be going to NAV Canada, will that be reflected in lower costs to us in the north since most of that money will be raised through the airspace that they are flying over the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

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Return to Question 176-13(6): Proposal for Increased Transpolar Flights

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think this line of questioning originated as a result of an article in the Globe and Mail, which I indicated the other day that I had not read, but I have read it since that time. In that article it indicates that it is a proposal that the Russians are putting forward. In the article it says that it may take about two or three years before it gets into full operation, so there is still a lot of time to consider this, if it is ever going to go ahead, so I would like to qualify that first. In regard to the honourable Members questioning as to whether we are going to benefit or not and everybody else is going to benefit, I do not know this, Mr. Speaker, because this is Canadian airspace we are dealing with. I do not think the provinces benefit from their own airspace every time there are international flights going over them. We in the Northwest Territories certainly do not benefit from transpolar flights that go over us. I think that Canada as a whole, the Canadian government, probably through NAV Canada, will probably benefit in that regard. I am not too familiar with that type of

arrangement with the transpolar flights so I would like to maybe reply in that manner. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 176-13(6): Proposal for Increased Transpolar Flights

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further along in the Minister's reply he had indicated that more transpolar traffic will have little or no direct impact on the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, currently when there is a flight that has taken off from an area that has radar services, they direct an overflying jet to a certain height. When our flights take off from here, we do not have radar so we have to fly underneath them. Our jets cannot go up to a higher level until it is very clear that the other jet has left that airspace. If there are going to be 60,000 to 100,000 more flights over us, it seems to me that we are always going to be flying in the clouds over here or maybe never get off the ground. So I was wondering how the Minister can say that this will not affect our transportation system here? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 176-13(6): Proposal for Increased Transpolar Flights

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the reply was in regard to the financial impact that we will experience here in the Northwest Territories. In the article it indicates that the Russians will benefit hundreds of millions of dollars per year if their full plan goes ahead in regard to the fees they collect for flights that go over their airspace. My reference to that affect is based on that. My reply was that in Canada, the Canadian government with Transport Canada, NAV Canada are the agencies in place to collect that type of fees, not necessarily the provincial or territorial government. We do not collect that kind of fees when there are transpolar flights over our airspace. That is my response and the oral question was based on that, that is how I said we will not get affected. However, if there are more flights over us, certainly we are going to be affected one way or the other. Like I said, this plan is to be put into place



maybe in the next two or three years, so we have some time here to analyse this new plan that the Russians are putting forward. At this point of time, I do not really have any clear idea of how all these new flights will affect us. It is going to have some effect on us, but I really do not know in what manner. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 176-13(6): Proposal for Increased Transpolar Flights

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has indicated that they will be looking at these new flights and their effects. Could I also ask the Minister to convey our concerns to the rest of Cabinet about the possible environmental effects of up to 150,000 more flights going over the Northwest Territories per year? What type of environmental effects are there from all that fuel that is being burned and coming down perhaps onto the Northwest Territories rivers, lakes and the plant life? We do know that the plants around here take a lot longer to grow because we have a shorter growing season, so could the Minister also convey our concerns here and that they will do a check as well? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 176-13(6): Proposal for Increased Transpolar Flights

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am meeting with NATA, the organization for transport in the Northwest Territories and they have a lot of concerns about all these new flights. As for the kind of environmental damage it may cause to the north, I am not fully aware of it and certainly I will direct the department to look at what the effects of these new flights are going to be towards the environment as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 177-13(6): Medical Services Outside of the NWT

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, the honourable Mr. Ng. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he could explain the process of charging medical services to the various health boards when a resident needs medical services outside of their community. For example, say I lived in Cambridge Bay and I needed medical services outside of the NWT, who would be responsible for picking up all the costs associated with those treatments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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Return to Question 177-13(6): Medical Services Outside of the NWT

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is the health services administration division within the department that looks after the actual charging out of those types of interboard or interjurisdictional costs. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 177-13(6): Medical Services Outside of the NWT

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister has told me who is responsible for doing it. My question is regarding the allocation of the amounts. Do they go to the health board that is responsible for the individual? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 177-13(6): Medical Services Outside of the NWT

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The boards are given annual or submit annual budgets for approval that are approved by the department. Within those budgets are some costs that are recognized historically, for example, if I use the Kitikmeot region, my area, that historically comes where a lot of the individuals come out to Stanton for some of their services. There is an allocation there for those individuals that have been documented on historical trends in respect to some of their services. There are budgets there for those people who come out here. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 177-13(6): Medical Services Outside of the NWT

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is going to take quite a few supplementaries. Mr. Speaker, for someone requiring medical services outside of the Northwest Territories, are all of the costs associated with providing that service to the resident of the NWT in a particular community? Are all of those costs charged against the health board where the individual resides? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 177-13(6): Medical Services Outside of the NWT

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is somewhat of a complex question in respect, because there are different boards involved and there are different aspects, I guess, when you have the actual medical treatment itself and you have the travel. I do not want to give the wrong information, I will commit to finding out exactly how the accounting system and the payment system works in this particular instance and advise the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 177-13(6): Medical Services Outside of the NWT

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was trying to get that information because I have been a little frustrated in the past while. Last year this particular department spent over \$1 million to take care of a resident and I was just going through the accounts here and was not able to determine from the accounts that were paid where the actual monies that were spent, which health board they were charged against. I do notice that in a situation there were services provided and paid for, a portion of it was paid for through the Rankin Inlet Regional Health Board and a portion of the same service, and I might point out that it was a larger portion, was... Mr. Speaker, I guess I will accept the response of the Minister that he will provide that information to me as to where the figures were charged and I will come back with questions at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 178-13(6): Declining Numbers of Peary Caribou

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is in regard to the disappearing Peary caribou and it is addressed to the Minister of RWED. Mr. Speaker, in the past few years, and in particular in the past month or so, there has been a lot of focus on the disappearing Peary caribou. I believe a document was put out by Greenpeace stating that the disappearing caribou were directly related to global warming. Some of their information or statements is based on information that they quote as having come from this government's biologists. They quote as one of the main reasons for the disappearing of Peary caribou is the depth of the snow and the inability of the caribou to reach the food through the snow. I would like to ask the Minister of RWED if that in fact is the opinion of his department?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return to Question 178-13(6): Declining Numbers of Peary Caribou

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is the view of my department that there is ongoing concern about the future of the Peary caribou. As the Member has said, there has been a dramatic decline in the number of Peary caribou in the High Arctic over the last five years. However, we found that in our surveys over the summer that some of the Peary caribou have had calves and there are young calves surviving at this time, so there is some indication that there is some rebound you might say, of the Peary caribou on some of the islands. We know on one island the number of caribou is only at 75 which is still a concern. There is also a concern that the wolves on those islands could become a factor on how well the Peary caribou do on those particular islands. We have worked with, and are working with the Nunavut Wildlife Board and

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other wildlife advisory councils, to put together a plan on exactly what we should do to ensure that the Peary caribou have every possible chance of rebounding and surviving. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, supplementary. Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 178-13(6): Declining Numbers of Peary Caribou

**MR. STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it has been a problem in my particular region anyway, I am not speaking towards Somerset Island, but on Banks Island and the Holman region, there has been no snow for the last few years. The people are wondering where the department would come up with an opinion that the caribou are disappearing due to the depth of snow. There is not enough snow hardly to drive snowmobiles. People are wondering where the department would come up with this type of opinion. The other thing is, Mr. Speaker, the people are of the opinion that the wolf populations are dramatically increasing, almost at the same rate that the caribou are disappearing. The question is whether or not the department has taken this into consideration, not only in one particular island, in all the islands? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 178-13(6): Declining Numbers of Peary Caribou

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the department is aware that on some islands the caribou and the muskox as well have declined, some of them rather dramatically as the Member points out. We have also noticed that on some of the islands the wolf population has increased dramatically. It is a concern that we have and we are sharing the information we are gathering with the respective wildlife boards and agencies. As a government, we have made a commitment to work with the respective wildlife boards, the core management boards, that have been set up in the different settlement areas and let them take a lead in deciding what is the best approach to take in addressing these particular issues at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 179-13(6): Healthy Children Initiative Resources

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. It is in regard to the bad publicity that Fort McPherson has been receiving lately with the problem of youth. I would like to ask the Minister about a report that has been issued by his department, along with the Department of Education, called "Healthy Children Initiatives". Also there is a section that deals with the strength of young people and it deals with certain items, especially in regard to the acts of service to help deliver healthy lives with the youth, but it also talks about the youth also having a role in the communities through workshops and consultation with elders and with the caregivers. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, what resources are available to communities to carry out this initiative that your department put forth along with the Department of Education, especially in the community of Fort McPherson, where there seems to be real problems with alcohol, drugs, self-esteem, we are seeing problems in our schools and now we are seeing it in the courts? I would like to ask the Minister what can his department do to help support the community of Fort McPherson financially to basically carry out these initiatives? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return to Question 179-13(6): Healthy Children Initiative Resources

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have that document, I do not have the specifics of what resources are available as a result of what is outlined in there. As the honourable Member indicated, these are joint Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment initiatives. I will speak to my honourable colleagues and see what we can do. If there are any specific proposals that the honourable Member wishes to bring forward or his community wishes to bring forward in respect to some assistance, we would be glad to take a look at that and see if we can assist. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question period is over. Item 7, 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. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions, 7-13(6): Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission. Mr. Miltenberger.

**ITEM 16: MOTIONS**

Motion 7-13(6): Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission Report to Committee of the Whole

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

WHEREAS the Report of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission 1998 was presented to the Speaker on October 23, 1998;

AND WHEREAS the Report of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission 1998 was tabled on November 4, 1998;

AND NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that tabled document 26-13(6), Report of the Northwest

Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission 1998, be moved to committee of the whole for consideration.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Can we have some order in the House. I know that Mr. Miltenberger is having some problems and cannot speak loud, but we have other Members in this room who are speaking a bit louder than he is. Can we have

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some order please. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Motions. Item 17, first reading of bills, Mr. Todd.

**ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS**

Bill 10: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two first readings of bills, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Baffin South that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Administration Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 10 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

Bill 11: An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 2

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 2, be read for the first time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 11, has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

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

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that Bill 12, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1998, No. 2, be read for the first time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 12, has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

**ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS**

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking consent to deal with Bill 10. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd, you have consent.

Bill 10: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the schedule to the Student Financial Assistance Act to increase the maximum aggregate of the principal amounts that may be outstanding in respect of all loans made under the act.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 10 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 2. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking consent to deal with Bill 11. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd you have consent.

Bill 11: An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 2

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 2, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Workers' Compensation Act to increase the amount of the Year's Maximum Insurable Remuneration.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 11 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 12, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1998, No. 2. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Baffin South is seeking consent to deal with Bill 12. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Arlooktoo, you have consent.

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

**HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that Bill 12,

Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1998, No. 2, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects certain inconsistencies and errors in the statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill also deals with other matters of a minor, non-controversial and uncomplicated nature in the statutes and repeals certain statutes and statutory provisions that have ceased to have effect.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. 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):**

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 11:00 a.m. and of the Western Caucus at 12:00 noon on Monday.

Orders of the day for Monday, November 9, 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 8-13(6), Establishment of the Special Committee on Nunavut Legislation
  - Motion 9-13(6), Approval of Formula Financing Agreement
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 26-13(6), Report of the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission 1998
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 Monday, November 9, 1998 at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT