



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

6th Session

Day 13

13th Assembly

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Honourable Charles Dent, 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. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable Manikot Thompson, Honourable John Todd.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Before we proceed, I wish to inform the Legislative Assembly that I have received three communications dated November 5, 1998, which are in accordance with section 76.05 of the Nunavut Act from the Interim Commissioner of Nunavut.

I would like to read the following letters received:

Dear Speaker:

Re: Nunavut Judicial System Implementation Act

The formal creation of Nunavut is now less than five months away. As we continue our preparation for this historic event, we look forward to the establishment of a single-level trial court system for Nunavut. This is the first system of its kind in Canada, and we expect it to be more responsive to the needs of the people of Nunavut.

This bill, when adopted, will enact a new Justices of the Peace Act for Nunavut, make consequential amendments to other acts, and put in place a new Judicature Act for Nunavut. The latter deals with the composition, powers and officers of the Nunavut Court of Justice and Court of Appeal and establishes rules of law and procedural rules applicable to Nunavut.

As required by Section 76.05 of the Nunavut Act, it is with pleasure that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the bill entitled

Nunavut Judicial System Implementation Act, for enactment during the Sixth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Anawak

Interim Commissioner of Nunavut

The second letter;

Dear Speaker:

Re: Nunavut Statutes Amendment Act

The formal creation of Nunavut is now less than five months away. As we continue our preparation for this historic event, the legislative authorities required for the new government to act in many areas must be put in place. The Nunavut Statutes Amendment Act contains amendments to a number of statutes that will be duplicated for Nunavut, in order to render them appropriate for Nunavut.

As required by Section 76.05 of the Nunavut Act, it is with pleasure that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the bill entitled Nunavut Statutes Amendment Act, for enactment during the Sixth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Anawak

Interim Commissioner of Nunavut

My final letter is;

Dear Speaker:

Re: Nunavut Statutes Replacement Act

The formal creation of Nunavut is now less than five months away. As we continue our preparations for this historic event, we must consider the effects that the creation of the new territory will have on professional associations in the north. The Nunavut Statutes Replacement Act adjusts the laws that currently establish professional associations and provides for the regulation of the members of those associations.

As required by Section 76.05 of the Nunavut Act, it is with pleasure that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the bill entitled

Nunavut Statutes Replacement Act for enactment during the Sixth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Anawak

Interim Commissioner of Nunavut

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 57-13(6): Arctic Canada Trading Co. Ltd. Display

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite you, all Members and the public to view the Arctic Canada Trading display and meet the Arctic Canada Trading staff featured today in the Great Hall. Arctic Canada Trading is the marketing group established by the Northwest Territories Development Corporation.

The display is used as part of a major marketing tool to showcase our products from the Northwest Territories to buyers both nationally and internationally. The products are created as a result of the efforts of people working in subsidiary companies operated under the guidance of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation. In addition, Members will see products created by those involved in the cottage industry programs. These individuals make their products in their own homes and sell them to Arctic Canada Trading.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the Members take time to note and appreciate the high quality and detail of the work purchased from the people throughout their constituencies. Arctic Canada Trading has played a major role in strengthening the outside marketing infrastructure, thereby helping to create continual sales for northern products made by northern people in southern and international markets.

As a result, this wholly owned marketing group is creating employment throughout the Northwest Territories. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell you today that in the last fiscal year, the Northwest Territories Development Corporation issued over 1300 T4s to workers across the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, good marketing requires investment and patience. It also requires support from all people in the territories. I would like to thank all Members of this Legislative Assembly who continually, throughout their travels, have taken the time to request products or brochures to pass on to those they meet. This kind of commitment strengthens and broadens the marketing of northern projects. Mahsi cho.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 58-13(6): Wire North Initiative

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to inform this House of an exciting project that will help to bring the north into the 21st century. Wire North will help communities connect to the Internet.

Every day, we see signs of the new technology that is changing our world. E-mail messages are replacing letters and phone calls to family and friends. Banking is done from the convenience of our homes through telephones and computers. Medical services are provided through video conferencing and other technology over the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of many opportunities that modern technology gives us. So far, this technology has only been affordable in our larger communities. As the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, I believe it is vital that all northern communities have access to these same opportunities. The Wire North Initiative is a partnership between the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs; Education, Culture and Employment; Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development; the Financial Management Board Secretariat; Industry Canada, the NWT Association of Municipalities, the NWT Association of Municipal Administrators, and not-for-profit and private sector representatives. Through partnerships, Wire North will provide communities with coordinated access to programs and support so they can use the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, MACA will invest up to \$600,000 in Wire North Initiatives. This will provide community access to the Internet in every northern community. Wire North will help communities train in using the new technology and demonstrate other potential uses such as training and banking on-line. These

initiatives will provide communities with Internet access to information, resources, programs and services; and, assist in community development.

Mr. Speaker, the Wire North Initiative is an exciting opportunity for communities. It is a chance for them to use technology to improve their quality of life. Mr. Speaker, officials in MACA are working closely with the future Government of Nunavut to make sure that wire north becomes a wire Nunavut initiative. This is a good example of on-going partnerships between our two new territories. I would like to thank my honourable colleagues, Mr. Todd, Mr. Dent and Mr. Kakfwi for their collaboration in the Wire North Initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 59-13(6): Health and Social Services Workers Training Framework

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will implement a framework to train more health and social services workers. This training will be done in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Services through Nunavut and Aurora Arctic colleges. In all, over \$2 million in additional training funds will be spent in the next two years.

This funding will be used to offer more nursing access programs, increased support for students in diploma programs, and begin delivery of nursing degree courses. Other health-related occupation programs will also be expanded. These include Community Health Representative, Community Home Support Worker, Long-term Care Aid and Alcohol and Drug Addictions Counsellor programs.

On the social services side, a social work access year will be added to the social work diploma program and degree courses

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will be enhanced. This January, the nursing access year will be offered at two locations in the western NWT and one in Nunavut. A social work access

program will also begin in the west. The rest of the programs will begin next fall.

Last week, my colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services, announced actions to help attract and keep more health and social service professionals in our northern communities. These actions, together with more opportunities for training, will go a long way to ensure a good supply of well-trained professionals to fill health and social services jobs now and in the future.

I am pleased that we have been able to respond in such a positive way to a clear and important need. This training strategy will build the capacity of northerners to meet our own needs in the health and social services professions and improve services for all residents. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 60-13(6): NWT Fur Marketing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, fur harvesting is an integral part of northern culture, history and the economy. Because fur is so important to our residents, this government has shown unparalleled leadership in our efforts to ensure that harvesting, as a way of life, remains a viable option for future generations. In 1994, we implemented the NWT Fur Strategy and achieved the following objectives:

- Our biologists have worked closely with local harvesters to monitor populations of fur-bearers and their prey so fur-bearers can be managed sustainably;
- We participated in negotiating an Agreement on International Trapping Standards with the European Union to keep our fur markets open;
- We have implemented an extensive trap exchange program to ensure that our fur harvesters comply with the standards outlined in the agreement;
- We have invested in harvester training in the use of new traps and techniques to ensure harvesting is humane;

- We promoted Nunavut-produced sealskins; and worked to develop a larger market for this product;

- We have developed a new Fur Harvesters Training Manual that has been sent to each of our regions to assist in harvester training.

We have also supported our harvesters through the Fur Pricing Program which guarantees harvesters a minimum price for prime-quality furs. We believe it is now time to turn our attention towards marketing. Wild fur from the NWT is the best in the world.

Unfortunately, auction houses often mix our fur with lower-grade products. If it is collected and marketed properly, we believe we can take advantage of the exclusive quality of NWT fur and ensure our harvesters are rewarded with top prices. A change in our marketing approach will also encourage more participation by NWT harvesters, provide opportunities for NWT residents in other sectors of the fur economy, and put pride back in a proud industry.

To help market our furs more effectively, we have engaged the services of a company with many years of experience in international wild fur marketing. We are encouraging all trappers to use this agency which will sell NWT furs as a unique product. Other aspects of our fur marketing strategy will focus on increasing awareness among the world's fur and fashion leaders of the high quality of fur harvested in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, we are confident that this strategy will increase the value and return to our fur harvesters. The northern trapping industry has already seen many positive changes and I believe we can continue to build on that momentum and rejuvenate a sense of pride and ownership in fur harvesting and fur products. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 143-13(6): Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today about a problem that affects all of us, especially ones in the smaller communities. It is the problem with fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect. We know that FAS and also FAE can cause birth defects in children and also affect their ability to

learn. Children and adults who suffer from these symptoms have difficulty understanding and learning, ranging to severe mental disabilities. We know that FAS/FAE is not an isolated incidence, but is a problem. It is preventable and it affects everyone across the Northwest Territories.

In Fort McPherson and Aklavik, there is a dire need to address the problems of FAS/FAE within the education system. Some students with FAS/FAE are seriously disabled and find they need intensive supervision and others need to be cared for in a manner which may take a little longer than healthy students. We need to support public education in regard to preventative measures, as well as support for the victims, our children. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister questions on the matter of FAS/FAE students in our schools. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

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Member's Statement 144-13(6): Political Landscape in Fort Smith

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fort Smith, the community I represent, is a multicultural community where there are three main political organizations, the town, the band and the Metis. Over the years, as we have worked on fine-tuning a relationship among those three key organizations, agreements have been reached on how local services and programs should be run and governed. For example, a number of years ago it was agreed that the hospital, the health board, would go to an appointed structure with three representatives from the band, three from the town and three from the Metis. A similar process was agreed to with the local housing authority where they were appointed seats and within the last year, the community turned its attention to the local district education authority.

Over the years, like many communities, it had been almost impossible to get a full slate of elected representatives. Steps have been taken in the last year, working with the Minister and the department through the new Education Act, to look at changing the structure in which appointments and people are put on the board. The request from the community

was, in fact, that we move to an appointed board, similar to those used in the health board and the local housing board. It is my understanding that the process is almost complete and that after slightly over a year, the Minister and the department are almost ready to sign off that request and that direction from the people in the community that I represent. This was done over the course of the year where there was consultation, public meetings, meetings with the community leaders on this particular issue. I am very pleased at this juncture to have us almost ready to bring to conclusion this next step with the community of Fort Smith as we once again continue to improve and fine-tune how we do business as a community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 145-13(6): New Roads Initiative

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Transportation department launched a \$2.2 million new roads initiative for the Northwest Territories and there are four roads that are being studied that will have a great impact and economic benefit for all northerners. It is a good initiative for this government to undertake. We need road development to access non-renewable resources and, in turn, create jobs with the resultant spinoff of more stability for our government. There is a need for the government to address the issue of economic development.

Population levels in the west are stagnant or perhaps declining. Any population decrease will impact negatively on the amount of money that is transferred to this government from the federal government, through the formula financing system. Any decrease in population could cost us millions of dollars, transfer dollars, plus losses in income taxes. It should also be remembered that our government continues to be hampered by the force growth in such areas as health and social services and education to the tune of possibly \$15 million a year. While we may have a balanced budget today, in several years the forced-growth situation and decline in population may put this government in a deficit position once again.

The solution, of course, is for us to create jobs. Therefore roads to access the resources in the

territories is critical. Our resource potential has been termed as massive with huge oil and gas fields, as well as rich deposits of diamonds and gold and other precious metals and minerals. These are the industries that can provide large-scale jobs for our northerners. Industry and businesses have for many years indicated that the lack of jobs is directly related to a lack of public investment in the transportation infrastructure. A highway into the barren lands, north of Yellowknife and Great Slave Lake, would give increased access not only for mineral exploration, but also for tourism. Such an undertaking can dramatically alter the economic well-being of the western Arctic and any road construction that leads to increased development of resources can have a positive rippling effect for all communities of the north, be they near or far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 146-13(6): Rae-Edzo Municipal Funding Formula

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I again would like to raise a concern that I have brought forward many times during this Assembly. That being, the problem of the current Municipal Funding Formula for the community of Rae-Edzo. Time and time again, I brought this forward in this House with the department of MACA saying are view is being done to solve the many problems my community is having. However, to date nothing has changed. The department even went to the point of promising extra funding to ensure the problems were being taken care of, however, this funding has not been given to the community. When will this review be completed? How long does my community and others have to wait before we can say that all communities are treated fairly and equitably?

Rae-Edzo has worked very hard with the department to identify the problem areas. The hamlet has made every effort to ensure a good working relationship has developed, but they cannot continue to be delayed any longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement 147-13(6): Products of the Kiluk Sewing Factory

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following Mr. Kakfwi's comments, I would also like to acknowledge and recognize the fine exhibit located out in the Great Hall of northern crafts and clothing. Mr. Speaker, I especially would like to acknowledge the excellent work done

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by the Kiluk Sewing Factory of Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, at the display, you will notice a small Christmas tree; all the decorations on this tree are handmade by the ladies at the centre from Arviat, along with the tree skirt. Also on display are jackets and vests made by the staff. Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all staff and MLAs to visit the display and I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Arviat centre manager, Jody, her staff Denelda, Bernadette, Arlene, Agatha, Margaret and Mary. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement 148-13(6): Wire North Initiative

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think like many of the residents of the NWT, I welcome the new initiative introduced by the Minister of MACA, Wire North Initiative. A few days ago, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Erasmus and myself, we talked about a problem with a communication system in the NWT, despite the fact that we have many hard-working technicians as outlined by the Member for Thebacha. I am not criticizing the people who work in the area of the communication system. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have to change with the times and welcome any changes that will improve things like communication.

I have used my Interac card in Pelly Bay and find I have no problem connecting to a bank here in Yellowknife. I have made many phone calls to people and find now that the line is not working, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps we should try and make sure that people, residents, businesses and municipalities will get the best services that money can buy. I understand the honourable Minister is investing about \$600,000 in the area of communication. Will the Minister ensure that

once we have invested a lot of money into this, \$600,000 is a substantial amount of money, will the government ensure that we have the quality service available that the money can buy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement 149-13(6): International Culinary Competition

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just use this opportunity to make a statement about the recent international culinary competitions which were held in Quebec City that were attended by an NWT culinary team. Chef Pierre LaPage, Chef John MacDonald, and Chef Patrick Kane who are all in the gallery today, attended and represented the people of the Northwest Territories at that competition and, in fact, came away with some top marks and received some gold awards as a result of their efforts. I just wanted to make note of it as a Member of the Legislature for their excellent representation and their work that they performed in the competitions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement 150-13(6): Arctic Canada Trading Company Display

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also want to make a comment about the Arctic Canada Trading Company Limited that has a display here in the Great Hall today. That is the display they use whenever they represent us in the Northwest Territories when they travel to other parts of the country or maybe internationally as well, displaying the type of crafts and clothing and different artwork that is produced by northern people. It is a very fine display out in the Great Hall that they are having today.

The reason I raise this is that there is some clothing, art and crafts out there from my constituency of Nahendeh. I just want to talk about the birchbark basket that is produced and is a very renowned product from Fort Liard. People use traditional knowledge to develop this fine craft and it is displayed today. As well, there is some clothing made by the Naitsiliu Society. The society has been in existence

in Fort Simpson for quite a number of years. With the help of the designer, Doris Moses, they are developing a very fine line of work using traditional material and garments and making it into contemporary designs. It is a very fine display and I urge everyone in the Legislative Assembly to check that out along with all the other good displays from other parts of the north. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question 129-13(6): Transfer of Federal Authorities to the North

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Krutko on September 25, 1998. It is regarding transfers of federal authorities to the north.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has been seeking the transfer of province-like responsibilities for land, water and non-renewable resources from the federal government since the mid-1980s. However, agreement on such a transfer through various framework agreements, negotiated accords and memoranda of understanding has not been successful.

In the absence of any final agreement, Cabinet directed in October 1997 that a number of actions be undertaken to further the GNWT's broader objective of increasing northern control over northern resources. Specific actions included:

- A common position with aboriginal organizations on the full devolution of federal responsibilities;
- Discussions with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) on the decentralization of the Northern Affairs Program to the north;
- Discussions with DIAND regarding a proposal to include pre-bid qualifications in the process of issuance of petroleum rights in the Northwest Territories (NWT); and,
- Discussions with the federal government on resource revenue sharing arrangements.

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Return To Oral Question 50-13(6): Additional Wildlife Officer for Tuktoyaktuk

This is a return to oral question asked by Mr. Steen on September 18, 1998 regarding an additional wildlife officer for Tuktoyaktuk.

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has reviewed the possibility of placing an additional renewable resource officer in the community of Tuktoyaktuk. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints, an additional position is not an option. Consideration was given to establishing a trainee position with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. However, trainee positions require that a full-time, indeterminate position be available upon completion.

Given this and the fact that other communities in the area do not have renewable resource officers, we cannot justify the establishment of an additional renewable resource officer position in Tuktoyaktuk. It may be possible, however, to allocate additional funds for increased patrols during the caribou harvest. This may be an area to consider during the budget review process.

Return To Oral Question 60-13(6): NWT Campgrounds

Mr. Speaker, this is a return to oral question asked by Mr. Rabesca on September 21, 1998, regarding NWT campgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently drafting terms of reference for a study into the needs of local residents regarding the development of a new park in the Rae-Edzo area. We see this as providing employment and economic benefits to the community while allowing consideration of other tourism-related developments.

Although we do not expect the study to begin until the 1999/2000 fiscal year, we hope to have the support of the band and local agencies regarding the terms of reference before March 31, 1999. It is clear that with land claims negotiations not yet concluded, the acquisition of land for this development purpose will be a major consideration.

We anticipate that part of this study would include revisiting some of the planning work previously done, but the study must also recognize other new developments such as the golf course that the community is currently developing.

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

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this is a return to oral question asked by Mr. Barnabas on September 22, 1998 regarding an issue about northern carver copyright.

The federal government has a Copyright Act that protects artists from others copying their work without the artist's permission. This law applies to carvers and a variety of other creative art forms.

The Universal Copyright Convention provides for marking with a small "c" in a circle, the name of the copyright owner, who is the artist in this case, and the year the artwork was produced. This marking serves as a reminder to others of a copyright, as well as providing the name of the artist. This convention has been in use for many years. Any artist is protected under this act, whether they register their work or not.

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is working with Aboriginal Business Canada and the Dene Cultural Institute on a "Business of Art" conference in Yellowknife this March. Part of this conference will deal with copyright law for artists and should provide a forum to discuss the extent of the problem and propose means to address it. A similar conference is planned for Nunavut in the near future, sponsored by the newly formed Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association in conjunction with Aboriginal Business Canada. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize representatives of the NWT Development Corporation and Arctic Canada Trading. The president and chief executive officer, Glen Soloy; the vice-president and general manager, Clyde Sigurdson; the executive assistant, Anne Corbett; the sales representative, Jack Meckling; sales representative, Shirley Shafer; marketing assistant, Anamika Mulders; business advisor, Roy Erasmus, Jr., all sitting in the gallery today. Again, Mr. Speaker, the members of the culinary team, Chef Lepage, John MacDonald and Patrick Kane, also sitting in the gallery. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the individuals who have not been recognized in the gallery. I would like to thank them for coming today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 180-13(6): Wire North Initiative

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the honourable Minister of MACA. As I indicated in my Member's statement, she talks about Wire North

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MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return to Question 180-13(6): Wire North Initiative

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking Inuktitut, with respect to the question from the Member of Natilikmiot. I would like to thank him for his question. With respect to the \$600,000 from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, I understand it will be useful and used for a good purpose. Part of the funding will be used for training purposes and Municipal and Community Affairs is not the only department that is going to have a responsibility for it. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is also involved in this initiative and regional communities will be given \$30,000 to \$40,000 from the \$600,000 amount we are talking about. This will be used for training purposes with respect to Internet and computer communication. Perhaps \$600,000 is not enough for full initiative on

training. That is all I have to say for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 180-13(6): Wire North Initiative

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that \$600,000 is onetime funding. The Minister also talks about the larger communities being only able to afford the privilege of having to use the Internet. Now, I believe that we know there is going to be ongoing cost to the new initiative. Will the Minister ensure that the hamlets are funded for the service of the distant communication? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 180-13(6): Wire North Initiative

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This \$600,000 is onetime funding. The hamlets will be informed as to what the money is supposed to be used for. After the hamlets are informed, I will be giving more information to the Member of Natilikmiot. I do not have the document in front of me at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 180-13(6): Wire North Initiative

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. A lot of times the smaller communities, in particular the hamlets, are not informed as to what the money is supposed to be used for and as to how much these training initiatives will cost. Will the Minister be able to keep them informed with respect to the \$600,000 that we are

discussing at this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 180-13(6): Wire North Initiative

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlets will be informed in regard to the \$30,000/\$40,000 that is going to be allocated to the regions. The communities will be informed of that money for the future use of this program. This will be discussed with the communities so that the future will be more secure for the hamlet councils. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 181-13(6): Special Needs of FAS/FAE Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education in regard to my Member's statement about FAS/FAE students and the problem we see increasing in our schools. Mr. Speaker, in regard to Fort McPherson and Aklavik, they are in dire need of finding more teachers and specialists to deal with the problem of FAS/FAE within the education systems. Mr. Speaker, some students with FAS and FAE are seriously disabled and in need of intensive supervision. Mr. Speaker, in regard to the enrolments that we have seen in Fort McPherson and Aklavik which are almost in the area of eight percent. I would like to ask the Minister, with these increases and the demand on teachers, what has been done to ensure that there is adequate assistance to help the schools and teachers deal with this problem in our education system?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 181-13(6): Special Needs of FAS/FAE Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in response to the Member's question about support for teachers to deal with students who may exhibit the symptoms of FAS or FAE in the classroom. The department continues to work with both teachers and divisional education councils to ensure that teachers are prepared to deal with the diverse needs of all learners in the classroom; whether that is through providing resource guides or support manuals for teachers, or assisting divisional education councils to provide special needs assistants to support students with special needs. In terms of the Member's second question, about the

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increase in the enrollment numbers in schools in his constituency, there are in fact two schools that have seen increases of just over seven percent. In one case, just over seven percent and just under eight percent. The policy of the department is that, where schools have growth in excess of six percent and the divisional educational council has growth in excess of three percent, we will provide extra funding to help the divisional educational council deal with the unexpected growth. In cases where the growth is less than that, the divisional education council is expected to fund the growth from within. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 181-13(6): Special Needs of FAS/FAE Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me exactly what type of training the teachers have to deal with FAS/FAE students? Are they trained to deal with that element of the education system? Do they have to take that as part of their curriculum to become a teacher?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 181-13(6): Special Needs of FAS/FAE Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No. To become a teacher, one does not have to be trained in specific strategies for dealing fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effects in a classroom. However, it is worth noting that as part of our community counsellor training, our community counsellors are, in fact, given training in this area and are expected to work with the schools in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 181-13(6): Special Needs of FAS/FAE Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me exactly what he has done as the Minister of Education to find funds to deal with this problem in our schools, the problem with increased enrolments and also the increased numbers of students that are being identified with FAS/FAE? Has he been able to acquire any more funds to deal with this problem in our education system?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 181-13(6): Special Needs of FAS/FAE Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, throughout my tenure as Minister, the one area of the formula that provides funding to all divisional educational councils that has not been cut and has, in fact, been increased as a proportion of the funding is in the area of special needs. I have impressed upon my colleagues at the Cabinet table the need to deal with the special needs issue and the fact that we do need more funding in this area. I am confident that, as we find funds, my colleagues will agree that we should put more into that area.

We have, over the past few years, provided support to divisional education councils and teachers. When it comes to areas like the resource guides and support manuals, we have provided funding to the Association for Community Living to develop a video related to FAS/FAE and we are working with other jurisdictions in the western consortium to ensure that we set up effective strategies to deal with the problem, as well

as to increase awareness throughout all of our jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 181-13(6): Special Needs of FAS/FAE Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me exactly how the communities of Aklavik and Fort McPherson, with their high enrolment numbers, will be able to access another teacher, either through his office or through the department, to ensure that there are adequate funds in those communities to be able to acquire additional staff to help offset the high workload that presently exists with the teachers that are there?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 181-13(6): Special Needs of FAS/FAE Students

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those communities will have to work with the divisional education council. The education program is provided in the regions by the divisional education councils and all of the funding for teachers is delivered by the department to the councils. The proper mechanism to deal with an increase in student numbers, in a community, is to talk to their divisional education council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

Question 182-13(6): Review of the Municipal Funding Formula

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for MACA, as I have many times over the past two years, when will the review of the municipal funding formula be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Thompson.

Return to Question 182-13(6): Review of the Municipal Funding Formula

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HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not hear the last part of the question. Can the Member please repeat his question?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Rabesca.

Supplementary To Question 182-13(6): Review of the Municipal Funding Formula

MR. RABESCA:

The question Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Department of MACA, as I have many times over the past two years, when would the review of the municipal funding formula be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 182-13(6): Review of the Municipal Funding Formula

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Member has been asking me questions about the municipal finance review. The review has been going on for some time and the finance review committee will be presenting their recommendation to the annual meeting that will be happening in Cambridge Bay in March, 1999. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca.

Supplementary To Question 182-13(6): Review of the Municipal Funding Formula

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Same question to the Minister of MACA. As you can imagine, my

community of Rae-Edzo is becoming very frustrated with many promises that MACA has given. I stated in my Member's statement earlier today, the department has promised extraordinary funding to offset the cost of associated various promises with the funding formula. My supplementary question to the Minister is, when will the hamlet of Rae-Edzo receive these dollars? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 182-13(6): Review of the Municipal Funding Formula

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that as notice and get my staff to review the promise. I do not where it is and I do not have it in front of me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 183-13(6): Fort Smith District Education Authority

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and it is in regard to the re-structuring of the DEA in Fort Smith. The Minister commented in Inuvik at the Beaufort Delta Leaders meeting as an example, that he was very close to signing off this agreement. Can the Minister give a time-frame as to when he anticipates that agreement will be signed off? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 183-13(6): Fort Smith District Education Authority

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member indicated in his statement this morning there has been a fair amount of time spent on this issue, and a good deal of consultation. I have been pretty well satisfied that

the request put forward by the community is one that I can concur with. It is my intention to sign the order as soon as I am satisfied that we have a clear understanding of the transition from the currently elected board and the board that would be appointed to replace it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 183-13(6): Fort Smith District Education Authority

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate in the general sense whether there is a legal necessity to run out the terms of the current board or is there another arrangement that can be made?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 183-13(6): Fort Smith District Education Authority

HON. CHARLES DENT:

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I am going to have to take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 184-13(6): Tourism Association Funding

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Mr. Kakfwi, the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It concerns the statement I made last week on tourism for the Northwest Territories, and I pointed out at that time that the association has made tremendous progress in their development as an association. Their funding was cut to \$540,000, yet they have shown tourism visitation has not come down in the territories and that to me shows efficiency and that they are on track. Their request is to have funding increased to \$1.2 million in the first year and then \$2.2 million in the next year. Tourism is the third highest GDP producer in the territories with some \$40 million in the western

Arctic. I wonder if the Minister would consider their request to increase their funding in the coming years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 184-13(6): Tourism Association Funding

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been trying to be supportive of this new association over the last couple of years. We have indicated to the association that they should finalize their plans to hire a new executive director as soon as possible because they presently have the services of an employee of this government. There is uncertainty as to how long, if at all, that this arrangement would continue.

We have also indicated to the association that we would like to receive from them a strategic marketing plan that would tell us what it is that they want to do in order to promote the western Northwest Territories as a destination for tourists both nationally and internationally. They have indicated that they will be working on that over the next few months and prepare that for presentation to me some time this fall. We have also indicated to them that they should seek to have input into the economic development strategy that is being currently developed by the Minister of Finance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 184-13(6): Tourism Association Funding

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was my understanding that the organization did prepare a business plan and strategic plan for the coming years. One of the areas of concern to the association was the areas that they need to come to agreement on with specific roles. For example, where RWED would maintain strategic planning, research, licensing functions and so forth, the association would take control of media relations and travel shows, etc. Will the Minister also address

that particular issue with the association, of clarifying who will be responsible for what areas? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 184-13(6): Tourism Association Funding

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are intending to clarify the roles that the association has in relation to the officials within the department responsible for tourism. It is an item of business that we will be working on with the association. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 184-13(6): Tourism Association Funding

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going back to the question of funding, the Minister did not answer my question as to whether he would consider additional funding for the association. We are coming close to business plans, I wonder if he will consider increasing their funding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 184-13(6): Tourism Association Funding

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have indicated that we require a comprehensive marketing plan, marketing strategy, between the association and our department, and that all the resources that are available would be looked at once we determine how viable and realistic the strategy would be. We are trying to take a positive outlook on something that has not yet been formulated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 184-13(6): Tourism Association Funding

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that it will take several months for this, I believe it was a marketing plan to be completed, and that means for next year the funding in the business plans will not be allocated. I wonder if the Minister will consider providing more funding next year for the tourism association? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 184-13(6): Tourism Association Funding

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, we try to plan our work in accordance with the budget planning process as much as we can. There is some flexibility in the amounts of money that could be allocated as plans develop, but generally speaking, let us say that the earlier we get some indication of what type of resources would be required by this plan and marketing strategy, the more lead time I have, the easier it would be to identify any resources that might be available for such a plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 185-13(6): Aurora Fund Loans

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister Responsible for the Aurora Fund. Mr. Speaker, I note that to date approximately \$22 million in loans have been given out to various companies and individuals. Mr. Speaker, some of these companies are the Shoe Store for two aircraft, the Yellowknife Golf Club to expand the facility to 18 holes and the Explorer Hotel to refurbish it. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could give us the amount that these companies have borrowed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 185-13(6): Aurora Fund Loans

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HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not have that information available at my fingertips today. I will provide the Member with it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 185-13(6): Aurora Fund Loans

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Speaker, I could be mistaken but it seems that most of the companies here that are borrowing the money are individuals that are western based. I wonder if there is any formula or criteria that the Minister has in place to ensure there is a balance between east and west as far as money that is lent out? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 185-13(6): Aurora Fund Loans

HON. JOHN TODD:

There is no formula, Mr. Speaker, in relationship to east and west. It is first-come, first-served, assuming that they meet all the criteria and they are recommended by the investment committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Supplementary To Question 185-13(6): Aurora Fund Loans

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to go back to my earlier question, when will the Minister commit to provide this information as to the amount that is being borrowed by these various companies?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 185-13(6): Aurora Fund Loans

HON. JOHN TODD:

As soon as I can get it typed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 186-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of FMBS, Mr. Todd. Last week in the House, Mr. Ng announced initiatives to help with the recruitment and retention of health care professionals for the Northwest Territories. We have listened last week and before, to Mr. Steen and Mr. Krutko, talk about the shortages of health care professionals in various communities in the north. It was recognized even by the Minister that those initiatives he is proposing are of a long-term nature, more than a short-term solution.

My question to the Minister of FMBS is, if it is recognized and accepted that there is an emergency in the provision of providing health care services in the north, could the Minister not come up with some emergency measures, like housing or added pay to attract and keep staff in the communities to provide health care services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Todd.

Return to Question 186-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the situation is a difficult one, I would not characterize it as an emergency one. Certainly the Minister of Health is trying his best to put both short and long-term policy changes into place and some programs into place that will bring about greater retention of nurses across the Arctic. I have said many times in the House and to a question last week, we, I believe, go back to the

bargaining table tomorrow or the next day. I think it is tomorrow. If we can get an agreement on the collective bargaining and if the UNW executive will have the decency to take it out to its membership, nurses will get with the new agreement that is on the table right now, we presented to them, somewhere between \$9,000 to \$13,000 in additional dollars in their pay packet. I would hope while that may not be the perfect solution, it will be a step in the right direction in terms of compensating our nursing fraternity for the work that they do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 186-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has suggested that nurses in the communities will get between \$9,000 and \$13,000 additionally. Is this over and above what they may receive in pay equity when that matter is resolved? Would this be between \$9,000 and \$10,000 a year over and above any other pay equity awards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 186-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me explain that in the job reclassification exercise it went through with respect to Hay and Associates, it was determined in accordance with the skills and responsibilities of a nurse, because that is what we are discussing right now; under the new pay scheme, they would get somewhere between \$9,000 to \$13,000 in pay increase. Over and above that, they would get whatever collective agreement arrangements are made, should we manage to get it out to our employees to sign off. I think there is a two percent increase in wages, there are some additional northern allowances that are out there; depending what community you are in, there is a \$500 signing-on bonus for two years.

There are a variety of other physical arrangements outside of the reclassification of the job, of community

nurses, et cetera. What I am saying to you is, it is one component of the program that both Mr. Ng and myself are collaborating on to ensure that

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we have in the short term, an adequate nursing fraternity to look after the health care of the people of the territories and long-term, that we develop, along with Mr. Dent, a training component that will bring about a homegrown nursing fraternity as we have done with teachers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 186-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Initiative

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister is, this additional \$9,000 to \$13,000, what level will the nurses be in the Northwest Territories compared to other jurisdictions, if and when this increased remuneration will be voted on and hopefully accepted? At what level will they be at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 186-13(6): Recruitment and Retention Initiative

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asked that question earlier, I think, last week, and at the time had indicated that I would provide the House with a full detailed explanation of what the other provincial jurisdictions do in comparison to what we were offering and, unfortunately, for my colleague today, I do not have that at my fingertips but he will be getting it later on this week or early next week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 187-13(6): Decision on Polar Bear Plates

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation. Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions, from the public in the community of Inuvik, there have been concerns raised on the licence plate, the polar bear licence plate. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Transportation if there has been any decision made on the licence plate because there have been a number of people who have come to me who have told me that they have been told by other people that a decision has been made. I have told them that I do not believe that any decision has been made but, can the Minister confirm or deny the fact there has been any decision made on whether the polar bear plate will stay in the west or go east. Thank you

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 187-13(6): Decision on Polar Bear Plates

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no decision made on the licence plate. It is up for discussion and there has been no real movement, on what is going to happen to it. I think it is the NWT licence plate but it is still up for discussion and for a decision among ourselves here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 187-13(6): Decision on Polar Bear Plates

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister inform us is he aware of any time lines out there where decisions of that nature will be made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 187-13(6): Decision on Polar Bear Plates

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are no timelines on that at this point in time. It should be soon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 188-13(6): Declining Peary Caribou

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the honourable Stephen Kakfwi, the Minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, last week I questioned the Minister on the declining Peary caribou population and he responded that he was working closely with the aboriginal group in coming up with solutions. I wonder if the Minister could expand on that. Mr. Speaker, what I would like to know is whether they are still willing to go to extremes. Last year, there was talk of flying some of these caribou down to Calgary. I would like to know from the Minister whether those options are still being considered or what exactly is the department willing to do to off set the declining population?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 188-13(6): Declining Peary Caribou

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have indications that the Peary caribou on the western High Arctic Islands have taken the first step towards recovery, as our surveys have recorded, calves in both Melville and Bathurst Islands in July of this year. However, wolves remain on Bathurst Island and muskox show no recovery. There are no calves seen in the muskox herd. We have a sense, as I said last week, that wolf predation may become a factor with the Peary caribou. Our studies indicate that range conditions on Bathurst Island are more than adequate for recovery of the Peary caribou. We are planning to have a survey done of the Peary caribou in the eastern High Arctic Islands in March/April of the coming year.

As a government, we will continue to work with the future government of Nunavut, the Wildlife

Management Advisory Council of the Northwest Territories, as well as the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to consider options for the recovery and management of Peary and Arctic Island caribou. We will look at these options only after the surveys are

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completed in March and April of this year. I do not know that those options of looking at capturing caribou and taking them to the Calgary Zoo is still on that list of options. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 188-13(6): Declining Peary Caribou

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate whether there are any studies being done on the Peary caribou population on Banks Island?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 188-13(6): Declining Peary Caribou

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the information I have is that in spite of the fact that the Sachs Harbour hunters have reduced their harvest of caribou on Banks Island, and they have done that since 1991, our surveys indicate that there is no measurable recovery yet indicated of the caribou on that island. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 188-13(6): Declining Peary Caribou

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I take it that the wildlife service will be working with the Inuvialuit Game Council to address this declining herd on Sachs Harbour, Banks Island. What I am concerned

about, Mr. Speaker, is the department at the present time considering any measures or any future studies for both the Peary caribou and wolves on Banks Island?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 188-13(6): Declining Peary Caribou

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, we are doing surveys on the muskox on Banks Island as well as the caribou. They said there is no indication that the caribou population is recovering. We have indications that the number of muskox on Banks Island have decreased but the population of the wolves has increased dramatically. The study is being finalized and will be used by the different management boards in March and April of this year to finalize whatever plans may be developed for assisting in the recovery of the caribou and the muskox on those islands. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 188-13(6): Declining Peary Caribou

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the department is aware that the Peary caribou on Banks Island have been declining now for almost 20 years. I am not aware of any ongoing studies, that is what I am trying to find out. Are there any ongoing studies which would happen every year which would assure that the populations are being monitored of both muskox, caribou, wolves, on an ongoing basis to assure people that there is an effort being made by the department to have an ongoing study of this particular caribou species? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 188-13(6): Declining Peary Caribou

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. There were surveys done, I believe in July of this year, in regard to the caribou, the muskox as well as observations on the wolf population. We can share the survey findings with the Member as well any information I may have about ongoing surveys being done or planned for the coming year, for that particular area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 189-13(6): Options for Post-Division WCB

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for Mr. Todd, responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. We discussed this last week and over the weekend had an opportunity to review the annual report for 1997 for the Workers' Compensation Board. Under the heading of Division, it states that four options were developed for delivery of WCB programs after division and that five operational models were designed to clarify the feasibility and implications of one WCB and two WCBs. There was an option of one and two. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if he might be able to get those reports for us and table them in the House so that Members can review them? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 189-13(6): Options for Post-Division WCB

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will check with the chairperson of the board and, if it is possible, I will try to get it tabled in the House before Friday. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 190-13(6): Keewatin Chief Electrical Inspector

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for DPW. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Keewatin region is without

a Chief Electrical Inspector and it is causing some hardships for contractors in the region. When inspections cannot be done, they cannot progress with their work. I wonder if the Minister can tell us when we can expect this critical position to be filled. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 190-13(6): Keewatin Chief Electrical Inspector

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. It is a detail that I am not familiar with. I will get back to the Member as soon as I can. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 191-13(6): Roads to Resources Study

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated on November 5, 1998, in my Members' statement, regarding the new initiative on the road to resources, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, the honourable Mr. Antoine, to give us an update on the progress of the transportation study, particularly regarding the future road north to the mining areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 191-13(6): Roads to Resources Study

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Slave Geological road there, one of the projects in the highway strategy, we have undertaken some work, we have issued some projects. There are contracts out there to do a number of studies at this point in time, and we would like... some of them are to be

finished by December and some will be. There are a number of studies that have been undertaken at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 192-13(6): Federal Gun Control Legislation

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I would like to draw attention through you, Mr. Speaker, of the Minister of Justice, to the Natilikmiot Leaders Forum that was held not too long ago in Cambridge Bay. Many issues were brought up and one such issue was in relation to the gun control law. This is federal legislation. According to the people of the Natilikmiot region, Mr. Speaker, many of the Natilikmiot residents are not able to read Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, nor English. Mr. Speaker, in order for subjects of the jurisdiction to understand the law to follow it, they have to be informed. Many of the residents of the Natilikmiot region are not informed because they cannot read English, Inuktitut, or Inuinnaqtun.

My question for the honourable Minister of Justice, will he communicate with his counterpart, the federal Minister, the need to visit the communities in the Natilikmiot region with an RCMP officer, to explain all aspects of the gun control law, hopefully in Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut where appropriate, to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that beneficiaries understand that this law will be in effect in Nunavut? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return to Question 192-13(6): Federal Gun Control Legislation

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, the issue was brought before the Alberta Court of Appeal and it was concluded there and is now in the process of being referenced to the Supreme Court. In the meantime, the National Firearms Act will come into effect on December 1. The Member is quite correct that the people of the Northwest Territories, including the people from his region, need to be aware of what is in the act and what they need to do to comply with the act. As I had said before in this House, the administration of the act is a responsibility of the

federal government and they are making their arrangements without our support or inclusion. I will pass on the message that the Member wants me to pass on to the federal government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 193-13(6): Legal Aid Services

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in Holman

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. It is in regard to an issue that was raised this week at the Beaufort Leaders meeting. It has to do with legal services for the community of Holman. Holman stated that they do not have a legal aid worker and when individuals have to appear in court, they only have a couple of minutes with whoever the legal counsel is to prepare their case before it goes into court. Mr. Speaker, I thought there was such a thing as due process in which an individual has the right to legal counsel long before he appears in court. There is strain and stress on the individuals. I would like to ask the Minister, with division coming and Holman Island being part of the Western Territory, what is being done to improve the legal aid services for Holman Island?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return to Question 193-13(6): Legal Aid Services in Holman

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I am not able to provide the Member immediately what is happening specifically to legal aid services for Holman Island, but, what I can say is that there is an effort on right now in the western Arctic to rationalize the services that are available to try to streamline and to equalize the services that are available throughout the western Arctic. One of the problems seems to be that there are different levels of service in different parts of the region for one reason or another, but what I can do is give the Member an update on what is happening, what will be happening to legal aid

services for the community of Holman and provide it to the MLA for Holman also.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 193-13(6): Legal Aid Services in Holman

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is great the Minister is going to inform me on what is happening in Holman, but it is more appropriate that the Minister meet with the community of Holman Island to deal with this matter so that they are aware of exactly what is happening with their legal services, and the right for people to have due process before going to court. Can the Minister make an effort to go into Holman and deal with this problem with the local community?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 193-13(6): Legal Aid Services in Holman

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if it will be possible for myself to personally go to Holman Island in the next couple of months, but what I can assure the Member is that we will in some way, whether through the Legal Services Board or through our field workers, communicate to the community what the services will be and to consult with them to make sure that they have some input on what kind of services will be available.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Steen.

Question 194-13(6): Proclamation of Tuktut Nogait National Park

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed again to the Minister of RWED, Mr. Kakfwi. I would like to ask Mr. Kakfwi if he can indicate whether or not Tuktut Nogait National Park has been proclaimed.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 194-13(6): Proclamation of Tuktut Nogait National Park

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the legislation to enact the Tuktut Nogait National Park is presently in the parliamentary process in Ottawa. The government introduced the legislation in the House of Commons in March of this year and it is presently being considered by a Senate Committee that is expecting to wrap up its consideration of this bill in the next few weeks. It has not been proclaimed or enacted or passed by Parliament at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Steen.

Supplementary To Question 194-13(6): Proclamation of Tuktut Nogait National Park

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate whether or not this government would retain authority over the wildlife in those federal parks, both Tuktut Nogait and the one on Banks Island?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 194-13(6): Proclamation of Tuktut Nogait National Park

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the park would be proclaimed under federal legislation and would provide for the protection of animals within the park. The details of the jurisdiction for the protection of the animals and under whose legislative authority those would be is not clear to me at this time, so I would have to take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 195-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for Minister Ng, Department of Health and Social Services, and it concerns the section of vital statistics. Last week I happened to be in that office, and I was informed that this office will be closing in Yellowknife and that it will be moving to Inuvik.

--Applause

I wonder if the Minister could confirm that for me?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 195-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that at this time. I certainly will check into it, but it certainly could be viewed as a positive decentralization move. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 195-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could tell us what the process is that will be used to make such a decision in the event there is a move of vital statistics? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 195-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know at this stage because, as I indicated, I am not sure of what the Member is speaking of. I will check into that

and get back to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 195-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, well, I am surprised, because the employees are the ones who told me that this move is taking place. I wonder if the Minister could check into that and report back to the House tomorrow or the next day? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 195-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unless the Member is referring to the Health Insurances Services Administration where there was always a plan, which is based primarily right now in Inuvik, there are a few headquarters positions here and with the Nunavut side of it moving on to Nunavut, the plan was to fully implement a decentralization of the Health Services Administration. The two or three positions that remain in Yellowknife would move over to Inuvik, and that has been in the works, Mr. Speaker, for a couple of years now in response to the transition plan for developing two new territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 196-13(6): Changes to the Labour Standards Act

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to Mr. Kakfwi, the Minister responsible for Regulatory Reform. This initiative was established by the government approximately a year ago. Under the Minister's stewardship there have been some amendments brought to this House and passed at a previous sitting. Approximately six months ago, there

was support for changes to the Labour Standards Act, which was proposed by myself and supported by the Ordinary Members of this House. I would like to ask the Minister at what stage is the process of the regulatory reform initiative's changes to the Labour Standards Act, and what position is it in that order? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 196-13(6): Changes to the Labour Standards Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I shall check with the Regulatory Reform Secretariat and our own staff responsible for the legislative agenda and see where the proposal is, if it has been developed and, if so, where it might or might not fit in the priorities being placed on legislation over the next, in the final closing months and moments of this Legislature. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 196-13(6): Changes to the Labour Standards Act

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe when the Minister announced this program there was much to-do about how streamlined it was going to make government, and how beneficial it would be to employers. Now, these amendments that were requested and supported in this House, are extremely important to many employers and employees in the Northwest Territories. It affects all commissioned employees, Mr. Speaker, hairdressers, salespeople, store clerks, real estate agents, and my question to the Minister is when is the next batch, if you will, of regulatory reform initiatives going to be presented to this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 196-13(6): Changes to the Labour Standards Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a full agenda on the legislative capacity of this government to act between now and the end of March. All the priority has been given to division-related issues and that is where the staff and the resources of this government have been allocated. It does not appear, at this time, that any further legislative proposals would be coming forward in the life of this government regarding regulatory reform. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 6-13(6): Resources to Address the Needs of FAS/FAE Students

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a written question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

1. There has been an increase of 7.92 percent, 7.12 percent and 3.13 percent in school enrolment in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic respectively since October, 1997. Has there been an increase or decrease in the number of teachers in these communities since October, 1997?

2. How many of those teachers are specifically trained in the implementation of the most effective strategies for educating FAS/FAE students?

3. What initiatives are being carried out to ensure the Healthy Children Initiative is adequately addressing the specific needs of children with FAS/FAE in the Northwest Territories?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

Petition 6-13(6): Delivery of Health and Social Services

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the delivery of health and social services. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 39 signatures of residents of the Mackenzie Delta and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the Premier request the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to cause a public inquiry to be held into the delivery of Health and Social Services in the Northwest Territories on matters in regard to the high turnover of doctors and nurses, and the lack of medical professional visits to the communities and the poor quality of medical transportation services provided for small centres to the larger centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 2, and wishes to report that Bill 11 is now ready for the committee of the whole. I request unanimous consent to waive rule 70(1) and have this bill ordered into the committee of the whole for today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Kivallivik is seeking unanimous consent to waiver rule 70(1) and have the bill ordered into committee of the whole for today. Do we have any nays? You have one nay. You do not have unanimous consent. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: Division Measures Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 12th I will move that Bill 17, Division Measures Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo, you have three notices. You can proceed with all three.

Bill 14: Nunavut Judicial System Implementation Act

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 12, 1998 I will move that Bill 14, Nunavut Judicial System Implementation Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Bill 15: Nunavut Statutes Amendment Act

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 12, 1998 I will move that Bill 15, Nunavut Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the first time.

Bill 16: Nunavut Statutes Replacement Act

If I may, Mr. Speaker, finally I give notice that on Thursday, November 12, 1998 I will move that Bill 16, Nunavut Statutes Replacement Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 8-13(6). Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

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

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker;

WHEREAS Sections 29(1) and 76.05 of the Nunavut Act provide that the Government of the Northwest

Territories may enact, on the recommendation of the Interim Commissioner for Nunavut, laws to become the laws of Nunavut on April 1, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the legislative process for the passage of bills includes review by committee;

AND WHEREAS it is appropriate that legislation specific to Nunavut be reviewed at the committee stage by Nunavut Members of the Legislative Assembly;

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

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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;

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. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Motions. Motion 9-13(6). Mr. Todd.

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker;

WHEREAS the Formula Financing Agreement, made on October 23, 1998, between the Government of Canada, represented by the Minister of Finance for Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, represented by the Minister of Finance for the Northwest Territories, has been laid before the Legislative Assembly pursuant to subsection 4(2) of the Financial Administration Act;

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".

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Just to make a correction here regarding the last line of the first sentence and that is Financial Agreement Act not Administration Act. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 13: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99, 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. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 13: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the NWT for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Again, just to correct. Bill 13, not 3. To the principal of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 13 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Tabled Document 26-13(6) and Bill 13, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order, please. On item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, we have Tabled Document 26-13(6), Report of the NWT Boundary Commission 1998 and Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99. What is the wish of the committee? I seek direction of the chairman of the Ordinary Members Caucus, Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That we proceed with Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99, and that we conclude that for today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Member is recommending we deal with Bill 13 and once we conclude that, call it a day. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We will take a break, come back and proceed with Bill 13. Thank you.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to call the committee back to order. We are dealing with Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99. I recognize the Minister responsible, Mr. Todd, to make an opening remark. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, requests authority for additional appropriation of \$6.920 million made up of \$2.939 million for operations and maintenance expenditures and \$3.981 million for capital expenditures.

The total supplementary appropriations, year to date, do exceed the supplementary appropriation reserve included in

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the main estimates. The improvement in the 1998/99 revenue forecast has permitted the government to address a few critical needs through these supplementary appropriations. However, our fiscal situation still requires vigilance.

With these additional funding requirements, included in Supplementary Appropriation No. 3, the projection is still for a balanced budget in 1998/99.

The operations and maintenance appropriation requirements includes:

1. \$2.8 million to support the recruitment and retention of health and social service providers. This includes \$2.4 million for the Department of Health and Social Services and an additional \$.4 million for Education, Culture and Employment. The current situation of high vacancies and turnover rates, amongst nursing positions, demands definitive action on the part of the government.

The capital appropriation requirements include:

1. \$2 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to complete urgent projects. These

include: the conversion of the heating systems in school and college facilities in Inuvik resulting from the decommissioning of the high temperature water system; and technical and program upgrades for the Mangilaluk School in Tuktoyaktuk.

2. \$1.6 million for the Department of Health and Social Services to address urgent capital requirements, including a CAT scanner for the Stanton Regional Health Board; furniture and equipment for the Gjoa Haven Health Centre and various other urgent needs for both western and eastern health boards.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Before we get into general comments I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in witnesses. Mr. Todd, would you like to bring in your witnesses?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to bring in my witnesses now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

For the record, Mr. Todd, would you like to introduce your witnesses please.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, on my immediate right is Mr. Lew Voytilla, the deputy minister of the Financial Management Board Secretariat. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Welcome to the committee, Mr. Voytilla. The floor is now open to general comments from the membership. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is regarding the bill and the use of supplementary appropriations. There was a motion passed in regard to trying to find funds for education programs and service. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what has been done to try to find funds for those particular projects in which there are a lot of items in this supplementary appropriation where we see cost overruns and also a lot of money being spent for infrastructure. There are no monies in there in regard to the problem that we

see with education in relation to the motion that was passed in this House by the Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, while I did speak to the committee earlier on this morning I did indicate to them, as I have said many times, you cannot spend what you do not have. However, recognizing that and recognizing the priority the House placed on education along with a number of other issues, my colleague, Mr. Dent, is working aggressively to try to address both, on the special needs side of education, where there is a desperate need. Also, of course, as my colleague indicates, on the pupil/teacher ratio. However, again there are some limitations. We are determined as I have said on a number of occasions, with the support of the House, to ensure we meet a balanced budget. Hopefully at the end of the day we will be able to. I cannot promise we will be able to bring forward the possibility of some appropriations at a later date on some additional dollars that may be required in that area.

The fiscal reality is we are not in a position today to expend money we do not have. Mr. Dent is, I believe, working towards that and it will be part of the business planning process which you will enter into in the next two or three weeks. At that time, it will give you a clear opportunity to provide the government, both myself and the Cabinet Ministers, with some direction as to where you feel the money should go. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. General comments. Are there further general comments from the membership? Do you wish to go into detail? Thank you. On your Supplementary Appropriation No. 3, 1998, page 5, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance. Emergency services, not previously authorized, \$154,000. Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$154,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We move onto the next page, in this case, page 6. Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance. Administration, not previously authorized, \$2.386 million. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had some questions in relation to the department. They may be questions that perhaps the Minister may require the assistance of the Minister of Health to answer. Two weeks ago I saw an advertisement apparently in the paper for a departmental

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consultant to look at I believe it was, ensuring there were consistencies in policies and so forth, and monitoring of policies throughout the territories and from the boards. Also I understand there is an evaluation study going on at the moment, of monitoring and so forth, with the department. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if this particular supplementary addresses that question of hiring a consultant to monitor the programs or if that was already in the budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Chair recognizes Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, that has no relationship to this budget, to what we are reviewing today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Administration, not previously authorized, \$2.386 million. Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, I have Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could provide some more detail as to what exactly is in this amount that is going to help retain medical staff, nurses and doctors and so on in the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well I did provide the committee with the detailed breakdown of the two plus million dollars but just for the benefit of the House, I will try to quickly go through it, although I could provide a copy to the House. An example is, undergraduate sponsorships, for about \$120,000. This is for a full year, as Mr. Voytilla points out, so it is about \$120,000 for a full year. It is summer employment, internship opportunities for about \$300,000 for a full year. It is mentoring programs for social workers and nurses for about \$300,000. It is the recruitment of northern graduates and students, high school students orientation and recruitment. It is coordinating a northern workforce development. It is a variety of programs that were outlined in the document the Minister tabled in this House earlier last week, in terms of the retention plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

That you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, Mr. Todd. I realize that information was provided to us, but I am asking you to provide it to the House and the public. Mr. Todd, one of the concerns I believe the Minister brought up, in relationship to some of the major problems with our nursing staff, why they are leaving and the concerns they have. The Minister indicated one of the problems was isolation, the other was call-out time. In this plan or this area here, you indicate there will be money set aside to bring in extra staff, to help alleviate these long hours and call-outs. How do you expect to do that if we do not have enough nurses to go around as it is now, just for regular duties?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Perhaps it would be appropriate is the Minister is sitting in the House, for him to answer that question. He is much more knowledgeable of the details of his program than I am. I am here to defend the money, so I will defer to the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I recognize Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intent is the development of the locum relief pool would provide the bulk of the support for community nurses that are operating under the stress if they needed additional relief, because of whatever circumstances were happening in the community at the time. They need the relief to get out for professional development or for the Advanced Nurses Skills Education Program to upgrade their skills. That is the intent, that the locum relief pool would provide the support, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Final question in this area, Mr. Chairman. Is that pool of people, resources, available now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. The last line was not picked up because your microphone was out so, try again, Mr. O'Brien, please.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking the Minister whether or not this pool of resources is available now? If not, when it will be, so these changes could take effect to benefit the nurses, and so on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we started advertising for relief assistance in this area about a month ago. To date, from my understanding, we have six individuals we have signed on to be available and obviously we are expecting that to grow, now that

we have some resources to assist in that area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When does the Minister think we can fully benefit from these new programs, additional staff and this pool of resources that is underway or being put together now? When will the nurses in the nursing stations feel the full impact of the benefits of what you are proposing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would think it depends upon the circumstances, what aspect of the whole recruitment and retention plan is implemented. In respect to some of the professional development, ANSIP development or facilitating workshops with their peers, that type of thing. That will have to be worked out between the boards and their existing resources they have on staff, in

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coordinating how they can manage that.

In respect to an area like the locum relief pool, obviously if there are six individuals that are already signed on, I could perceive that would be put into place if a need were to arise now that they would be able to call upon these individuals to assist some of the existing health care professionals in the territories. It is just a matter of identifying that need and putting the resources to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that he is confident with this pool of resources, these six people or whoever he has on hand, this is sufficient so the nurses or medical staff can benefit fully from what he is proposing? An example would be where you have nurses with

holidays or off on sick leave, whatever, I believe the issue was that they had great difficulty to get people to come in to help them out from other regions. Is the Minister saying with the pool of people he has now, this will benefit the nurses on staff now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Again I will recognize the Minister for Health, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what I said was we have six individuals who have signed on and that is a start and we hope to be able to develop more. Certainly I do not think six is enough. I do not know what the correct number would be. When you recognize there are vacancies, it depends on the various stages of the communities and what their vacancy rates are. It depends on the circumstances of the community who are under stress because of an outbreak of a virus or with the conditions they are working under. Ideally, we would have enough individuals signed up to cover all vacancies, for whatever reasons. If there was stress on the system and the need was there or individuals were designated for holidays or upgrading, that they would not be available to their communities. I cannot say right now what is the ideal amount. All I am trying to suggest is this is a start. I am trying to address the problem of recruitment and retention. We are hoping in the medium and longer term, there is going to be some solution and hopefully it will address some of the immediate, short-term needs as well, over time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The six support staff or pool staff that you have now...is that, at this point in time, to cover the whole Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The allotted time for Mr. O'Brien is over. I have Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as it stands now, yes it is NWT locum relief pool. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 6, Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance, administration, not previously authorized, \$2.386 million. I have Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dealing again with the Nurses Retention Program, I understand an evaluation is being done and will be ongoing in this area and is being done with all the boards as well. First of all, I wonder if the Minister could confirm that for us?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intent is in respect to the professional development in the interaction fund that is going to assist our health care professionals. There would be an ongoing evaluation of the development, obviously to see if the funds are being properly resourced, that there are actually upgraded individuals within our system and hopefully that we will be able to retain those same individuals. The last thing we want to be doing is upgrading individuals to move on to other jurisdictions or other pursuits that would be detrimental to our health care system, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Yes, I would just like to go back to my earlier comment about a consultant or coordinator of these evaluations. Is there someone in the department that will take all these evaluations and start to coordinate that and present that back to management? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. That is what is outlined in the funding proposal. There is going to be a coordinator

of Northern Workforce Development, from the aspect of the health field and the aspect of the social service field. That would be over and above the overseer, the recruitment and retention specialist we have within the department, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

That was the answer I was looking for. I did not know how that would work. As well, we are looking at evaluation. How do we apply standards within the various boards? Are they meeting the same standards and is it consistent to all the boards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, I believe we would facilitate this probably in conjunction with the Registered Nurses Association, in the case of nurses. In conjunction with the newly formed NWT Social Workers Association, in respect to any social worker programs. Also we would have our partners, the NWT Health Care Association, the boards that have been a part of this whole process of developing this recruitment and retention plan from day one. So everybody is at the table as it stands now. Everybody has a concerted effort in trying to make this work. Now we have some resources to move

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forward on this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you. I wonder if the Minister might be able to provide to us, for the hypothetical March session, say for next year, a report updating us on how successful this whole retention program has been?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. It requires detail, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, we are just going to approve these monies today. The Minister did table last February or March, I believe, the whole retention program. If my colleague is asking can we provide the House, prior to March 31, 1999, with an update of its success, I do not anticipate that being a problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I assume this is in relation to establishing pools available to separate boards or is this one pool that would be available to all boards?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Todd is at the witness table, but I will recognize Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intent is there be one pool available to all boards. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, how would this pool be looked at after 1999? Would it still serve both Nunavut and western NWT?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not particularly have the answer to that today. I believe that is fair to say there are all sorts of discussions ongoing right now between the Nunavut Interim Commissioner Office and our government on shared services. We are aware of that, in particular in the area of health. I do not think it has got down to the level of detail in respect to something like this locum pool that we are just in the process of establishing. I can see there is a possibility of having shared resources, but I cannot speak to that today, at this moment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, perhaps my question is more directed to the Minister of Finance. Would we be seeing a similar funding request through the business plans to keep this pool going in the future for the west versus the east?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Minister Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, I believe the Minister recognizes, as the House has talked about on a number of occasions, the difficulties we are under in retaining medical professionals. The intent here is this to be ongoing expenditures, east and west. It would be all part and parcel of the business planning process, which you will be addressing in the next two or three weeks. Correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Administration, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I am not giving the impression that I am opposing this particular expenditure. As a matter of fact, I support this initiative by the government 100 percent. I am just trying to get clarification, Mr. Chairman, as to how it is going to continue on after 1999?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well we will vote these funds today and I suppose, in retrospect, we should have been at this thing a lot sooner, but that is just the way life goes. Mr. Ng will do his best to get up and running along with his staff, all the aspects of the program as he laid out in the documents he tabled earlier in the year. In keeping with the business plans you will do for the west, through the Western Caucus, the retention program will be in there. I am assuming

there will also be a retention program in there for the east. That would certainly be the intent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Administration, not previously authorized. I have Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Minister. In regard to these funds being allocated to the nurses in the communities. We have a lot of shortages, especially in the Beaufort Delta region. Could the Minister tell me exactly where these positions will be allocated in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The intent, I believe, and I do not want to speak on behalf of the Minister, but my understanding of the situation, reading the file, is you are going to have a centralized pool of resources, that as a community requires it, whether it is an emergency or just in respect to additional support that is required; if there are some problems, they would go to this pool and pull upon the resources there. It is not being designed for one particular community because the issue of shortages of medical health care workers is right across the territories. As I said earlier to some questions this week or last week, it is right across the country.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That is depending upon the situation, I suppose. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to how do you prioritize where these monies are going to be spent? Do you have to have a crisis before they are prioritized, as what

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happened in the different regions where you hear about the health crisis in certain areas? It is like you mentioned, it is all over the place. Who makes the decision on exactly where these monies are going to

be spent, and which regions, which communities? There is no detail on exactly how these funds are going to be distributed. You say there are problems all over the place, well show us some figures and numbers so we can identify those areas, so we know where those funds are going?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the primary plan, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I will let the Minister speak to the detail, but let me once again draw, this is a very serious issue. There are broad-based problems out there, no matter what community you are in. The Minister is trying, through this recruitment and retention plan, to provide a centralized pool of expertise that all communities can pull on when required. It is that simple. We have got to treat this thing seriously. I will ask the Minister to maybe add to my initial comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister would you elaborate further? Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the honourable Member is speaking in respect to the locum relief pool, that is exactly what the Minister of Finance has outlined, in respect of there is no targeted community where those individuals are going to go. It is going to be on an as-required basis and determined by health care professionals. It certainly not going to be a political exercise of, well this community needs it more than this one. A decision will be made by health care professionals where the needs are, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Administration, not previously authorized. I have Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This recruitment and retention plan. We have heard a lot about the problems that are occurring in the smaller communities. It is not only the smaller communities that are feeling the effects of the nursing crisis across Canada. The larger communities are also losing

nurses from what I understand. They are also experiencing shortages. Will these funds that are being asked be put into place to assist the larger communities, the hospitals as well so they can retain and recruit nurses as needed? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, the plan is that the NWT recruitment and retention plan, that resources are for the Northwest Territories, as I had indicated in respect to the locum relief pool, that is, right now, to be based in Yellowknife. Some of the resources of headquarters, of course, are in Yellowknife and there will be some that will be moved to Iqaluit, depending on what the base funding split is for the recruitment and retention plan. As it stands now, it is at headquarters and the distribution, for example, I used the professional development fund that goes to all boards, no matter where they may be, because there is staff in every community throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We all indicated we have near to a crisis situation here and money is being appropriated, so I do not know. Administration not previously authorized, \$2.386 million. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I agree with Mr. Steen in reference to the dollars that are being allocated now put forward to improve our health care. I agree 100 percent. It is long overdue. I am just curious, and my question would be at this point, where we now have allocated and found some money to put toward the problem, given the fact that for the last few years our health care situation has been almost in a death spiral, why is it that we had to wait this long, could we have not done it sooner?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

We would all like to have done a whole bunch of things sooner, whether it is in health care or whether it is in teacher education, et cetera. The reality is we

have been living for some time now with severe fiscal limitations and that is really, to some extent, what it boils down to. We have found some money, as I said in committee earlier today, that we think is targeted in the right areas, and hopefully we will be able to come about and bring the kind of stability that the Minister and the Members are looking for.

I am also, as I said in committee, hopeful, and I say hopeful, that the federal Finance Minister will in his budget in February allocate some money to health care and, if he does, then hopefully we will be the beneficiary of that. I think that is really the reason behind it, but even in these difficult times, there is some reason for optimism. As I have said, we have found these dollars as difficult as it is, and I am optimistic that we may see some additional dollars coming into the federal budget in February. If that is the case, then I am sure my colleague, Mr. Ng, is working hard to convince his federal counterpart that the territory should get their share. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, not to belabour the point, Mr. Todd, but I am just curious as to when these monies became available that we are now going to put into play, and my concern would be that it may be too little, too late, given the fact that, especially for the Nunavut MLAs, we are on the last days of our term. I am concerned as to the full impact that the eastern nursing stations, the full benefit that they will get.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, the answer to the first question is that September was when we knew what our fiscal position was. The answer to the second question about Nunavut is that this money will be proportioned out and there will be an

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ongoing program, subject to the new Assembly recognizing it will be part and parcel of the business plans, and it will be proportionately divided up as we have done with everything else. As Mr. Voytilla

pointed out, it will be up to the new Nunavut government as to how much they want to spend, but we are allocating this money right now, it is territorial money, and we will move as quickly as we can to meet the difficult requirements that are currently in place with respect to nurses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we not wish to approve Administration? Not previously authorized, \$2.386 million. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Mr. O'Brien had a point and that is the fact that back in 1993 a study was done on retention of nurses, and to my understanding, it had many, many recommendations in it. However, apparently it was never adopted. The report was never implemented, and I guess I agree with the need for this money, certainly it is needed; however, at this particular point in time I would like to insure that some processes be established.

I do not hear and perhaps I am misunderstanding, but I certainly did not read very well that there is a formal monitoring and evaluation program in place to ensure the procedures, et cetera, of the department are adhered to, that there is consistency of programs from board to board, and consistency of terminology, standards, and so forth. I just do not hear that, and I would like to have assurance of the Minister that they will address that particular area and ensure there is a unit at headquarters here, an individual, or whoever, that is there as, whatever you may call it, I think it was an advisor, a policy advisor, or an evaluation advisor, that was advertised for, that it is going to be the role of the individual to ensure those recommendations are followed through with from the evaluation and monitoring to the advisor. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, you have our assurances, both myself as the Finance Minister and Mr. Ng, who has the responsibility for the program that, in fact, will take place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, once we approve the appropriated money. Administration. Not previously authorized, \$2.386 million. Do we agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you very much. Total department, in this case, Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance, \$2.386 million. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 7, Education, Culture and Employment. Operations and maintenance, culture and careers, not previously authorized, \$399,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, colleagues. Total department is \$399,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Now we move on to page 8, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, community operations, special warrants, \$310,000. Yes, I have Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in regard to this particular matter, I have some real difficulties with it because of the amounts that this project was originally, it was budgeted for \$490,000, at which it was tendered, and the tender came in at \$795,000. Mr. Chairman, I think that is unacceptable, especially in light of the particular project that I was trying to get in my riding, which was over by \$3,500, it was rejected and put back out to public tender. Mr. Chairman, I would like to know exactly why was this

project allowed to come in so much over budget, and yet still succeeded, while every other riding and community in the territories is restricted by financial regulations criteria, that we are not allowed to have these expenditures, yet in this case we are talking about almost \$300,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not want to get into an argument with my honourable colleague, but his statement is inaccurate, and if he checks Hansard he will find it is inaccurate. I think what I need to explain to him, and I will explain why it is inaccurate, and not everybody does not get to renegotiate tenders. The reality is we do that all the time. The total estimated budget for this one, and I apologized to my colleagues earlier today that I did not have the notes, as much as I should have. It was a joint project between Health and Social Services and MACA, with respect to an assembly building, a wellness centre, the total budget was originally \$800,000 not \$400,000 as I indicated earlier, and I apologize again.

A public tender process was followed. The low bid was \$1.147 million, they negotiated the thing down, which means they must have taken some work out, the final contract awarded was \$1.066 million, which is roughly about \$266,000 over the original budget. This project was completed in one year, versus two years, and the reason why we had a special warrant is because the contractor had completed the work and we needed to approve the final payment of the building. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to this particular matter and the amounts, the point I am trying to make is this is way over and above the amounts that was allocated for this particular project, yet in all other projects we have to follow different Public Works criteria in regard to the population, the enrolment figures of the community, what the

needs are. In a lot of communities we would like larger gymnasiums, and a large community complex, but because there is a formula in place which restricts us from getting these large facilities based on criteria that is used by Public Works. I would like to ask the Minister, was there such criteria used in regard to this particular project?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It is important to point out to my colleague, again, I do not want to get into an argument with him, but this project met all the criteria that is set under MACA and under Health and Social Services with respect to their basic needs and requirements under the criteria set in government. The issue of projects coming over budget, I think it would be fair to say, and I do not have the detail here today, that there was a concern expressed by many people, including the Minister of Public Works, earlier in the year, that a number of the projects, capital projects, were all coming in over budget. I believe that the Minister spoke to it in previous sessions, and DPW recognized that, and did a review as to why that was the case. There were a number of reasons why that was the case, and I can certainly outline them to you, if you so wish, but it is important to point out that this project met all the criteria set in keeping with the government policies and standards for MACA and Health. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister admit that this project was over budget from the original amounts estimated, which was \$490,000 and the tender was \$795,000? There is a difference of some \$300,000. Is there any way to do an investigation on why this project came up so much over budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

There is no requirement to do an investigation. There is no requirement to admit anything. I told you what I said. That building's original budget was \$800,000. It

was publicly tendered. The low bid was \$1.147 million. Through some discussions with the contractor, they got the contract down to \$1.066 million. I have indicated to my colleague that there have been a number of discussions taking place in this House and previous Assemblies, the Minister of Public Works has recognized the fact that a number of our projects right across the territories have come in over capital budget and on a number of occasions have had to be cancelled, including schools, including other facilities right across the territories. In this case, this special warrant is because the contract was done in one year, the contractor had to be paid, it did meet all the criteria that MACA and the health department and the standards set for this facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you. Can the Minister tell us who the contractor was for this particular project and exactly where they were located?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The contract for this publicly-tendered facility was Nova Construction.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community operations. Special warrants, \$310,000. Agreed? Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just clarification regarding a certain project that was, why was this contract not re-tendered because it came in so high an amount? In the case of, you mentioned negotiations of the project in my riding where it was publicly tendered and the company that got the contract was negotiating and they were \$3,500 apart from what the amount was, but the original tender was not anything over \$10,000. In this case we are talking \$300,000, yet in that case the contract was re-tendered? Why was this project not re-tendered?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, Chairman, pardon me, I do not know why it was not re-tendered. If I may call upon the Minister of Public Works, if he is available, if he can speak to this issue, because I do not have that in the notes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is a project that was done in Colville Lake. And as Colville Lake does not have any winter roads we have only a small window of opportunity to get the type of material that is required to build a community assembly hall and a health centre. As a government, whenever there is going to be a project in such a place, we organize a cat-train. This is the only place, I think, left in the Northwest Territories where we organized a cat-train. As the last winter's winter road operation had a very short window of opportunity because of the warm weather, late opening and early closure, this was the only opportunity we had at that time to do it. If we were going to re-tender, then we would have lost the window of opportunity and we would have had to not do the project that year. We delayed that project already and with the phenomenal amount in the last year of some of the projects, most of the projects, that were approved in this House, that were estimated very low by the Department of Public Works and client departments. A lot of these contracts were going over the estimates. We had to weigh all that and work with the client departments of Health and Social Services and MACA. I was told that they were willing to provide extra to the project and we went ahead with the project. Basically, the window of opportunity to get the material in through cat-train was the deciding factor in this matter. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The allotted time for Mr. Krutko is up, however, Mr. Todd has indicated he wants to expand from here. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The only thing I would add, Mr. Chairman, because it is relevant, that the additional dollars necessary to

complete this project will be removed from the budget for next year for this department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 8, Municipal and Community Affairs capital, community operations. Special warrants, \$210,000. Agreed? Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I find that interesting, the question about timing and the season of the year becoming an issue on this one because that was the same concern we had on the project that was going to go into Aklavik. The tender was finally opened in September and they were expecting people to get this material and construct in October, when the ice was almost ready to flow. The Minister is aware that that was one of the concerns that the company had, that because of this delay they were only given an opportunity of less than a week to try to negotiate an arrangement. Within that time frame was unacceptable, but in this case, I do not see why there was not a postponement or else allow for it to be re-tendered so that people could have had an opportunity to consider the costs of having those materials brought in over the winter road. In this case it was used as an excuse so that the cost of that extra time frame was \$300,000 to move the material in. Is that what the Minister is saying?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am going to try for the third time. This project was publicly tendered. The number that we finally agreed to was \$1.066 million in the public tender process. Mr. Antoine has explained the reasons why the departments moved on this issue, I have explained to you that the additional dollars will be removed from the budget next year from the department and the reason for the special warrant was because the project was completed in one year rather than two. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community operations. Special warrants. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell me how many tenders were received for this particular project?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That requires some details. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not have that detail with me today. I can provide it to the Member or ask the Minister to provide it to the Member tomorrow, I am sure. They have probably got that fairly accessible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister of Public Works and Services, do you agree?

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, I will get the information right away. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community operations. Special warrants, \$310,000. Agreed? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we delete this matter until we have the information available to us so that we can make a decision with all the information available, knowing who tendered, how many people tendered and exactly why there was such a large cost overrun?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman. To be frank with you, this money has been expended. It is a special warrant which we have the authority to do. It is because the project was done in one year versus two and I would like to proceed with the budget as agreed to. I have gone through this with committee, my honourable colleague, the Minister has agreed to provide Mr. Krutko, who seems to have a problem with the details of who bid, and I see no reason at this point, no valid reason and no argument for holding off.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Much of the money has been spent, so Community operations. Special warrants, \$310,000. Agreed? Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a clarification on my concerns with the particular project. The Minister stated that it is because of the tendering. It is not a question about the tendering, it is a question about, in my riding I could not have a tender approved because it was over by \$3,500 and in this case we are talking about \$300,000 in which the tenders have been in way over budget, yet for a couple thousand dollars, versus tens of thousands dollars, there is a difference. The Minister keeps referring to the deficit situation we are in, we are trying to save money and everything else, and yet in this case, some projects do not go and other projects are coming in over budget. There has to be a balancing act here. Exactly who is enforcing the regulations of this government, ensuring that these overruns do not continue. In this case there was that cost overrun.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister

HON. JOHN TODD:

I will repeat again. This is not some isolated case that capital projects came over budget. There are a whole bunch of them. I remember Mr. Dent talking on a number of occasions about some schools. That is just the reality of the world we live in right now. I see no point, no reason at this point, Mr. Chairman, to delay approval of this \$300,000. None.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community operations, \$310,000. Agreed? I do not know if we are going to be able to undo the past mistakes here in this discussion. Mr. Krutko, your time is still on. Okay now, Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have heard all the Minister's responses to the Member's questions, and I have heard the Member's point. I do not know how, as a Member of this committee, whether or not there is a point in discussing the issue any further. The Minister pointed out this is a special warrant and the money is spent. We cannot retract that, so I suggest, Mr. Chairman, we move on here.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will not recognize any Members that have spoken until we move onto the next page. Community operations. Special warrants, \$310,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department. Special warrants, \$310,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 9, Health and Social Services, capital, community health programs. Special warrants, \$121,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I was waving my hand, Mr. Chairman. I did not agree with moving on with that \$310,000. Mr. Chairman, I would like to move a motion that the amount of \$310,000 be deleted from Supplementary Appropriation No. 3, 1998/1999, under the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, under capital in the activities of Municipal and Community Affairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. First you have to get consent from your colleagues to go back to that page 8, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital because I have called page 9, Health and Social Services, capital before you made the motion. You have to go back to the item that we discussed earlier. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

I seek unanimous consent to go back to page 8.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to page 8. Agreed? Is somebody saying nay? Yes, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Just a point of order, Mr. Chairman. You did state that you were going to come back to me after you allowed the other Members to speak, in which you asked for the other Members having questions. You did not allow me to come back and rebut my question. Could we get a legal opinion here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I have indicated, but Mr. Steen has indicated that he wants to move on. From there on, I indicated that I would only recognize Members who have not spoken to this particular item. The honourable Member is seeking consent from his colleagues to go back to page 8, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I hear one yea and two nays. Nays have it. Page 9, Health and Social Services, capital, could we have order here please? Page 9, Health and Social Services, capital, community health programs. Special warrants, \$121,000. Agreed?

Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have a question with respect to the \$121,000, but I have with respect to warrants. What is the process used to approve a warrant and that relates to Mr. Krutko's concern? Are we here to simply say yes, okay because it is a special warrant? I do not understand what a special warrant is and what is not previously authorized? What are the terms and conditions under which special warrants are allowed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are alluding to the \$121,000 special warrant because we have moved on. I will ask Mr. Voytilla to explain the difference between special warrants and not previously authorized.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Relating to Health and Social Services, capital, community program, please explain what a special warrant is, what is not previously authorized, Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The provision for special warrants is laid out in the Financial Administration Act and it lays out criteria that a special warrant must meet to be approved. It, of course, must be urgent, it must be in the public interest, there may be additional criteria, I cannot remember off the top of my head, but it has to meet these criteria that are laid out in the Financial Administration Act. The Financial Management Board recommends approval of that special warrant to the Commissioner who approves the special warrant pursuant to the Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes, has he answered your question?

MR. OOTES:

Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community health programs, special warrants, \$121,000. Do we agree? Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding these special warrants, is there is a certain amount that you have to bring it back to the legislature before it is approved? If you are over and above a certain amount, does that have to come back to this House for approval?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd, I believe all special warrants go back to the House. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, they all come back to the House, no matter what size the warrant is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Todd, try again please.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, all special warrants have to come back to the House. I could provide the Members with a copy of the Financial Administration Act and how it relates to the special warrants. We have got to be able to function here if you have got emergencies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community health programs. Special warrants, \$121,000. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$1.550 million. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in reference to the eastern and western health boards, urgent minor capital, \$750,000, I wonder if the Minister could provide some more detail as to where this money has been allocated to. For what?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I do not have the breakdown with me today, but unless the Minister corrects me, my understanding is that the CEOs of the health boards, et cetera, have been working in conjunction with the department to identify some shortfalls in minor capital requirements. I am sure the Minister would be only too happy to provide my colleague with a complete and detailed breakdown of where the expenditures are. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe the Minister of Health is indicating affirmative. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Mr. Chairman, what happens on an annual basis, all boards put in their capital submissions of an urgent nature and historically it is running from \$2 million

plus. The department has not had the capability to finance all the needs. This \$750,000 for the minor and small capital projects will be going through the whole process of being re-evaluated by the CEOs in conjunction with the department and funded accordingly, based on those priorities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that we are not quite sure where these dollars are going right now? By the same token, they are classified as urgent, minor capital.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a list, like I had indicated, that \$2 million plus from all the boards. The department has it and like I said, depending on the priorities within that \$2 million, because we only have \$750,000 to allocate now, so the CEOs and the department will sit down and go over those lists once again and see what are the most urgent requirements and fund it based on that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community health programs. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in reference to the \$500,000 for the Stanton Health Board CAT Scanner, can the Minister provide some more detail on this item?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

This is the contribution, if you want, to the Stanton Regional Health Board for a CAT Scanner. I believe that their fundraising abilities, have reached somewhere close to \$1.2, \$1.3 million that they have managed to get from concerted efforts, either through corporate clients or just hard work on the part of the

volunteers, a number of them who are in this room today. This CAT Scanner will put a state-of-the-art CAT Scan operation into place for all northern peoples and at the present time, all of us, myself included, have to go south for this work to be done. If my memory serves me correctly, this fall there should be a significant saving, particularly in the transportation side with respect to this investment. This is a solid investment, it provides support for a marvellous example of volunteerism which I think needs to be applauded, and we think that this project is in the best interests of northern peoples. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I also agree that this is a much-needed piece of equipment for the north. I am just curious as to, whether it is still the intention of both parties, west and east, to have Nunavut residents post-division be flown to Yellowknife for this type of analysis?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

As we know, the Kitikmeot, of course, will continue to use the Stanton Hospital. In our budget projections, I think we showed that. It was somewhere in the region of about \$4 or \$5 million. Certainly, I cannot speak for the Minister, but from my understanding of the discussions on it, for the present, that is where this facility will be utilized and at the end of the day, the two new governments and the new government particularly in the east would have to determine whether they wish to utilize this operation or not. That is certainly the intent right now. Am I correct? It certainly is the intent right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community health programs. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that right now we know that this piece

of equipment will be used, of course, for people in the west, and the Kitikmeot, but we are uncertain as to whether Baffin or Keewatin residents will be flown to Yellowknife to use this piece of equipment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, you know this is a significant fiscal investment that I understand is well over \$2 million. It is a state-of-the-art CAT Scanner. Anybody who has had one will understand the importance of this issue, this particular piece of machinery. My understanding is that up until March 31st, the big night, 1999, assuming that if this CAT Scanner is in place

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soon, that anybody from the Northwest Territories would utilize it. After that, that will be entirely up to the new Nunavut government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community health programs. I have Mr. Steen and Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, two questions: One, I would have thought that when you design, build and construct a health centre, you would include in your plan for furniture. I am wondering why there is all of a sudden an urgent need for furniture and equipment for the Gjoa Haven Health Centre? Why was that not included in the original plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

My notes say that the Gjoa Haven Health Centre is nearing completion. In the past, the department has not included furnishings and equipment for replacement projects as the expectation is that the existing furniture will be transferred to the new facility. However, the department has been unable to maintain that active minor capital replacement program. As a consequence, the equipment in the existing facility is in poor shape and a significant portion of it needs to be replaced.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you for that explanation. The other question I have is, equipment for other health centres, it says health boards, other than the Stanton Regional Health Board, I presume this includes then the Kitikmeot Health Board. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

As the Minister indicated, he has, if you want on his desk, \$2 million worth of minor capital requests for all health boards across the territories and that this \$750,000, while not all of what he requires, will provide him some relief for some minor capital requirements in the health boards that are out there. He will have to sit down, I would imagine, or his department, and negotiate the priorities with the CEOs of each and every one of the health boards. I hope I am correct. Am I?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Expand from here, Mr. Ng.

HON. KELVIN NG:

Yes, the Minister of Finance is correct except to state that also that because of the fact that Stanton would be getting this significant investment, the Kitikmeot would be a getting a significant investment out of the total \$1.55 million appropriations. For the basis of the \$750,000 that we would try to focus on the other boards that had not received any capital allocations, in recognizing their needs on a priority basis. The only way that Stanton or the Kitikmeot would receive any additional funds is if it was deemed to be a highest priority because of safety or health reasons. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Mr. Chairman, I presume we are talking about a new health centre for Gjoa Haven. Is this part of Nunavut

federal funding that built that health centre or this government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no, this is under the current GNWT territorial funds, capital funds, that were allocated to Gjoa Haven two years ago, I believe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

My last question, Mr. Chairman. Could I have an explanation why the Gjoa Haven Health Centre funding request is separated from the other capital, urgent capital requirements?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, one, I believe, again the Minister can correct me, but according to the notes I have read it is because it is a brand new facility that is almost nearing completion. Some of the equipment and some of the furniture is in the existing older one, which is a really old one, and is, redundant might be the appropriate word. We have just identified it as Gjoa Haven because it is a new facility and it is a significant amount of money, so I think it is important to identify the community so everybody understands where it is being spent. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe Mr. Steen has indicated that would be his last question on this particular page. I have Mr. Krutko. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the usage of special warrants. Is that in case of emergencies and what not? I would like to know exactly who approves the special warrants? Is it the Minister, FMBS, or Cabinet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I believe Mr. Voytilla in an earlier question answered what special warrants are about. There is no point in me repeating that. The approval process is the FMB and then it goes to the Commissioner. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community health program. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me exactly how you determine which community fits in the criteria for an area which needs a special warrant rather than going through the regular budgetary process to get it into the capital plans of the different departments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

A special warrant usually comes about because it is of an emergency nature or it is of an urgent nature. That is the primary criteria. It goes to the FMB. There

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are three areas here, there is an urgency issue, there is a public interest issue, in other words you need to get it moving, as Mr. Antoine indicated in terms of winter roads; and in may in fact be as it was in the previous one, insufficient appropriation, in other words, it may be over budget. Therefore, as you are moving forward on this stuff you need a special warrant, which gets approved by FMB and then has to get the approval of the Commissioner who can sign off on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Community health programs. Special warrants, not previously authorized, \$1.55 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$121,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.55 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 10, Education, Culture and Employment, capital. Educational development, not previously authorized, \$2 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my question is in relation to the \$300,000 that is identified for technical and program upgrades for Mangilaluk School in Tuktoyaktuk. Mr. Chairman, it was just a matter of two or three days ago that technical and program upgrades were actually brought to the Minister's attention publicly, I believe. I know that there was a request for expansion of the school in the past or construction of a separate high school. I spoke towards this item in the Inuvik Leadership Conference, I believe it was Saturday, two days ago. I must commend the Minister for his speedy response on this. I do not speak in an objection to the funding, but I might ask the Minister if he could elaborate a little bit on exactly what this funding is going to be spent on? What type of technical and program upgrades?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. I would like to take the credit for it, but in fact, Mr. Dent, Minister of Education, was the one who brought the paper forward and, if it is okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I will ask Mr. Dent to speak to what the \$300,000 is going to be expended for and I will take the compliment. It is so rare these days. Mr. Dent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you and I will give the credit to Mr. Dent. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with the addition of senior school grades in a school that was not designed for those grades, it is often found that by making some structural changes to the school that you can create a situation where you have a school within a school. If you do not have the total population of students to justify having a separate high school, for instance, you can create a situation where the high school students are separated from the younger grades to create the sense of having their own school and making it function like two separate schools, which has been found to be more effective. The intent is to try and spend this money to make some changes to the layout of the school and, for instance, to provide separate washrooms for the older kids, to try and create that situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the Minister if he is working in cooperation with the local school board or the local district education authority as to the design of this? Who is he working with?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local district education authority and divisional education council will be intimately involved in the work and we would hope that we could get the district education authority very

closely involved in the planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I support this initiative on the part of the government and I would urge colleagues to do the same.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to the \$1.7 million contract to replace the Inuvik high temperature water system in the school and college buildings, can the Minister provide some additional detail on this issue?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. I think what this does, in fact, is conclude the transfer, if you want, and dismantlement of a system that was costly and out of date. These funds will permit the remaining government buildings to convert from the old system of the high water temperature hot water system, as everybody knows who has been in Inuvik, that old utilidor that runs into individual systems in each of the buildings. That is really what this is. We have already spent a considerable amount of money in this community at the urging of the MLA and, of course, at the good graces of the Ministers and this House. This additional dollars concludes six government buildings that remain on the old system. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

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MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Todd, what is the expected life of this work, given the fact that there will be new facilities constructed or proposed at least, for

the next year or so with reference to college facilities and so on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

My colleague, actually, from Inuvik could probably explain it a lot better, but my understanding of the situation is you had an old fashioned, hot water, high temperature system that provided heating, et cetera, to buildings. It had to be maintained as one. What has happened over the years is it has been found to be, one, somewhat redundant, two, to be costly, and three, wanted it replaced. What we have done over a period of two to three years is replace this old system, dismantled it and put individual heating systems into each of these facilities. We have six territorial facilities left to do that so the whole community, from a government perspective anyway, will then be off the old system and onto individual independent systems. These monies conclude that exercise and theoretically there should be no requirement for any additional dollars.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can we gather from that that the facilities these new improvements are going into will be around for the next ten or 15 years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Definitely. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The campus gymnasium, research institute, Samuel Hearne Secondary School, Sir Alexander Mackenzie High School and the college's 20 student housing units will. The Aurora College Campus will not because it is being replaced. There is one facility that will not, the rest will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

My final question, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Todd, what amount or portion of the dollars that we are going to expend here for these improvements, how are they related to the unit that will not be in use after the next year or two?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That was a final question from Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

That is a good question. My understanding of the notes here say \$390,000 and, in fact, what they are hoping is that they will put the facility up for sale and there may, in fact, be some revenue generated if the facility is sold. The net cost to the government right now is subject to the facility being sold and, depending how much money we get it, it is about \$390,000. It all has to come off the system. You cannot leave one sitting there. The whole system, unfortunately, has to come off the old system and onto the new system in independent units. It is an expenditure that we reluctantly have to expend at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Educational development, not previously authorized, \$2 million. Agreed? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me who has the contract to do this? Nova Construction, or who?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

If we all could have the luxury of being so flippant. Mr. Chairman, I do not know who has the contract, but I will check into it. I do not believe Nova Construction is involved in this kind of work. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. In fairness to any contractor in the territories, I would like to caution Members. Thank you. Educational development, not previously authorized, \$2 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total department, not previously authorized, \$2 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Shall we conclude the details and move on to the bill itself? Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99. Page 1, clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 2, clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 4, schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$2.939 million. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Part 2, vote 2, capital. Total capital, \$3.981 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total supplementary appropriation in parts 1 and 2, \$6.92 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 13 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 13 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Mr. Todd and Mr. Voytilla for appearing before the committee. Thank you. That concludes the items on the agenda. I will now rise and report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Good evening, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99, and would like to report progress. I would like to report that Bill 13 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Programs immediately after adjournment tonight. There is a meeting at 9:00 a.m. of the full Caucus tomorrow. Also at 11:00 a.m. with the Ordinary Members Caucus and 12:00 noon with the Management and Services Board.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 10, 1998:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions

5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - 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
 - Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1998/99
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 10, 1998 at 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

--ADJOURNMENT