



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Day 23

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

HON. SAMUEL GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Good afternoon. Before we start today, I would like to inform the House that I have appointed a new Sergeant-at-Arms to serve the Legislative Assembly. I would like to introduce to the Assembly, Mr. Joseph Ouellette.

--Applause

Mr. Ouellette takes over his duties officially today. I am sure Members will join me in welcoming Mr. Ouellette to his work as Sergeant-at-Arms.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge our current Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Tony Whitford.

--Applause

Mr. Whitford will be giving up his duties later this month and on behalf of all Members, I would like to express the Assembly's appreciation for the excellent way you have carried out your responsibilities. Mr. Whitford should be congratulated for the work he has done to enhance the stature of the position of Sergeant-at-Arms, not only with the hosting of the 1998 Canadian Sergeant-at-Arms Conference, but his contacts overseas. On your behalf, thank you, Tony, for your work with the Pages and wish you Godspeed in whatever your future holds.

--Applause

I would also like to mention the contribution Mr. Barry Bran brought to the position of Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms and I will be announcing the appointment of a Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms early next year.

Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 95-13(6): Status of Power Corporation Negotiations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have an emergency statement. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform this House that I will not be proceeding with legislation concerning the Northwest Territories Power Corporation during today's session.

As I previously informed Members, officials have been meeting over the past several months on an agreement that would have seen the corporation continued as a single entity over a three-year transition period. These discussions included the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Office of the Interim Commissioner, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Western Coalition.

These discussions continued until an hour ago. Tentative agreement was reached on all aspects of the transition agreement with the exception of how to share the dividend payments between the NWT and Nunavut during the transition period. Unfortunately, this fundamental difference of opinion cannot be resolved in time to proceed with legislation in the extremely limited window of opportunity remaining during the current session.

While all parties are disappointed that we have not yet been able to find agreement with respect to the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, I am encouraged by the fact that all parties remain committed to finding a northern resolution to this problem. The parties have agreed to meet again tomorrow afternoon to continue to work through this issue. I will keep Members informed of any new developments as they occur. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Minister's Statement 96-13(6): Premier's Conference Call

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Honourable Kelvin Ng and I participated in a conference call with provincial and territorial Premiers from across the country. It was the first time Premiers have met since Lucien Bouchard won last week's Quebec election. The meeting, chaired by Saskatchewan Premier Romanow, was called to discuss the upcoming federal budget and progress on social union negotiations. As Members may know, the social union became an important issue in the Quebec election campaign.

Canada's Premiers are calling upon the federal government to restore health care funding levels that have been cut over the last several years. We want to emphasize that the amount of money reinvested will need to be substantial. This confirms what all provincial and territorial leaders agreed to, as a first priority, in Saskatoon this past summer. We are asking that social union negotiations recommence after being suspended for the Quebec election. Premiers agreed that we need to step up the pace on

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these talks, bargain in good faith and come up with a workable solution as soon as is realistically possible.

Mr. Speaker, we are also calling upon the Prime Minister to convene a First Ministers' meeting early in the new year. We propose to use that opportunity to discuss with him the agreement that has been reached and sustained by all provincial and territorial jurisdictions across this country. We would like to meet with the Prime Minister so that we can describe our situation and to make our position as clear as possible. We need to tell him, face to face, about our need to sustain basic health care services. British Columbia's Premier, Glen Clark, said a good First Ministers' meeting could also help to smooth the way for successful social union discussions and thus make our country work better. Alberta's Premier, Ralph Klein, and British Columbia's Premier, Glen Clark, have each met with the Prime Minister in the last two days. Each of these Premiers has impressed upon the Prime Minister the importance of restoring health care funding to every jurisdiction in the country. We view the restoration of primary health care funding from Ottawa to the provinces and territories as the top priority, particularly given the serious stresses and strains on the health care system being experienced in each province and territory.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is worth noting that all provincial and territorial leaders have put aside other important issues in order to reaffirm that the proper focus and the proper emphasis should be placed on ensuring that all Canadians enjoy an adequately funded and sustainable health care system. The Government of the Northwest Territories has played an important role in these discussions. We have been successful in bringing the specific issue of aboriginal people's health and well-being to the table and we will remain vigilant in ensuring that this issue receives due attention at the national level. We will work in concert with our provincial and territorial partners to ensure that our priorities are recognized on the national scene. Mr. Romanow summed up by saying that our goal is to make Canada work better and to deliver health and social programs that work better for all Canadians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements.

Minister's Statement 97-13(6): Corporate Plan 1999-2001

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for the NWT Workers' Compensation Board, it will be my pleasure to table, later today, the board's corporate plan for the years 1999 to 2001 in accordance with subsection 91(1) of the Financial Administration Act. The corporate plan, which will guide WCB operations over the next three years, is prepared annually as a result of joint planning sessions involving the WCB's board of directors and its management team. This corporate plan reaffirms many of the strategic issues identified in the board's previous plan. Improving workplace safety, in particular, remains an important objective for the WCB. Education and inspection activities will target those industries with high accident frequencies, and partnerships with workers and employers will be actively promoted in 1999. The WCB will provide ergonomic training and education to employers, and will develop initiatives aimed at small business, youth and the changing workplace.

Mr. Speaker, the WCB remains committed to excellence in the areas of program and service delivery. This commitment is reflected in a number of initiatives designed to improve the effectiveness and

efficiency of its operations, including an evaluation of on-line-access reporting for employers, enhanced return-to-work incentives and a case management model which will provide better and more timely service to injured workers.

Mr. Speaker, as recognized in the board's previous corporate plan, an effective board governance structure is crucial in ensuring that the financial, legislative and program challenges facing the WCB are dealt with in a responsible manner. Effective stakeholder-board interaction is a top priority, as it is every year. Mr. Speaker, the WCB is also proud to be hosting the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada's 1999 Congress here in Yellowknife.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the board is committed to protecting the interests of all WCB stakeholders during the division process and post-division. By acting as a resource during the negotiation of an intergovernmental transition agreement, the board is well positioned to support whatever decisions are made at the political level with respect to its structure after division.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by congratulating, as I have many times, the board of directors, staff and management of the WCB in their efforts to continually improve workers' compensation in the north. These are uncertain times and the WCB has responded to the challenge. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

--Applause

Minister's Statement 98-13(6): Jon Lindell

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our political lives all of us depend on our spouses, our families and our friends for their love, their guidance, their honesty, their understanding and their support. In particular, our wives or husbands have a special role, making sure that we have as normal a life as possible and that our children receive the care and attention they need when we are away doing our jobs. This morning we learned of the sudden and tragic death in Arviat of Mr. Jon Lindell.

Jon, who was in his early forties, was the husband of Nunavut Member of Parliament, Nancy Karetak-

Lindell and father to their four children who range in age from eight to 19. Jon, who was active as a volunteer in Arviat, operated an Arviat-based expediting business. He and his four sons had a special love of playing hockey, even including mother Nancy in the odd game.

Nunavut has lost a great man. A real man, who has demonstrated a genuine vision for Nunavut, a vision of reality and strength. Jon Lindell was a key supporter of the Canadian miner and a highly valued friend of many northerners. For this, the people of Nunavut will celebrate his life and visions and carry them through with the pride, sincerity and honesty that Jon was famous for. On behalf of all Members of this Assembly and Northwest Territories residents, I extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to Nancy, their four children and family

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members. Our thoughts are also with the people of Arviat who have suffered a deep loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Ms. Thompson.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 252-13(6): Passing of Jon Lindell

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it also gives me great sorrow to share with Members of this House the sad news of Nancy Karetak-Lindell's husband Jon who passed away last night. I really feel a deep hurt for the Lindell family and my prayers including those of Cabinet are with them. I lead a prayer this morning with the government Ministers when we learned of Ms. Karetak-Lindell's loss. We prayed as leaders, to our Heavenly Father that He will answer and comfort the family.

Mr. Speaker, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, like myself, has been a mother, a wife and a political leader for the Keewatin. Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. She is my colleague, my close relative, her loss is very close to home for me. I am returning to Rankin this Friday to be with my husband and my boys. I need a hug from my husband. Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone in

the territories to pray for Nancy Lindell and her family at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement 253-13(6): The Need for Full-Time Fire Chiefs

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, my condolences go to the Lindell family. Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Leaders Forum recognizes and understands the actual work being done provided by volunteer fire departments throughout the north and throughout the Nunavut area. Mr. Speaker, I think we all recognize and acknowledge the importance of volunteer fire departments across the north. We will continue to rely on their services and their expertise, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Leaders Forum also recognizes the Kitikmeot communities are continuing to grow in both population and infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that these developments require specialized training and planning, but are beyond the capabilities of volunteer fire departments. We need to seriously look and support the provision of funding for full-time fire chiefs in the region. I think that every Member of this House who represents small communities understands and recognizes that you need a full-time fire chief in small communities, remote communities, regardless of the size, where you have major infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 254-13(6): Arctic Bay Docking Facilities

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was at home, I was told by my representatives in Arctic Bay, the dock in Arctic Bay that was built in the 1990s is too short for the community. When most of the hunters are using the dock, especially in the fall, they extend the dock in Arctic Bay, but up till now it is still too short for the number of boats in Arctic Bay. They had to go elsewhere to dock their boats in the community. I would like to inform the House that I will

be asking questions regarding this issue to the Minister later on today. (Translation ends.)

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to give my condolences to our Member of Parliament, Nancy Karetak-Lindell and her family. I would also like to send my condolences to the past mayor of Baker Lake, David Kagoona. I would like to say what David Kagoona told me when I got elected. When I first met him he told me never to fear to ask questions. He told me, if you do not ask questions, you will never get the answers. That, I will remember. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 255-13(6): Financial Stability

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in about 100 days, we will be starting two new territories. This is pretty well the last time that we are going to meet as a Legislature, except for possibly a brief session in March. As two new territories, we are starting with a financial arrangement that is going to allow us to maintain programs and services, but we all know from the briefings we had that the increased population and demands for services will put a huge pressure on us and our limited financial resources. We are also going to want to try to, in fact, start new programs to improve social conditions, education and economic opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that as it now stands, our revenues are pretty well flat from here on in, unless they are pegged to population. We have no capability to, in fact, increase those revenues. It would appear the current government in Ottawa has opened the door to reviewing our tax structure and has given us a tax window, so to speak. For us, in the north, as resource activity grows, as it will have no choice but to given the resources we have here, we need a chance for more resources to stay, more taxes to stay in the north, rather than going straight to Ottawa.

With less than 100 days left, it is critical for us to move on this initiative that is now underway and to try to bring it to some closure before the end of March. As we look down the road with the time left in this Assembly, this has got to be one of the most critical issues facing us: a stable monetary source and the possibility, in fact, to increase those resources and allow us to meet the demands of the people that we

serve. I would urge the government and Cabinet to ensure that we pursue this with all the efforts and resources at our disposal. We have 100 days left and the window will not be there forever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Steen.

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Member's Statement 256-13(6): Holman Hamlet Councillors

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the attention of the House to this matter. On November 9th, nominations closed for appointments for elections to the hamlet council in Holman. Since there were only five positions and five names, all the members were acclaimed. I would like to advise the House that for a two-year term, Elsie Ovilok, Robert Kuptana, Mel Pretty and Nancy Goose have been acclaimed for a one-year term with Trudy Anne Kuptana. Mr. Speaker, with the upcoming municipal elections on Monday, December 14th, I would encourage the other three of my communities, all the members of the public, to come out and vote on that day. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement 257-13(6): Passing of Jon Lindell and David Tagoona

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I can add much more to comments that were spoken by Mr. Arlooktoo, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Barnabas, regarding the death of a very good friend of mine, a trusted confidante, an advisor, Jon Lindell, who passed away late last night. Mr. Speaker, Jon will be missed greatly by all people in the community, all the people of the region. He gave a lot of himself to his wife, to his family, and I think to the residents of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this only adds to the sadness when earlier this week, I announced the death of Mayor David Tagoona, another good friend of mine. Mr. Speaker, for the record, we realize that the media coverage of Mr. Tagoona's death was somewhat contorted, even misleading. As of this morning, the medical directors acknowledged and announced that Mr. Tagoona died from a massive heart attack on Sunday. Mr. Speaker, I will ask my fellow colleagues to join me in offering our sincere condolences and our prayers to Nancy, sister Charlotte, all the family members and the children at their time of need. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 258-13(6): The Need for Full-Time Fire Chiefs

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a concern that affects all of our smaller communities. Currently, in all our smaller communities, we have volunteer fire departments and fire chiefs. They do a very good job when called upon. Their work is often very difficult considering fire does not wait for anyone. It could happen in the cold of winter, at night or during the day. These volunteers drop whatever they are doing to try and save the house, school or any other building.

However, these departments need to have updated equipment and up-to-date knowledge on the science of fire. In order for the departments to operate efficiently, they need to have professional guidance. That is the reason I support the idea of having full-time, qualified professional fire chiefs in all the communities. Most people do not recognize the importance and knowledge a full-time fire chief can bring to a community. He can increase prevention and awareness of fire in the community. It would be his position to also train the volunteer department, as well as other interested individuals, wishing to volunteer.

In closing, I would hope the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs would consider this very important issue that affects all our communities and residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 259-13(6): Highway Reconstruction Between Yellowknife and Rae

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to speak today again on the highway between Yellowknife and Rae which has been the subject of much discussion and many comments in this Legislature. Under the current strategy, the highway between these two communities, will not be completed for another ten years, although we have started a good program this year to commence part of the construction.

We simply need this road completed as soon as possible. There have been more than 14 deaths on this highway in its history. It is a narrow, winding road, one that is slippery and extremely dangerous at certain times. For a road that carries 62 percent of all vehicle traffic in the north, 62 percent, Mr. Speaker, such road conditions are a tremendous hazard.

We need to press by whatever means we can to complete this road, be it that we look at the federal government to re-institute a program such as the Highways or Roads to Resources, which at one time existed. After all, what we have got to look at is that the federal government does get a tremendous amount of royalties from the resources of the Northwest Territories and specifically from our diamond mines now. The road is the access route for much of the traffic to these particular mines, so I think the federal government should have a responsibility in dealing with this issue.

Possibly, our government's current economic strategy may identify money for this particular thrust and the road infrastructure that we need, but we need to be able to concentrate on this fairly quickly. Public safety, including residential, industrial and tourism traffic is all at stake in this. I want to, again, emphasize that we, as a Legislative Assembly, should address this question, Mr. Speaker, and push wherever we can to get this completed. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 260-13(6): NorthwesTel Phone Service Subsidies

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest, great interest, to the statements made by the

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honourable Member for Thebacha over the past couple of days about NorthwesTel. NorthwesTel is a monopoly. NorthwesTel delivers a service in a protected market. NorthwesTel is a subsidiary of the multinational Bell Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, residents will happily accept to subsidize a high-cost telecommunications system, including the higher-cost communities, only when they know for certain what the detailed cost structure is. Let me put it another way. No subsidization without detailed disclosure on costs, lists of salaries of executives, list of contracts, and failing these, you can be sure, Mr. Speaker, that our resident consumers in any kind of a market will want to drop the use of dead dog, inefficient suppliers at the first opportunity.

How? By moving to alternate suppliers such as AT&T, Sprint, London Telecommunications or Westcom. Why are not these alternate suppliers allowed to operate here, Mr. Speaker? Residents will no longer accept the compulsive anti-market interference in our marketplace. Why do we not have market phone services here, Mr. Speaker? If we are going to have a subsidization system working in the territories, then we must simply have full accountability for the monies that are spent. For instance, what is the return that NorthwesTel makes on its Northwest Territories operations? Have they shared those numbers with us? Perhaps the honourable Member who gave such an impassioned speech over the last couple of days could provide those to the House.

Another instance, Mr. Speaker, why is it that NorthwesTel has a fleet of late model trucks in their yard on the old airport road here in Yellowknife when many citizens of this territory are driving vehicles that are ten years old if they have one. All the while, these same citizens struggle to pay the phone long distance rates, Mr. Speaker, that are sometimes between four and six times higher than in the mainstream. There is something very wrong here, Mr. Speaker. Does all of this sound familiar, Mr. Speaker? It should because this is the same theme that we have been talking about in this House for some days and years now. When NorthwesTel finally releases and makes public the aforementioned, then and only then can or should

we look at a subsidy or other government help.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement 261-13(6): Nahendeh Band Councils

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are elections happening all over the north all the time and there are people at the community level who make commitments to help their own people in their communities by putting their name to stand for different positions.

Mr. Speaker, in the case of some of the communities I represent in the Nahendeh constituency, I want to go over some of the communities and chiefs who were elected recently. Going back to July 6th, in Nahanni Butte, I would like to congratulate Peter Marcellais who became chief there along with councillors Jane Konisenta, Lena Marcellais, Isadore Ekotla, William Konisenta and Raymond Vital with elders Jonas and Elsie Marcellais. Jean Marie River, September 12th, election for the band council, Chief Yvonne Norwegian was re-elected there along with councillors Margaret Ireland, Jonas Sanguetz, Isadore Simon, Melvin Sake, Earnest Hardisty and elder Sarah Hardisty. On November 10th, Trout Lake had an election for chief and Tom Kotchea, I would like to congratulate him as the new elected chief in Trout Lake along with councillors Maggie Jumbo, Dolphus Jumbo, Violet Sanguetz, Bertha Deneron and Phoebe Punch.

On December 4th, Mr. Speaker, in the community of Wrigley there was an election for the Pehdzeh Ki First Nation, I would like you to congratulate Mary-Alise Christopher as the elected chief there along with Michael Neyelle, Elsie Hardisty, Raymond Pellissey, Ruby Ekenole-Watt, Archie Williams and Adele Hardisty. Finally, Mr. Speaker, yesterday there was an election in Fort Liard for the Acho Dene First Nation Chief. I would like to congratulate the re-election of Chief Harry Deneron to the position for two years, along with councillors Stephen Kotchea and Stanley Bertrand. New councillors are Dan Lomen, Floyd Diamond C and Judy Kotchea. I would like to congratulate all of these people in the communities for

letting their names stand for representing the people in the community. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement 262-13(6): Passing of Jon Lindell

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I met Nancy Karetak-Lindell years ago as the Minister of Education. I was very sad to hear this morning that her husband has passed away. I am particularly sad because of the children. She is serving the people of Nunavut as their Member of Parliament so it will have an impact on the people of Nunavut. She is serving in public life and so this tragedy has a different dimension from all the other ones that face each of us every day. It reminds me that the difficulties and the worries and little issues that I have myself are not so great as those facing Nancy and her children today. I wanted to express my condolences and my prayers to Nancy and her family. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 263-13(6): Independence Programs for Disabled Persons

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest last Thursday to the Minister of Health and Social Services speak of the International Day of Disabled Persons. I would have spoken to that issue that day, Mr. Speaker, but as you know other events were crowding our agenda. Mr. Speaker, this support for the International Day of Disabled Persons by the government perhaps paints a slightly rosier picture than disabled persons actually live under in the Northwest Territories. This government has income support programs and subsidies for seniors so that they can maintain their independence in their own homes, but has no similar programs for people of working age who cannot work because of disability.

I am aware of one case in Hay River where a disabled homeowner is having trouble making ends meet on his federal

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disability pension. This person has a shortfall in income of approximately \$200 per month. When he tried to access income support he was made to feel that there should be no need for him to do so, considering he received a disability pension. In any event, he was denied. Mr. Speaker, I have seen this person's monthly budget and it is not extravagant. It is barely enough for him to live in dignity and maintain his independence in his own home. Mr. Speaker, where does this leave us? We have a disabled person under great stress and in fear of losing his home. For what, Mr. Speaker, \$200 a month or \$2,400 a year? The logic of government policies escapes me sometimes. If this disabled person loses his home, he will probably end up in social housing at a significantly higher cost to this government.

Mr. Speaker, this government talks the talk when it comes to supporting disabled persons. It is time to take action and develop streamlined policies and programs between ECE and Health and Social services that deal with the needs of disabled persons in the Northwest Territories instead of foisting the problem off on volunteer agencies. I will be following up on this important matter in question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 264-13(6): Notable Events Occurring in the Great Hall

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a couple of very significant and noteworthy events took place in the Great Hall this past Sunday. The first was a rally to commemorate the memory of the 14 women who died in Montreal, commonly known as the Montreal massacre. The second was the Fifth Annual night of Christmas music at the Legislature. Both events, Mr. Speaker were very well attended, especially when one considers the number of events that happen in my community on any day or evening. The public rally to commemorate the Montreal massacre should continue to keep the individual and collective disgust of the act of violence against women forefront in the

minds of all in our homes, our community and our territory.

On a brighter note, Mr. Speaker, many people gathered in the evening for the Night of Christmas music at the Legislature and were entertained by many fine voices in the following groups: Koinonia Christian School Choir, Dave and Sherry, St. Patrick's High School Choral Society, Ceilidh and Friends, Zion and Harmony. It was followed by refreshments which were provided compliments of Javaroma. There were food donations collected at the door and that was donated to the Yellowknife Women's Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 265-13(6): Abuses Suffered by Residential School Students

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I made a statement indicating that perhaps there should be a public inquiry into the residential schools and the people who had gone to them. I wanted to indicate today some of the research that I have had done indicates some of the abuses which occurred include sexual assault; performing private inspections of genitals of girls and boys; arranging or inducing abortions in female children impregnated by men in authority; burning, scalding and beating children into unconsciousness; using electric shock devices on physically restrained children. Mr. Speaker, those are just a few. There are about 20 other items people indicated that were done to them and you can imagine the repercussions to a child's brain and how that would effect them for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I have also received from members of the Grollier Hall Residential School a couple of other ideas. Perhaps other than an inquiry, there could be a special commission on residential schools which could include a whole panel of people and they could go around and hold hearings or interviews for people who did not want to be in a hearing or they could have one special commissioner going around doing this. Another thing they have indicated is that perhaps there could be a residential schools aftermath advisor to the Premier who would provide the Premier with support and advice on a wide range of residential

school issues as well as government policies, legislation, programs and activities relating to residential schools.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this is to indicate that perhaps an inquiry may not be the answer, but we have to do something. Mr. Speaker, we have to do something to help people to heal and take advantage of the federal healing fund that the federal government has made available. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 282-13(6): Number of NWT Teachers

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a reply to a question asked by Mr. Ootes on December 8, 1998. Mr. Speaker, teachers are defined by the Education Act as persons who are professionally certified as teachers and who are also members of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association. As of December 1, 1998, there are 1,271 teachers working in schools throughout the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, this includes 616 teachers in the western Northwest Territories and 655 in Nunavut. There are an additional 40 teachers on leave. Mr. Speaker, this number does not include qualified teachers who may be working in colleges, in non-teaching positions in the Department of Education, Culture and Employment or in positions that do not require teaching qualifications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a constituent of Cambridge Bay, Mr. Tom Brown. Thank you.

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--Applause

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 285-13(6): Full-Time Kitikmeot Fire Chiefs

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of MACA, my honourable friend, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I recognized the excellent work the volunteer fire department in small and large communities across the board have done in the past years. I am sure every Member of this House recognizes their unique help in a community. I indicated in my Member's statement when I attended the Kitikmeot Leaders Forum, we have indicated that they wanted to see the funding of the full-time fire fighters in the Kitikmeot region in every community, that is recognized and have major infrastructure in that community, like school, health centres and so on.

My question to the honourable Minister, Mr. Speaker, is will the Minister look seriously at the possibility of funding the full-time Fire Chief Program in communities in the Kitikmeot region? I think we have about six communities in that region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 285-13(6): Full-Time Kitikmeot Fire Chiefs

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will seriously look at the request by the Member for the Kitikmeot leaders. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 285-13(6): Full-Time Kitikmeot Fire Chiefs

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having learned from the past that having a time frame for requesting funding and so on, will the Minister respond to the Kitikmeot Leaders Forum by January 1, 1999? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 285-13(6): Full-Time Kitikmeot Fire Chiefs

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will answer as quickly as possible to the Kitikmeot leadership in which forum, I do not know. I will be communicating with them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 285-13(6): Full-Time Kitikmeot Fire Chiefs

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same honourable Minister. How soon is as soon as possible, by January 1, 1999? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 285-13(6): Full-Time Kitikmeot Fire Chiefs

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It might be January 2nd. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 285-13(6): Full-Time Kitikmeot Fire Chiefs

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the honourable Minister. Will it be by January 15, 1999? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Thompson.

Further Return To Question 285-13(6): Full-Time Kitikmeot Fire Chiefs

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member can pick a date and I will answer on that date. It can be on the 15th of January. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 286-13(6): NWT Power Corporation Transition Agreement

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, it is in regard to his emergency statement. The fact that at the 11th hour, there has no been no agreement on a transitional arrangement apparently signed off, even though we have the bills ready to go. Could the Minister indicate possible time frames? We are only sitting till...today is our last day and a short session on Friday. Could you sketch out time frames in terms of trying to bring resolution to this issue if it is possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Does the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation feel comfortable to answer it?

Return To Question 286-13(6): NWT Power Corporation Transition Agreement

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is difficult for me to say with any certainty what the timetable might look like. As I said in my statement, I am encouraged by the fact that all parties have agreed to meet tomorrow to continue to work the issue through. If it is possible for us to achieve a sign-off by all parties within the next day and a half, I would endeavour to introduce the legislation again in the Seventh Session on Friday.

That would mean we would only get to first and second readings this week and trust that we will be able to conclude third reading in

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our sitting in March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 286-13(6): NWT Power Corporation Transition Agreement

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether, in fact, waiting until March, possibly to sign it off would give enough time to take the steps necessary to implement the agreement? If there is no agreement, will it then be a case of an automatic split or a formation of a separate power corporation in the east? Thank you?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent. Two questions.

Further Return to Question 286-13(6): NWT Power Corporation Transition Agreement

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In answer to the first question, the important aspect is to get the parties to sign-off on the transition agreement. If we have a sign-off on the transition agreement, I believe that the will is there for us to proceed as if the legislation will be successful in March. Given the fact that all parties are represented at the table, I have every reason to believe that we would be successful getting the legislation through. So, no, there will be no problem if we can get everybody to initial the agreement. I am confident that this will be enough to ensure continuity of service.

If we are not able to achieve an agreement in the next few days, I cannot say at this point in time what the next step would be. I am confident we will find a way to ensure that the power continues to be delivered both east and west, after April 1st. Will that be through two separate utilities or through one continued one? The fact of the matter is, there is not time to set up a new headquarters operation in Nunavut for April 1st, 1999. I would expect that

whether through contracting provisions or some other approach, there will still be management of power delivery in Nunavut by the NWT Power Corporation after April 1st for some period of time, even if we technically have two power corporations on that date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 286-13(6): NWT Power Corporation Transition Agreement

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's statement, he indicates a tentative agreement has been reached on all aspects of the transition agreement with the exception of how to share the dividend payments between the NWT and Nunavut during the transition period. Could the Minister elaborate on that difference and give us a sense of how far apart the parties are and is it a reconcilable difference? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 286-13(6): NWT Power Corporation Transition Agreement

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did not bring with me into the House the formula that is being considered at the table right now, so, I cannot answer the Member's specific question. The parties are very close and that is why there has been an agreement to meet tomorrow to try and see if we cannot work through the issue that is separating the parties and bring this to some resolution. I cannot give him the precise numbers that he has asked for, but it would be safe to say that the difference is not a large one. I believe we will see the parties agree. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 287-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office in Yellowknife

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to Mr. Ng, the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, regarding the closure of the Vital Statistics Office in Yellowknife. The Minister of Health and Social Services recently confirmed his knowledge of the closure of the Vital Statistics Office in Yellowknife, the duties and responsibilities of the officers being transferred to Inuvik and Rankin Inlet. My question to the Minister is, could the Minister of Health and Social Services advise this House when the decision was made to close the Yellowknife office and transfer the functions to Inuvik and Rankin Inlet and when the employees were advised? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Health and Social Services, two questions.

Return To Question 287-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office in Yellowknife

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding it was part of the reorganization plan with the health services administration being headquarters, with the department being moved out, with division coming on April 1st. I do not know the actual dates of when the decision was made or when the employees would have been advised, but I will get that information and provide it to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 287-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office in Yellowknife

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could advise me as to what options are being provided to the employees in Yellowknife for being affected by this closure and reallocation of responsibilities to Inuvik and Rankin Inlet?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 287-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office in Yellowknife

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have the details of what options are provided. We made a commitment to this government that nobody would be laid-off, so there would be other alternate positions that would be provided to them. Again, I do not have the specifics with me and I will

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provide that information and all of the other questions he has asked. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 287-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office in Yellowknife

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister, Mr. Speaker, provide a thumbnail sketch of the responsibilities of the office of Vital Statistics, as to whether the roles and responsibilities they have are more to the general public or is it internal to the government, itself?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 287-13(6): Closure of Vital Statistics Office in Yellowknife

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to provide that information along with the rest of the response to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 288-13(6): Arctic Bay Docking Facility

MR. BARNABAS:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my Member's statement, I made a statement and I would like to add further, in a question to the Minister of

Transportation. I am wondering if there can be some additional funding for the Arctic Bay docking facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 288-13(6): Arctic Bay Docking Facility

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during this division time, any capital projects the department on the western side here, it is a different process now. So, any new requests we are hearing, we are making recommendations to the new government in Nunavut, particularly if there is a new department being formed in Nunavut starting April 1, 1999. There is transportation, housing and community government. They have a deputy minister acting now who is Mike Ferris. What we are doing is, we ensure that any requests we hear in regard to infrastructure such as a docking facility, we are making recommendations to them that this is a very important issue and we are passing that information over to them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 289-13(6): Programs for Disabled Persons

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today, I made reference to the lack of consideration that the Income Support Program gave to a disabled constituent in Hay River. The process required to access income support is cumbersome and does not take into consideration the realities of disabled people. Can the Minister tell me if there are any other programs like those designed for seniors available for disabled persons? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 289-13(6): Programs for Disabled Persons

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Income Support Program is not supposed to be difficult to access and I am concerned about the Member's comment in her statement that a disabled person found it difficult to gain access to the program. We will commit to investigating that concern, Mr. Speaker. The Income Support Program is set up so that anybody who demonstrates their needs are at a certain level can access the program to provide them with support. There are, of course, limits that are set on the program due to fiscal realities that, unfortunately, we have to live with in terms of total dollars available for the program. If a person demonstrates need, the program will provide support.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 289-13(6): Programs for Disabled Persons

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell us if the Income Support Program takes into account the required expenses of a disabled person who is living in their own home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 289-13(6): Programs for Disabled Persons

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of a person's expenses are taken into account. In terms of providing assistance for housing, that disabled person's assistance is provided at full cost. There may be a problem if a disabled person is paying a mortgage instead of rent. That may create a situation where the program would dictate the provision of funding for accommodation for this person for a certain amount of money. If that amount is exceeded through the paying of a mortgage, for instance, then the mortgage payment may not be allowed. Instead, a suggestion would be made for a tenancy, rather than ownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

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Supplementary To Question 289-13(6): Programs for Disabled Persons

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me if the Income Support Program looks at the financial implications of supporting a disabled person in their own home, versus the costs that will be incurred by the government, if the disabled person is forced to move into social housing because they cannot afford to live in their home? Is any consideration given to that cost? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 289-13(6): Programs for Disabled Persons

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would expect that such a comparison would not be made. The standards of the program are set to ensure that people have the ability to live in accommodation that is suitable, and not necessarily their own. The program is set up with certain standards. As it is delivered across the territories, the same standard applies everywhere. A comparison would not necessarily be made to other programs that this government might offer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 289-13(6): Programs for Disabled Persons

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think everyone would agree that compassion and common sense should go hand in hand in the interpretation of the income support guidelines. Can the Minister explain the process the disabled person on a fixed pension would go through to access income support? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 289-13(6): Programs for Disabled Persons

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get to that in a moment. It occurred to me that I missed, in my previous answer to the Member, an important aspect that I think she will find interesting. For the past, year or so, the Housing Corporation, Education, Culture and Employment, and Health and Social Services have been working on a project to try to integrate our programs of support to people in the territories. Firstly, people will, it is hoped, be able to have one window to enter to discuss all of these programs. Number two, one of the problems we face is that there are different standards in each of our programs in terms of qualifying incomes. We are working at trying to establish a common set of standards. Work is being undertaken currently by this government to try and bring some uniformity to our programs.

In response to the Member's second question, the person applying for income support should be able to apply to an income support worker and have that income support worker assist them, in completing the form, which basically sets out what the person's income is and their expenses. At the end of the form, these are totalled and if there is a need for a subsidy, the income support program subsidizes the person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 290-13(6): Causes of Power Outages

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Dent, Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. I think it is fair to say that we have experienced recent power outages at the City of Yellowknife in the last while. I would like the Minister to tell the House and, particularly the residents of my community, what has caused these power outages? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 290-13(6): Causes of Power Outages

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The raven did it. Mr. Speaker, I am assuming that the Member is talking about the two power outages that were experienced in Yellowknife on Saturday. Those are the most recent ones that I am aware of. On Saturday, about 11:00 a.m., there was a power outage that did result from a raven on the Bluefish line. Approximately noon, there was a second outage which was as a result of frost build up on the Snare hydro line. This caused the line to sag and thus experience a ground fault interruption.

Earlier this month there was a power failure on the Snare line, again caused by frost build up which had been noticed in a helicopter surveillance flight. There was a team scheduled to remove the frost the next day, but before they could get to the site, the frost build up caused the line to sag and cause a ground fault.

Mr. Speaker, there have been some mechanical failures at the Snare hydro site this month that we have not been able to identify as to why those outages happened, other than something causes the breakers to trip mechanically.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 290-13(6): Causes of Power Outages

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. From his answer, I would assume that the cause of the problem is NWT Power Corporation's, as opposed to the local distributor. My question to the Minister is, what avenues of compensation are available to customers whose equipment is damaged, for example, motors, ballasts and refrigerators that are sensitive to power reductions or bumps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 290-13(6): Causes of Power Outages

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HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would expect in a situation where a raven has caused the power outage or where frost build up has caused the power outage, it would be difficult to say that it was an act of negligence on the part of the Power Corporation. Therefore, the Power Corporation could not be expected to be liable in that situation. The homeowner should check first with their insurance company to see if they are covered, but I do not believe the Power Corporation carries any insurance to compensate people for natural acts such as the ones we have experienced here.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 290-13(6): Causes of Power Outages

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am starting to get a better handle on the items that the Power Corporation would not cover and we know that ravens are one of them. They do not cover the outages from that. Could the Minister, maybe tell me some examples of what damages the Power Corporation would cover, or if there has been any examples in recent history of where the Power Corporation has covered costs for the examples that I talked about in my earlier statement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 290-13(6): Causes of Power Outages

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a recent outage in Fort Resolution where the corporation did establish an office to look at areas where damage had resulted from an extreme over-voltage situation in the community. There was some compensation provided to individuals there and I will have my office develop a

comprehensive answer and provide it to the Member, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 290-13(6): Causes of Power Outages

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister, in response to my first question, suggested it was a raven that did it. I think all people in Yellowknife have heard that reason given numerous times before. For the benefit of myself and residents of my community, I am sure there is a good reason, could the Minister explain how it actually happens that a raven sitting on a wire, or whatever it is, causes a power outage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 290-13(6): Causes of Power Outages

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, technically what happens is the raven becomes a conductor for the electricity to go to ground. That causes a ground fault which, in turn, causes the breakers to trip. If the bird happens to be situated close to the high voltage line and close to a part of the transformer, for instance, that is grounded, the circuit is closed and goes to ground causing the breaker to trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question 291-13(6): Private Meeting Confirmation

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my first question for seven years since I have been acting as Premier.

--Applause

Can the Acting Premier inform this House whether or not he ever had a private meeting with another business individual, as well as the Hay River MLA in the 13th Assembly? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Acting Premier, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 291-13(6): Private Meeting Confirmation

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member is asking me whether or not I have had a meeting with the Member for Hay River and another business person, in the last few years, I would say, yes, it probably occurred a couple of times. I have met with most of the MLAs on many private occasions and sometimes with, and sometimes without constituents, some business people, some private people. It is possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 291-13(6): Private Meeting Confirmation

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commend the Acting Premier on taking the time to meet with business people from the Northwest Territories. Has he ever met with the MLA from Hay River and a business person to discuss private interest business that the MLA was involved in? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arlooktoo.

Further Return To Question 291-13(6): Private Meeting Confirmation

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is taken as notice. Oral questions, Mr. Picco.

Question 292-13(6): Update on the Economic Strategy

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I think we heard something in the House concerning the economic strategy. I wonder if Mr. Todd could update us on the fiscal side of the economic strategy and the direction that it has taken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 292-13(6): Update on the Economic Strategy

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Economic strategy update, Mr. Speaker, I will try to make it short and succinct. We have a draft report that the working committee is looking at, that is, the deputies. The Ministers will be given an opportunity to take a look at. It is a working document. It is not complete by any means. I have looked at it myself and there are, as other Ministers have told me, some loopholes in it. We intend to add to and subtract to the report as it currently sits. We hope that we can conclude in the next couple of weeks. I apologize for it taking so long, but there have been a great deal of difficulties which have occurred in the last little while that have involved some of the people. We hope to, in the next couple of weeks, get a working document put together that we can then communicate with the stakeholders out there as a working document, seek their ongoing input and eventually put in place a document that this government and future governments, hopefully, will move forward in advance.

The overriding emphasis, if you want, at least from my perspective, and I believe from my colleagues, is that there are four or five critical components to the way in which we do government. I have said on a number of occasions I really feel that perhaps economic strategy is not quite the appropriate way to describe it. Maybe it is investment north, I do not know. The four important ingredients are, as we said, in the west particularly, getting governance right and that is an important issue for the aboriginal and non-aboriginal constituency. We need a new fiscal relationship with Canada and in particular, in my opinion anyway, on

the non-renewable resource side. I will be talking about that later on today and in the tax window. We need to take a look at the infrastructure needs in partnership with the federal government which includes all the Ministers, Mr. Antoine in Transportation; Mr. Dent in Education, Culture and Employment; Mr. Ng, et cetera, in his field and of course, Mr. Kakfwi, who is very active in economic programs. Our intent is to advance that agenda, at the end of the day, both north and south.

In my opinion, if I may, Mr. Speaker, there really are two audiences here. Obviously, you have an audience for domestic consumption as they say, and we need to do a self-analysis of what we are doing. I think that is a healthy thing to do. That is what we are currently doing and see if, in fact, the current programs that we are doing, we could do better. Mr. Kakfwi is working aggressively on a new economic agreement. I am optimistic, as others are, that we will be able to conclude, hopefully, soon, with the federal government, an understanding that additional dollars will flow. There have to be an examination internally if you want to know what we are doing. There has to be significant discussions with the stakeholders out there to ensure that we have a balanced point of view. Ultimately, the second audience is the federal government. That is the Minister of DIAND, Ms. Stewart. All of us are working very aggressively in that field and we need to, at some point, bring Mr. Martin into the equation so that we can get at least his tacit support on entering a new fiscal relationship in the tax window.

There is a great deal more to it than that, but in brief, in summary, as they say, I am working along with my Cabinet colleagues to move as quickly as I can to make sure the report encompasses both the large agenda, as well as a community-based one. I am optimistic that in the next two weeks, three weeks, we will be able to conclude that so that we can then get it out there to the constituency at large. Recognizing - let me be clear - that this is a working document and there has been - I freely admit - limited discussion at the stakeholder level; and we need to ensure that we find a mechanism or process to do that. I am confident we can. At the end of the day I hope that the document will be one document of many that will help guide and provide some advice to the remaining three months of this government, and more importantly, to the new government should they choose to take the document and move forward on it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 292-13(6): Update on the Economic Strategy

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this draft report that Mr. Todd is hoping to have available to stakeholders in a couple of weeks, what type of consultation was done? Mr. Todd has said, indeed, that consultation was not at the level that probably was expected at the beginning and that it was not at the level that probably the stakeholders would like to see. I am wondering what type of consultation was done to look at the new tax window for Nunavut and for resource development and, look at securing the financial health of Nunavut for our children, because at the end of the day that is what the economic strategy was developed for, for two territories and not just for one territory.

I wonder if Mr. Todd could back up a little bit in his verbiage on the discussion of the availability of this draft economic strategic plan and look at securing the financial health of Nunavut, look at the resource windows and look at the other type of tax plans for that southern marketplace for Miss Jane Stewart and take it from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd, I heard several questions, but to you.

Further Return To Question 292-13(6): Update on Economic Strategy

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may, I have an urgent call I have to make and I will try to answer my colleague's question and come back as quickly as I can. Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleague is correct. As a Nunavut MLA and Cabinet Minister, I certainly want to ensure and work very hard to bring stability to the economic conditions the east and west can provide a solid base for two new governments. You are correct. We need to move to the next step. It is our intention, certainly on the large picture side, to do exactly that. Whatever you do in a tax window or tax initiatives in the west has to be done in the east. There is no question. Mr. Martin made that clear to me and I made that clear to him in my discussions with him.

In fairness to Nunavut, we were reluctant to go too far because you have an Interim Commissioner's office, you have a new government in waiting, et cetera, and we have been trying to work as closely as we can with them. They have a working

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committee, I believe, of all the organizations. We are going to provide them with this working document, and as I said before, people can choose to accept or reject, or accept some of, or reject some of what we are saying, but at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, there is no other option. Unless the federal government is prepared to continue to say, we are going to give you more money, and that is quite clear that they are not going to do that, we just got another \$95 million, which I applaud their fairness, but at the end of the day, we simply must look at another way in which to generate revenues.

We have spent an inordinate amount of time over the last 20 years talking about expenditures. We need to find a new way to generate revenues which include the non-renewable resource side and in Nunavut, while it may not be as well developed right now, I am convinced it ultimately will be development. There is a significant amount of exploration going on there, particularly in the Baffin Island area, around Lake Harbour, in the Meliadine area in my riding, so whatever we put in place, and whatever recommendations we make for the future government, has to encompass all of the territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Picco.

Supplementary To Question 292-13(6): Update on Economic Strategy

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, will this document give us what Mr. Todd talks about? Will it give us the impetus at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, to address the revenue shortfalls that the Minister just talked about? Will that strategic document give us the tools so we can take it forward at the end of the day? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 292-13(6): Update on the Economic Strategy

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It certainly will not provide you with the blueprint for your economic salvation, but it certainly will provide you with a road map and some detail stats. If you so choose to move forward in partnership with our federal colleagues, to try to do exactly what my honourable colleague says, but if I may, Mr. Speaker, I want to remind everybody, under the new Nunavut government, 84 percent of the monies we are going to use in the budget come from the federal government.

Any dent we can make to become less dependent, is an important one. In the west there is somewhere around 70, 72 percent. We are both captives, if you want, at the benevolence of the federal government. Clearly, some have said it, Mr. Kakfwi and others have said it in Edmonton, there is clearly a need for the two new governments, this present one in its remaining three or four months, to move forward with an aggressive blueprint to try to make us less dependent. That is what the overall objective here is.

I have to say, in fairness, we also have to look at the existing programs and to look how we can manage them better. I believe we are trying to do that, how we can integrate them better and I believe that is what we are trying to do. There are some initiatives under way, like Mr. Antoine, like Mr. Dent, et cetera, that sometimes this government does not get the credit for. I am convinced that we are on the right track, not everybody will say it is perfect by any means, but we are certainly heading down the track of looking to be less dependent on the transfer payments we currently have. After all, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, that is the objective. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 293-13(6): Future NWT Tax Revenues

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, the question is in relation to the issue of the tax window and the opportunity we have in the next 100 days to possibly cement an arrangement that will allow us to keep more of our tax revenues in the north. Could the

Minister update us on that very critical initiative? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 293-13(6): Future NWT Tax Revenues

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did have the wonderful opportunity to spend some time with Mr. Martin during his trip north when he went to Iqaluit and to Yellowknife to sign the two new agreements and it did provide me with an inordinate amount of time with Mr. Martin and I appreciate that. During that time, I discussed with him the fiscal condition, east and west, as we move into the future. I asked him to look five years out and indicated to him, this country, east or west, does not want to continue to be a ward of the state. I said this many times. We really want you to give us some of the tools that are necessary for us to be less dependent. I am an economic realist. We are not going to be independent, at least not in the next five to ten years, but we could be less dependent.

I believe Mr. Martin, at least politically, understands the desire of northerners in this House and hopefully the two new Houses, that is a laudable objective to try to achieve and indicated to me that he was prepared to work with myself and my colleagues, along with Ms. Stewart, who has the lead ultimately in trying to accomplish that. It certainly was my intention to ask Mr. Martin for a meeting with Ms. Stewart, along with the Premier and Mr. Kakfwi. We will see what unfolds over the next two days and if the new leader wishes to continue to pursue that objective, I will be only too happy to work with him, whoever he may be, for us to get to the table with the political leaders, give us some direction, then move forward in terms of working out the details.

I am not suggesting for one minute that this is an initiative that is going to happen over night, but I am suggesting to you that both Ministers, in my discussions with them, appear to be sympathetic to the objectives that we are trying to achieve. We need to reinforce that with them and then move on to a working out with the colleagues, a table, and see if we can move forward. I am suddenly hopeful and optimistic that I can at least conclude before I leave office, an agreement that we can move forward on this important initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

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Supplementary To Question 293-13(6): Future NWT Tax Revenues

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether, in fact, concrete steps have been taken in that regard, for example, issues like writing to try and arrange meetings with Minister Stewart or the Minister of Finance with the federal government or any other steps that would, in fact, show focus on this very important issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 293-13(6): Future NWT Tax Revenues

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken at length to Mr. Martin and to Ms. Stewart about the need for a meeting and that I would like to caution every Member that I am only one player in this play here. Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Antoine, and, of course, the Premier, play a key role in this. Certainly, as I said to the earlier question, once we conclude who the new Premier will be, if he or she wishes to continue this agenda, which I am confident they will, I will move quickly to organize a meeting, if they so wish, on their behalf. To get an agreement in principle, politically, so that we could move forward on this important big-picture agenda. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 293-13(6): Future NWT Tax Revenues

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister elaborate as well maybe on the particulars of what, in fact, is envisioned when he talks about tax window. Is that moving from say 20 percent tax window to some other higher figure and what exactly does that mean in

terms of the revenue we now get from the federal government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 293-13(6): Future NWT Tax Revenues

HON. JOHN TODD:

In my dying days as a Finance Minister and a politician, which I will talk later on today about, let me first of all give my predecessor, Mr. Pollard, full credit for in the early days, managed to convince Mr. Martin that there was a requirement for some kind of a tax window for the north. We have a 20 percent one right now. In simple language, the objective is yes, to increase the window. It should not really be that complicated, provided we can get a political acceptance of it and ensure that we do not get penalized because of it. This has all come about, to some extent, because of the enormous wealth and profitability on the diamond issue.

In recent months, of course, for myself anyway, speaking personally, I have really taken a hard look at what is going to happen up in Mr. Kakfwi's area and other areas on the oil and gas. The potential for new revenues, if we can get the right formula and agreement, are tremendous for the Northwest Territories. We need to make sure that this initiative, the momentum remains there so we can get the additional tax dollars that we require.

If I looked at the numbers, you asked the question, what kind of numbers are we talking about, if my memory serves me correct, and I have said it so many times I probably have come repetitive, if we move from a 20 percent to a 50 percent tax window, similar to what Mr. Tobin is talking about in Voisey Bay, I think the BHP mine alone, which would be no direct tax on BHP, let us get that clear, I will suffer the consequences of that statement, it would be somewhere in the region of \$30 million or \$40 million. You have another one rolling in, you have oil and gas, you have forestry, et cetera, you have enormous wealth out there that is simply untapped that we all talked about eloquently at the Meet the North conference last week in Edmonton. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the term tax window implies a very small, and somewhat limited opportunity, the Minister indicated he is hopeful to move this along. If, in fact, there is no closure brought to this within the next 100 days, does the Minister think that tax window will still be there for the Legislative Assembly from the Northwest Territories and from Nunavut to pursue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 293-13(6): Future NWT Tax Revenues

HON. JOHN TODD:

Once again I would like to reiterate that this is an initiative of the government, the current government, in which my Cabinet colleagues play an important role. I am confident, that as we move forward, when you have a reasoned argument as to why we require this, it is very difficult to argue why we do not have it. Every other provincial jurisdiction in Canada has it. We are the only one that does not.

Mr. Kakfwi has talked many times, as others have, as Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Morin, on devolution and the need for governance and the need to get into tax windows that we require. I have said on a number of occasions, between taxes and royalties on BHP alone, our numbers say that is \$4 billion plus. That is a significant amount of money. We, as a government, get a marginal interest in that. There is a recognition amongst the politicians in Ottawa that with reasoned argument, they have to sit down and work out a better arrangement that we can have because at the end of the day if they do not, they are ultimately going to have to pay the bill then. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question 294-13(6): Identification of Executive Assistant

MR. MORIN:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 294-13(6): Identification of Executive Assistant

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not find the question as having any relevance to me as a Minister, carrying out my duties in this Assembly, who my staff are in my office. I would treat the question as somewhat frivolous, unless there is some other motive behind it. I will not answer the question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

By way of rules, the question is trivial. A question has been asked of the Minister, the Minister can answer it, he can take it as notice, or he can decline to answer it. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I have declined to answer the question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could put my question off until the Minister is available to answer it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

You gave me notice on that, I thought Mr. Todd was back. Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 295-13(6): Move of the Vital Statistics Office

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier Mr. Henry had the opportunity to ask Mr. Ng on the matter of the move of the Vital Statistics Office from Yellowknife to Inuvik. I wonder if the Minister could tell us, in relationship to this particular move, what the purpose is of moving it to Inuvik, in relationship to service to the public?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 295-13(6): Move of the Vital Statistics Office

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe Mr. Henry raised that same question and I indicated I would reply to him in written form, along with the other questions he had asked in that matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I will consider then, that the question has already been asked and the question has already been answered. Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question 296-13(6): Identification of Executive Assistant

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try once again. Can the Minister of RWED confirm whether Lynda Sorensen is his Executive Assistant or not? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I am sorry, regarding the Member for Tu Nedhe, I must rule the question out of order. The question has already been asked and the Minister has declined to answer it. Oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 10-13(6): Actions of Ministers and Departmental Officials in dealings with MLAs and Businesses

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have four questions, if I may.

1. Can the Acting Premier advise us to whether the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, or any official with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, has ever entered into a sole-sourced contract or a negotiated contract with Web Rider Productions?

2. Can the Acting Premier advise as to whether the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic

Development, or any other official within the department, acting to the Minister's instructions, ever purchase handicrafts from local artists in his constituency with Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and government funds, and then attempt to resell the same artwork to the Legislative Assembly? If so, were the proper purchasing procedures followed and were these purchases pursuant to a policy or program available to other MLAs of this Assembly?

3. Can the Acting Premier advise as to whether the Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development, or any official within the Minister's department, has met with the MLA for Yellowknife Centre on the specific issue of stopping the sale of cards by the NWT Business Development Corporation, and if so, was the MLA for Yellowknife Centre successful in stopping the sale of cards by the NWT Business Development Corporation?

4. Can the Acting Premier advise as to whether or not any deputy minister in this government has met with the MLA for Yellowknife South within the last three years on specific issues of leasing of buildings controlled by the MLA to the GNWT?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Ms. Thompson.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Reply 2-13(6)

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak because this is possibly the last opportunity I will speak in this Assembly. I suppose this can be described as my parting comments to the Western Territory. I will probably take

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ten minutes of your time, so it is not going to be a long reply. While I know this sitting has been very emotionally draining for everyone in this House, I have had the opportunity to watch this government work at its highest level. I can personally say it has been a real learning experience for me and very interesting.

I have a few observations I would like to share. Mr. Speaker, I have had a chance to see leadership in action and also seen how a leader is taken down. We all have our own ways of dealing with our leaders and I think in the old days if there was ever a conflict and the people were divided, we still respected our leaders. The fact that they were put there in the first place is really important and that was the key to the survival of our people.

We are supposedly working under a consensus style of government, but the fact is we are operating like a minority government under a party system. The principles or values of a consensus system of government have eroded significantly over the past decade. People watching the House proceedings the last few months may be concluding that the consensus system of government does not exist any more. I think the new government of Nunavut will have to show very early that it has an interest in policy making and not in fighting. There has been a lot said about public perception. I must say that these words made in this House and repeated over and over in the media seem to have a more southern meaning. Things are different in the communities I represent. In my language "public perception" has a closer meaning to "gossip" than anything else. In this political arena, we are measured against gossip and that is the bottom line. I think that maybe "public perception" has been assumed for the entire NWT and we have to watch out for that. Public perception in the communities I represent and the leaders in my constituency is very different from what I interpret to be public perception in the larger communities.

No one can doubt that the media has a role to play in both creating and interpreting the public perception. It is a great responsibility. I must say that the media is one player in this situation, they do not necessarily speak for every member of the communities, especially the small ones. Sometimes the media should remember that too much one-sided criticism makes people in communities think twice about the media and their reporting. Sometimes the criticism has the opposite effect of making people show support for their criticised MLAs. Having said that, I have seen examples of balanced reporting in the Inuktitut language and I commend the following people for their work. Their names do not occur in any particular order: Louie Taparti, Emaline Kownak, Leeza Ipeelie, Paul Innquat, Rassi Nasulik, Annie Ford, Jeannie Arreak, Charlie Panigoniyak.

I have also seen many organizations that say they represent the entire NWT, rarely set up offices or

even visit the eastern Arctic. I also note that headquarters are usually in Yellowknife. Again, I know there are exceptions, but in many cases we see these groups when it is convenient on some issue. I hope that in Nunavut this will change and these groups will be closer to the communities and be more recognizable.

I am looking forward to hearing from the panel reviewing the process for the Conflict of Interest. In Nunavut we will have real interest in the process. Almost everybody is related to each other and with small communities in Nunavut, it will be even more important to know how to respect the process and as well that the process is right for Nunavut. Just about everybody is related to each other in one way or another in our municipalities in the smaller communities. Elected people can sometimes be brother and sister, aunts, cousins, fathers, uncles, whatever.

I am also very excited that the working language of the new government will be Inuktitut. English is not my first language. I just learned it when I went to school not too long ago, but it is my current working language. That can be hard looking for the right words. I think I sometimes sound blunt and I usually sound very rude and mean because I cannot find the right words in English. I envy the people here in this Legislature, the MLAs, who were born with English as their first language. The whole world is at your service.

It has been an honour to work with my MACA staff, my past deputy ministers, David Ramsden, Penny Ballantyne, and now Bob McLeod. I work with a very good, honourable bunch of staff. My office staff here who is presently working for me Hayley Simms, Dan Schofield and also Brian Menton who was my EA in my earlier days and also my previous secretaries and my secretary now, Millie; my colleagues in Cabinet and in this Assembly and to represent the people of my riding. I want to commend each individual Minister, Jim Antoine, Charles Dent, Stephen Kakfwi, John Todd, Kelvin Ng, Goo Arlooktoo, and of course, Don Morin. They are a good group of people to work with. I would also like to thank the Members here for having given me the opportunity to be a Minister in this government. People watching may notice that I am wearing two flying geese on my outfit today. These were given to me by John Tinashlu, my campaign manager in Repulse Bay, when I got elected, who said that I should wear them because they are a symbol of what leaders should do, take a bird's-eye view of things and not consider issues or

people narrowly. He said sometimes when things are tough you start to disassociate or isolate yourself.

I want to recognize also at this time, before I conclude my statement, Minister John Todd, who has contributed significantly and has worked extremely hard for his constituents and the people of the Territories. He is family to a lot of us in the east. John has always been there for me when I wanted to discuss something with him, and we have had good debates in his office, especially during my time as a new politician. If this was hockey, he would be Wayne Gretzky. He always manages to score, even if he seems to be falling. He is an extremely good skater, he is a good player in politics, and I have been privileged to work beside him.

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At this time, I also would like to recognize Don Morin. When Don Morin was running as Premier in this Assembly, I did not know each individual person here in the Assembly except for John because he is from the Keewatin. I told Don I was here, I had won in the by-election so I had a chance to observe him a little bit and also the other Members who were here at the time. I had to base my vote on how I observed in that last Assembly and what I saw in this man was that even under a lot of stress and a lot of criticism, he was able to stand up and smile and know it is going to be another day. He was able to stand on his own two feet and be a leader. He showed me that even under criticism, maybe sometimes personal attacks, you have to make sure you can show yourself as if everything is okay.

I would also like to thank my husband for his support over these years, who has earned an Inuit name given to him by my mom, which just means somebody who has a lot of patience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Replies to opening address. Mr. Todd.

Reply 3-13(6)

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my honourable colleague, Ms. Thompson, for her kind words. I never quite saw myself as Wayne Gretzky. I saw myself as Ty Domy but anyway, Mr. Speaker, I

do appreciate her kind words particularly since she said them publicly today.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time in my seven years, as a Member of this Assembly, that I have taken the opportunity to reply to an opening address. More than likely, Mr. Speaker, it will be my last. There are a number of things I would like to address and a number of people that I have to express my appreciation to. So if all of you will bear with me today. It has been a long time since I was first elected to serve as a Member for Keewatin Central. A great deal has changed in this Assembly and in the Northwest Territories.

When I was first elected to office, I was of the view, probably not unlike most newly elected Members, that I was going to change the world. Over the past seven years, I have come to understand that government simply does not work that way. I guess my view has changed over that time from wanting to change the world to recognizing that you have to take incremental steps to make life a little better for the people you serve.

The past seven years have been amongst the most exciting and challenging times of my life. I consider it a rare privilege to have been able to serve the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove and the people of the Northwest Territories. There is, however, Mr. Speaker, one aspect of this life that has been impossible to overlook or for me to accept. Mr. Speaker, it is fair to say that the view of the general public concerning politicians has also changed dramatically. We live in a time in which the media has become pervasive, the advent of the Internet, a tendency toward the reporting of only the most salacious and intimate details of the lives of public figures. The growing role of the media as purveyors of public opinion simply, Mr. Speaker, astounds me. All of this has created an environment in which we are encouraged in our appetite for the most negative, most sensationalistic news reporting. It has become public sport to assume the worst of government and the role of the media to reinforce these suspicions.

I understand the desire and the absolute need for the media and the public to criticize politicians and governments on issues related to policy. This is a cornerstone of our democratic system. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this often grows into personal criticism that goes far beyond constructive. Perhaps because of my own personality - certainly, as you all know, I have never objected to a good argument - and perhaps because I have had the lead on a number of

the most controversial initiatives of this government, I often think that I have become a bit of a lightning rod for the public's discontent.

There have been many things written about me and more importantly my family on Internet sites and in other forums that no one should have to tolerate. This is a part of public life that I have never and can never accept. I would urge all members of the public, and particularly those who are in a position to influence public opinion, to recognize the huge responsibility that comes with that role. There is a degree of pessimism and cynicism out there that is counterproductive to moving things forward and to achieving any positive measures to enhance the lives of the people in our communities. We need to find a way to temper our criticism with a balanced perspective, to look inward at our own faults as I do all the time before criticizing others. We need to find positive ways to focus our energy if we are going to do any good in the future. I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that this is the only way that we will see progress in the north.

While I have been many times discouraged, in many ways, by the negativity and the vicious comments on the Internet; I am still buoyed by the many good people that I have met in my time as MLA for Keewatin Central...

--Applause

...and the many, many good deeds that I have witnessed. It is fair to say that the good times have far outweighed the bad times. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take some time to review some of our accomplishments.

In late 1991, when I first joined the Legislative Assembly as the MLA for Keewatin Central, I was everyone's favourite MLA, John Todd, only a phone call away. Back in those days, we were still negotiating the Nunavut Land Claim and division still seemed like a distant, but attainable, dream. One of my first responsibilities within the government was as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance. All my Newfie friends back home in the Keewatin thought I got the best job in government as Chairman of the SCOFF because to them a SCOFF was just a big party with lots to eat.

--Laughter

In fact, it is where I got my first taste of the challenges of dealing with government finances. Through the

Standing Committee on Finance, we conducted a thorough review of government

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departments, mounted a vigorous attempt to make the government accountable for its spending, and it is probably where my personal aspirations to become a Finance Minister were born.

However, when I did get the opportunity to join Cabinet, one of my early portfolios was as the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Being the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism is a little like being Santa Claus because you get to give stuff away, and yes, everybody likes you. I enjoyed the portfolio because it gave me a real opportunity to fulfil one of the ambitions that pushed me into politics in the first place. A desire, Mr. Speaker, to help the little guy. We gave grants to small businesses and pushed authority to the regions so that local people gained greater accountability over decision-making.

However, one of our most important achievements, and one of which I am exceeding proud, is the work we achieved in promoting and encouraging aboriginal equity partnership in economic development initiatives. I recognize that there is a fine balance between birthright corporations, created out of the settling of land claims agreements, and the private sector Inuit development corporations, but I also believe that both have their rightful place in the economy of northern communities. Where would we be today were it not for the thrust to put the ownership of businesses in the hands of the aboriginal and non-aboriginal people? We could be looking at a scenario where all of the buildings now owned by Inuit companies are owned by outsiders, by southern firms. All of the contracts out there could only be bid by these same outside firms. I remember the days when the construction companies came into the Keewatin, and it was all outsiders. I remember these days well. I remember the days when the buildings were all owned by outsiders. I remember them well. Instead, the reality is that today that 95 percent of government contracts are in the hands of northerners and, more importantly, aboriginal northerners. That is a significant achievement.

--Applause

Not only for this government, the government under Mr. Morin, but the government under previous leaders. How quickly we forget.

I think we should pay tribute to our predecessors in the Legislative Assembly who supported the notion of aboriginal equity and came forward with the policies. Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Wray, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Arlooktoo, I can go on and on and on. They found the ways and means to make it happen. When I was involved in the first joint venture partnership with the Inuit in 1973, I believed implicitly that aboriginal people must be significant players in the economic constituency, and that, if I may, Mr. Speaker, to repeat a phrase coined by my good friend, Jack Anawak, we want to be simply, John, landlords in our own land. I believed it then; I believe it now.

The Keewatin has always had a strong entrepreneurial spirit and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to help my constituents harness that spirit in as many ways as they have dreams. I have seen many successful economic development projects get off the ground over the years, including the Keewatin Meat and Fish Plant, the Ikingutigiiit Centre which serves as an incubator for smaller businesses, the sewing centre, and the Kivalliq Partners in Development, to name but a few. It is my fervent wish for the people of the Keewatin that they continue to carry this entrepreneurial spirit with them as they move boldly toward Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, during my tenure in Cabinet, I also had the opportunity to head up the Department of Transportation. They were the good days, Mr. Speaker. Back then, that was a fun job too, because it was also a department with lots of money to spend and challenging, but intriguing, problems to tackle. One of our biggest achievements came as a result of an idea brought forward by my friend and colleague, Mr. John Ningark. It was Mr. Ningark's idea to build access roads from communities in the eastern Arctic into fishing lakes and tourist areas. While these roads are in abundance now, they were not even contemplated then. They have improved the lives of northerners and increased the quality of recreation for our elders and our youth.

--Applause

I would like to thank Mr. Ningark for championing this worthy initiative and more importantly, the staff of the Department of Transportation for seeing it through.

While I am talking about this portfolio, I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge one of my biggest failings, and one that I take personal responsibility for. I am sure some of you can guess that I am referring to the debate that developed around the issue of fuel

resupply. In embarking upon this initiative, the objective was to reduce the cost being paid for fuel for all residents of the Keewatin. I never imagined that the debate would fuel such divisiveness between communities in the region and pit one against the other. Mr. Speaker, I never imagined that that would happen. I deeply regret that this was the result of that initiative. It was a failing on my part that I did not clearly communicate to my constituents, and to all affected parties, the important objective that we were trying to achieve, for the benefit of everyone, not just Rankin Inlet. I remain convinced that fuel supply is one area where the residents of the Keewatin are simply paying too much money. While the final numbers are not in, all indications are that it will cost 10 percent more for fuel delivered in the conventional way than it would if we had been successful in this undertaking. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that future leaders will keep this issue in mind and will find a more reasoned, and less contentious way to examine how costs can be reduced to the people of the eastern Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, I also had the opportunity to take on the portfolio of Energy, Mines and Resources. Like I said, these were the good days. This is where I learned so much about the importance of non-renewable resources to the future of the north, both east and west.

The economic potential of the Northwest Territories in my opinion is staggering. I know you have heard it before, but I am still not convinced that northerners understand or realize how big the potential really is, or what is at stake. So, I am going to repeat for those who may be hearing the message for the first time. If you may, Mr. Speaker, let me offer you a small sampling of our potential. When surveyed by the Fraser Institute, mining companies in Canada rated the NWT as having the highest resource potential of any region in Canada. The value of the

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mineral resources in the Coronation Gulf, alone, is estimated at \$10 billion. The NWT has the second highest level of mineral exploration expenditures in Canada. However, as impressive as our mineral stores may be, they are equalled, if not surpassed, by the vast reserves of oil and gas in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin.

The Editor of Hart's Oil and Gas World wrote,

The area north of the 60th parallel holds exceptional promise. This area contains 23 percent of Canada's light crude, 26 percent of the natural gas established reserves and discovered resources, 48 percent of its potential recoverable gas and 59 percent of its potential recoverable oil.

In the Norman Wells area alone, we are looking at structures with 100 million-plus barrels. The only thing comparable in Canada might be the offshore on the east coast.

Then, of course, there is the subject which some of you say has become my obsession, diamonds, yes, Mr. Speaker, diamonds. You would have to be living on the moon not to know that BHP Diamonds recently opened the Ekati Diamond Mine north of Yellowknife. This first mine will account for an estimated six percent of the world's diamond production. Once Diavik and other prospects come on line, as much as 10 to 15 percent of the world's diamonds will be produced in the Northwest Territories. Think of it, Mr. Speaker, 10 to 15 percent of the world's diamonds in this part of the country. If you consider that up to 30 percent of our diamonds are of gem quality, in a world where diamond jewellery brings in \$75 billion in annual sales; then you begin to appreciate, and I hope you all do appreciate, what the north has to offer.

At the risk of being repetitive, Mr. Speaker, I will say it again. BHP will generate over \$14 billion in revenues during the 25-year life cycle of its first mine. Its profit over the same period will be over \$4 billion plus. The Government of Canada will also be a major beneficiary of diamond mining. The federal government's net fiscal benefit on the first mine will be somewhere in the region of \$4.4 billion.

In contrast, the point I am trying to make here today, is that you have to understand the importance of this whole initiative and the need to move forward. In contrast, the government stands to receive comparatively little revenue, somewhere around \$17 million, probably build the Weledeh school that Mr. Henry and others have been working so hard on.

Of all the riches and all the wealth that diamonds will bring, it is my opinion, very little will accrue to northerners. Am I the Minister that wanted to choke a mule!? You better believe it. Would I say it again. Absolutely. We have just as much right as anyone else to benefit from the wealth of diamonds. This is not Africa, this is not Papua New Guinea, this is not Namibia, this is Canada. These are our diamonds.

--Applause

Now to Mr. Kakfwi's credit, he is not here now, he did make a concerted effort and has made some inroads and I applauded him today for that. I hope he, as the rest of you, will remain vigilant with this industry. I will repeat, remain vigilant with this industry, \$14 billion that they are going to take out of this country and we get next to nothing. It is not acceptable to me. Do not be satisfied with what you have, work hard to get more. They are your diamonds, you have every right to them.

As I have said many times before, to the point of being repetitive, the north must be given jurisdiction by Ottawa over its own non-renewable resources. Right now, the Government of the Northwest Territories has the responsibility for managing high-cost programs, education, health care, social assistance, transportation and forest fires, but the federal government has not given us jurisdiction over oil, gas and minerals. Those are the ones that generate the revenues for this country, that is why it is important that the Economic Investment North Strategy, that is why it is important to look at the big picture. This is a major factor in our current level of dependence.

If the north is to have any future at all, we must find a way as I have said before, to reduce that dependence. I am sick and tired of being lock wards of the state. I want to be a master in my own home, both politically and economically. We need to get more money from Ottawa through a tax window. We need to get Northerners to understand, to put their differences aside to move forward aggressively, in developing a new fiscal relationship with the federal government. We simply must get access to the tax window so that we maintain a greater share of the revenues so that we can continue to deliver the kinds of services your constituents have all become accustomed to. We want the right to make our own decisions and to determine our own destiny.

Mr. Speaker, while these are the goals I believe we must continue to pursue, it would be remiss of me if I did not take this rare opportunity, and this is a rare one to me, to review a few more of the successes that I have had the great good fortune to be a part of.

I have also had the chance to serve as the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. The Workers' Compensation Board has experienced several years of exceptional fiscal results. Finding itself in a deficit in 1992, to achieving an operating

surplus of over \$20 million in 1997. So I will not go into all the details, you have heard it from me before, but I will tell you, I fundamentally believe that WCB is the crown jewel of this government. In fact, it is probably one of the best WCB's in the country.

I would like to pay tribute to the Board of Directors of the WCB for their able guidance. I also want to thank Gerry Meier and his staff for doing a difficult job on a daily basis with the utmost, and I stress, the utmost of professionalism.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Public Utilities Board and its Chairperson, Mr. John Hill. Mr. Hill lives in Hay River and I see him about twice a year and I kind of like it that way. So let me tell you something about Mr. Hill. There is no more vigilant man trying to protect the interest out there of the consumer out there in terms of power and the cost of power than he is. I have not given him over the years the credit that is due him. I stand today to tell you that we should be thankful that man is in the chair of the Public Utilities Board. He has done an outstanding job protecting the interest of the public and I want to commend him publicly today.

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I want to talk, Mr. Speaker, about a few more things and then I will get back to my personal dissertation where I am at and where I think we should go. I want to talk about balancing the budget. I want to talk about the difficult task it was to do. Balancing the budget simply could not have happened without the overall support of my Cabinet colleagues and this House. As difficult a task as it was, and I am not saying that we did not make mistakes in balancing the budget. Everybody makes mistakes. As difficult a task as it was, I would raise the question for you today, in my final days of office. Where we would be today if we had not made the tough decisions then? Where would we be today? Where would our kids and the two new governments be today?

Let me tell you where they would have been today. They would have been fiscally bankrupt. They would have been \$300 million in the hole. They would have been fighting over who was going to pay the interest payments. We made the tough decisions. I made the tough decisions and I take responsibility for them. Not all were correct, but they were done with the overall objective of trying to bring some fiscal stability to the country and to give some future to the kids including my own.

We are now in a situation where with all our hard work, we are in a surplus position. All of you should take credit for that. Public at large is not going to thank for that. I spoke the other day about how the public is angry at us. I understand why the public is angry. When you take away, people do not like that.

We had to make the tough decisions and I have said on a number of occasions in this House, I want to be judged on not what I say but what I do. I want to also say, talk about it if I may, the two new territories and the transition action plan. The creation of two territories has taken an inordinate amount of leadership by everybody in this room. It has taken an inordinate amount of patience by the negotiators.

The reality is, it was not a discussion between two parties. It was a discussion between all parties. With all kinds of conflicting points of view. Everybody was an expert on division, but I tell you today, I say with all sincerity, all of you, and I mean this sincerely, rose above, although on occasion we all got our own selfish interest, rose above that. I believe, fundamentally believe, that the action plan that we put in place will, in fact, bring about an amicable divorce and ultimately a reconciliation. I truly hope so.

I want to thank all the parties, if I may today at my last opportunity, for all their efforts on division. Though I have had my differences with a number of people on this issue, I fundamentally believe we have risen above those, and I have to give full credit to the staff. Not just our staff, all staff. There are many out there so I will not mention them in case I miss anybody. At the end of the day, there simply has to be a reconciliation. We must act as one even though we are separated.

I want to also applaud all the players, if I may, on the formula financing agreement. I want to particularly thank, today again, Mr. Martin, federal Minister of Finance, who is sympathetic and gave direction to the bureaucrats. I frankly do not know where we would have been, Mr. Speaker, if he had not done that. Certainly in the early days of negotiations, we were nowhere near the kind of numbers that we have achieved.

I do not want to fool anybody today. The two agreements that we have reached had to provide essential services, but a good agreement with changes in them that will give you more flexibility. But you simply must move on the next initiative. I plead to you to move on the next initiative, and that is the final way in which to get the new revenues and the new

taxes that you are going to require. There is no fiscal panacea out there. There is no Santa Claus going to offer you more money. You simply must look deep within yourself and move forward on what you think is important and try to reach consensus, as we have on division, on this new relationship that we need with the federal government to provide us with the additional fiscal resources we need.

I have to say again, if I may, I find it absolutely incredible that we are so close to division. Frankly, apart from a small hiccup which of course Mr. Dent would have to take full responsibility for, there has been very little controversy, real controversy in creating new territories. Think about it. All the work that took place over the last year or so, think about what we have done. We have actually reached an arrangement on assets and liabilities. The developing training. We have moved forward in an orderly way to find a way to assist both new governments. Yes, there has been difference of opinion.

So I think it is a credit to all the players in Nunavut and the NWT that assisted in division. As I say, Mr. Dent will have to take full responsibility for the hiccup we have today, but I am confident he will be able to reach an agreement with his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, at one time, with some regrets I suppose, I already talked in my earlier statement about the very personal regret I have with respect to some of the abuses handed out by the press, particularly with the Internet, I think it is appalling. At one time known as MOE, "Minister of Everything, and the Beast from the East", I have gone from being everyone's favourite MLA to being Darth Vader.

You know what was really scary is that my kid knew who Darth Vader was, and I had to explain to him on a number of occasions that his Dad was not as bad as the press said he is, even as late as yesterday when I took him to school.

Would I have done it differently? Would I have done some things differently? Probably. Were the objectives honourable? I think they were.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank if I may, some very important people in my constituency, and thank my honourable colleague, Ms. Thompson, who have provided invaluable advice, support, loyalty, friendship and assistance over the past seven years. There are so many, Mr. Speaker, that I hope my friends and my constituents will forgive me if I miss some of them and I hope you will bear

with me today if I can go on record as trying to thank many of them.

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There are three elders in Rankin Inlet who have always been there to give me sage advice when I needed it. They used to put me in my place when it was required by simply having tea with me and telling me I was wrong. I would like to thank Pierre Karliik, Mariano Aupilardjuk and the late Lucien Taparti.

I have been fortunate to have many dedicated people who have spent countless hours to work on my campaigns and to offer support, advice or friendship. If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention their names today. They are in no particular order, but I think it is important that they understand that I am publicly acknowledging their support: Shawn Maley, Dawson Milley, Lorne Kusugak, Johnny Naukatsik, Bette Palfrey, Peter Tatty, Ron Roach, Justin Merritt, Keith Sharpe, Mrs. Sateana, Felix Pissuk, The Aksadjuaks, The Irkootees, Mary Kuksuk, Betty Udliak and many more. Of course, Mr. Speaker, my good friend whom I miss terribly, Mr. Don Palfrey.

This is a side of me I like to keep private, Mr. Speaker, but it is difficult today.

I can honestly say, it was a privilege and a challenge to represent all these people over the last three years.

I would also like to thank my constituency assistants, Sandy Kusugak and Liz Copeland, for their tireless assistance.

In Whale Cove, I particularly want to thank Ian and Elizabeth Copeland, Percy Kabloona, Stanley Adjuk, Lewis Voisey and the late Joe Ulurksit.

I hope that I was in some small way able to provide the type of representation that was expected of me and that, together, we have made some small improvement in the lives of our friends and neighbours.

For the past six years in Cabinet, Mr. Speaker, I have had the chance to serve as Minister of many different departments and to work with many fine public servants.

When I was first elected to this House, Mr. Speaker, my views on public servants was quite different than it is today. After six or seven years of seeing the sheer amount of work and the incredible dedication of our

senior civil service, my opinion, Mr. Speaker, has changed completely.

I hope my staff that I work with will bear with me today. I simply would like to recognize Lew Voytilla. I simply cannot imagine this government functioning without him. I have never seen a man like it in my life. He works six and a half days a week, I do not know how his wife puts up with it or his family, but I will tell you that is one outstanding bureaucrat that I respect and admire.

Andrew Gamble. What would I have done without Andrew Gamble. Andrew Gamble is a very dedicated civil servant. He worked hard for this country. He was a great Deputy Minister of Transportation. I loved working with him. I simply do not know where the country would be without him today. I want to thank him today publicly both for his friendship, his professionalism and his concern for the country and the civil service. I do not know where the civil service would be today without Andrew Gamble.

Some of you may differ about my comments about Mr. Roland Bailey. Let me tell you today and I have to say it, I have never seen a man more abused in my life by the press than Mr. Bailey. This is a Northerner who came to this country in 1953. I knew his father in 1970-71 when he was a wildlife officer in Churchill and I was Settlement Manager in Rankin Inlet. I have to tell you today, any grief I have caused that man I regret it but I treasure his companionship, I respect his professionalism and at the end of the day he can hold his head high. He has my support. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I just want to mention these three because they have been important people in my life in the last seven years. As I said, it is not often that I bear my soul in public. It is something I usually try to keep very private.

I think it is also important to single out two individuals who have placed a great deal of trust in me over the past six years that I have had the privilege to serve in Cabinet, Nellie Cournoyea and Donnie Morin.

During my first three years in Cabinet, I had the opportunity to work for Nellie Cournoyea. I was indeed fortunate in this regard. Always free with her advice, sometimes blunt with her criticism, Nellie taught me some of the basic fundamentals of political life in the North. Nellie is a consummate politician with an innate ability to get to the heart of an issue and a talent for brilliantly representing the interests of

her constituents. I am privileged to have learned at her knee, Mr. Speaker.

I must also acknowledge Nellie is a consummate politician, with an innate ability to get to the heart of an issue and a talent for brilliantly representing the interests of her constituents. I am privileged to have learned at her knee.

Mr. Speaker, I must also acknowledge and we should not forget, the leadership that Mr. Morin has provided over the past three years. In my view, Mr. Speaker, this Legislative Assembly has dealt with the most complex and difficult issues in our short history. We have not always done so perfectly but I hazard to say that, by and large, we have done some successfully. Other Members of this House acknowledged Mr. Morin's leadership in their remarks during the consideration of the conflict report. I would like to add my voice to this view of Mr. Morin's record. All of the accomplishments of this Legislative Assembly have happened on Mr. Morin's watch. I can only hope that these accomplishments are taken into account when the final chapter is written in his political career. A career that I suspect is far from over.

Mr. Speaker, I have been privileged to serve with many other Members of this House over the years. While there are some that I have agreed with more than others, I would like to thank all Members, and I mean this sincerely, for their support on many issues and their constructive criticism on others.

Now there are, of course, Mr. Speaker, in assemblies like this, certain Members you bond with more than others, and I hope Members will not take offence if you were not somebody that I bonded with on a regular basis. I want to thank Floyd Roland, Mike Miltenberger, for their morning chats over coffee and their very wise advice I got over the years, I simply could not have done it without them and I want to say today to them publicly,

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thank you, both. I want to thank Roy Erasmus for his work on the Standing Committee on Government Operations and his relationship with me and I appreciate, Roy, the work you helped me get through. Mr. Steen. I could never understand Mr. Steen. He would ask me a question and I figured he was going somewhere. I was trying to look for some hidden message, et cetera. Mr. Steen to me is just one wise, I will not call him old, one wise sage that I felt and still

feel has some talent out there that is so hidden that at some point is going to come out.

--Laughter

This is the man I used to be afraid of when he asked me a question, because I figured there was always some catch to it. I want to thank Mr. Steen for his support over the years.

--Applause

Jane Groenewegen. Now I know Mrs. Groenewegen, along with Mr. Morin, have gone through some terrible times and I have personally gone through some real serious agony over this debate that took place in the last little while, both personally and professionally. I want to thank Jane for all her support over the years and I hope at some point that we will all be able to recognize that we all have to work together in the future Legislative Assembly, that that will occur. I know the advice that she gave me over the years and her friendship and our personal discussions were very much appreciated. I have, on occasion, through no fault of my own of course because I am obviously without fault, on occasion that I have inadvertently said things I should not have, and I want to say today I apologize to her for that.

Mr. Ningark. Me and John go a long way back. In the early days, I remember John when he was the first secretary manager in Pelly Bay working with Father Goussard and Father Larson. John has been a wise sage, a good and loyal friend over the years and I want to thank him for that too.

I hope I do not embarrass Mr. Henry, but I want to thank him for one casual conversation late one evening when he helped me over a difficult time. I want to thank him today, publicly, for that conversation. I think he knows what it was.

To those of you I have missed, I apologize. It is not intended to be that way. I want to leave the best for last, that is Mr. Picco. For those of you I missed, it is not intentional, I hope you will appreciate that. I am on the way out and will say it soon. I just wanted to thank those who I have had a special relationship with.

Mr. Picco. What can I say about Ed? I could write chapters about him. I watched him try to be John Todd...

--Laughter

Goo Arlooktoo, Donnie Morin, Jane Groenewegen, he wanted to be everybody, but Ed's heart is in the right place. He works hard for his constituency and I know that he will be successful in the new election and the country will be better for it.

--Applause

There are some others, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just mention, if I may. I would like to mention Mike Ballantyne, Gordon Wray, for their advice, particularly in the early days and made my job a little easier.

I want to talk about my Cabinet colleagues, if I may. I want to try to be careful because it is a sensitive time. I want some of you to understand some of the difficulties that my Cabinet colleagues, and I can say it today, have had. Let me talk about Mr. Ng. I remember when Kelvin got elected to the Cabinet and he says I want the Health portfolio. I told him he was mad. I said, what did you put in your Wheatie Bits this morning, Kelvin, my God, nobody wants that portfolio, it is probably the most difficult one in the world, except of course, for mine. He chose that portfolio. Most of you do not know that. He chose that portfolio knowing the difficulties that had to occur, and I respect him for it. There is no harder working guy in this Assembly than Kelvin Ng.

--Applause

I used to set my alarm and at one point it got so bad he was going to get in first in the morning. I actually set my alarm one day for 5:30 in the morning. I was going to beat him no matter what. I would come in at 6:30 in the morning during the tough times, Kelvin would be there, coffee on, cheery smile and I could never understand it. How could a person live with that portfolio. I do not want to look at it. You have to recognize and the public, the dilemma and difficulties that this guy has had to handle. This is not just a territorial issue, health care, it is a world issue. I want to acknowledge today, both his personal relationship that we have developed over the years before I knew him in office and when I knew him in office, I want all of you to understand that he chose this portfolio because he felt, then as he does now, and I believe it anyway, that he could make it better and make things happen.

Mr. Arlooktoo. When he first got elected, I did not think he was old enough. I heard he was 31 years old, a young kid coming in naive following in dad's shoes. I remember his father well. I remember Ipeelee and all the other guys in Baffin. I watched this

guy grow in leaps and bounds to the point where he has actually overshadowed me. Mr. Arlooktoo is a born natural leader. He is the future, as for some of you across the floor and the leadership in Nunavut, and I know at the end of the day that he is compassionate, caring, fair, moderate in his politics and will move forward in doing what is best for the country. I want to thank him for his friendship over the years and I want to wish him well, truly well in the election in Nunavut, and I hope to God that he is there, the country simply needs him.

--Applause

Charles Dent. Every time I looked at Charles, I thought he stepped out of Harry Rosen or Holt Renfrew. The only guy who could outdress me. I think his wife did it for him. I used to say, Charles you will not stand up in a dark room in case somebody sees him. Charles Dent, a man who feels passionately about his politics. Sometimes I am little concerned about Charles, I never know whether he is to the left or to the right occasionally, and I know that he comes from a family that is intimately involved in politics and are very sympathetic, very sympathetic to those less fortunate. I fundamentally believe that that is

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where Charles Dent is at. I think he believes passionately about what has to be done in this country. He cares about those who are underprivileged and I know he feels very strong about education. I want to thank Charles Dent and his wife for their friendship over the years and for his support in Cabinet with me.

--Applause

Mani Thompson. Mani Thompson and I go back. I frankly do not know how we get along because we really are two opposites and suddenly, in terms of the way in which we behave, we are certainly two opposites. For some reason, Mani's mom and dad, if you will allow me for a moment today, they just seemed to take to me and over the years, like Mani, I have really appreciated the support they have given me. The occasional advice they gave me through Mani over the years. Mani is a wonderful person who lives the good life and I believe wants to do well for the people in Nunavut. I want to thank Mani and in particular, if I can today, her parents for the support and her extended family, her sisters, the support they

have given me over the years and I know she will do well for Nunavut in 1999.

--Applause

Maybe it is a little unfair and I really do not want to say too much today about Mr. Kakfwi and Mr. Antoine because both of them are running for leader tomorrow. Let me tell you, these are two good men. I do not think it would be fair for me to give my personal opinion at this point on both these gentleman and I hope, Jim, you will bear with me there. I want to say publicly these are two good men and I hope, at the end of the day, that whoever wins, there will be a reconciliation we can move forward and finish off the agenda we started.

--Applause

It goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, like all Members of this House, I am indebted to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, David Hamilton. I cannot imagine where the heck we would be without his benevolent guidance in terms of what he provided both this Assembly and me. David and I go a long long way back. The old Bay days, the old local government days. I want to thank him today publicly along with the two other guys with him, Doug and Dave, for his support, but I am sure you both recognize the special thank you I want to give to David.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to put into words the importance of your personal staff in this job. In this regard, I have got to tell you, I have been unusually blessed with exceptional staff. To my first Executive Assistant, Rick Bargery, who was there with me at the beginning and who stuck with me as we learned the ropes together, I want to say a heartfelt thanks for the five years of loyal and dedicated service. I do not know, again, where I would have been without his able help and his wit and his skill with a pen.

--Applause

To April Taylor, my God, when Rick introduced me to April Taylor, I thought, it is the female me. How am I going to handle this. In your face, stating her opinion, articulate, aggressive, well-meaning, extremely sincere, I have to tell you, April, if you are listening, I want to thank you for all of your loyalty, for all of your support over the last year and a half. I simply could not have got by without it.

Mr. Speaker, last but not least, if I may, Leslie Straker. Leslie has worked for me, this is a tough one. I cannot put into words adequately, my gratitude to Leslie Straker. She is kind of like a little sister to me. She was there when I needed her, she took care of me when I was personally in trouble, she helped me out professionally. She is just a very warm human being. I hope she will forgive me today for being so public about the way I feel about her. Leslie, thank you for your loyalty and support, both professionally and personally over the last seven years. I simply could not have got by without you. Thank you.

--Applause

Mr. Speaker, in June of this year, I made an announcement for the benefit of my loyal constituents, advising them that I did not intend to run for office in the upcoming election for the Government of Nunavut. I would, now, like to address the rumours that I may run in Yellowknife in October of next year. It is true that many people have approached me about the possibility of running. It is also true that I have given a great deal of thought to doing so.

Like many people, I am excited about the potential in the west, about the unique opportunity which the people in the west have to redefine the structure of governance and the incredible economic potential of this territory. After much consideration, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to those who have offered me their support, I can state, without hesitation, that I have decided not to run for election in Yellowknife this fall. There are many factors that have gone into this decision but, the most important, Mr. Speaker, is that I feel I no longer have the passion that is required to do the job any more.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you today for bearing with me, I would like to thank the many people from across the Northwest Territories, from this House, from my constituency, for the advice and support they have given me over the years. All good things that have been accomplished over the years can be attributed to them, the failures to me. In closing, Mr. Speaker, in the words of Bertrand Russell, there are no ends, Mr. Speaker, just beginnings.

--Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that Special Committee on Nunavut Legislation has reviewed Bill 30, Nunavut Power Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, and wishes to report Bill 30 is ready for committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations reviewed Bill 29, Northwest Territories Power Corporation Division Measures Act, and wishes to report that Bill 29 is now ready for committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act, and wishes to report that Bill 31 is now ready for committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 55-13(6): News Release Entitled "Conflict Complaint Against Groenewegen Dismissed" Dated July 11, 1998

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Conflict Complaint against Groenewegen dismissed. This is a news release from July 10, 1996.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

Tabled Document 56-13(6): Workers' Compensation Board Corporate Plan 1999-2000

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two documents to table. I wish to table the following document entitled, Workers' Compensation Board Corporate Plan 1999-2001.

Tabled Document 57-13(6): Employee Clearance Certificate

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Employee Claims Certificate. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Ootes.

Tabled Document 58-13(6): Friends of Democracy Document Regarding an Electoral Boundaries Court Challenge

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the document prepared by Friends of Democracy, Electoral Boundaries Court Challenge. The organization is making an application to the court today. It is a seven page document that provides background information on a number of topics. It is signed by seven individuals. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motions 13-13(6). Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 13-13(6): Waiver of Parliamentary Privilege for Judicial Review Application to Proceed

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, I move:

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has received the Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner in the matter of a complaint under Part III of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act by the Member for Hay River in relation to the Member from Tu Nedhe;

AND WHEREAS the Member for Tu Nedhe has filed an Application for a Judicial Review in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories claiming that the Conflict of Interest Public Inquiry was not conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice;

AND WHEREAS it is important that the Legislative Assembly be satisfied that the hearing was conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that this Legislative Assembly notwithstanding its inherent power to control its own proceedings, privileges or prerogatives, waives its privilege over this matter to allow the Application for a Judicial Review to proceed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I have carefully reviewed this motion with the view to ascertain the intent of the motion to determine if it is in order. Unfortunately, I must rule the motion out of order as contravening our long standing sub judice convention. In ruling this motion out of order, the Chair feels that due to the significant nature of this matter, I would like to explain the reasons for the ruling.

It has long been the principle that Legislatures will not comment on matters that are before the courts. While the House permitted debate on Tabled Document 37-13(6), the Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, notwithstanding the application for judicial review, we did so because the essence of the report, the discipline of a Member was within the purview of this Legislature. There was also a strongly held view that it was essential to the public interest and to the governance of this territory that the matter of the Member's conduct be resolved. Therefore, in that debate, the sub judice convention did not apply so as to bar debate.

The same cannot be said to be true of this motion. This motion speaks of an issue that is directly before

the courts and is, I understand, scheduled to be argued on Friday, December 11, 1998. The essence of the proceeding is whether the Courts will grant the Member for Tu Nedhe the opportunity to have a judicial review of the Commissioner's findings. To allow this motion to proceed would be a direct interference with the role of the Courts in deciding this very important issue. To illustrate my point, I quote from Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice 22nd edition, page 333:

"no matter awaiting or under adjudication by a court of law should be brought before the House by a motion or

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otherwise..."

Very clearly, this motion contravenes this principle and goes to the very heart of the reasons as to why we have a sub judice convention and rules, and, therefore, I must rule the motion out of order.

Motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 32: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99, be read for the first time. 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. Bill 32 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 32: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99, be read for the

second time, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill to make supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending 1998-99. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 32 has had second reading and is now referred into committee of the whole. Second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 32, with Mr. Steen in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I call the committee to order. We just have one item in committee of the whole today, Bill 32. If the committee agrees, we will deal with Bill 32 after we take a break. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Agreed. Thank you.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

I would like to call the committee to order. We are on Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99, and I will ask Mr. Todd, Minister responsible, to introduce the bill please.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99, requests authority for additional appropriations of \$5.947 million, made up of \$4.252 million for operations and maintenance expenditures and \$1.695 million in capital expenditures. The total supplementary appropriations, year to date, do exceed the supplementary appropriation reserve included in the main estimates. The improvement in the 1998-99 revenue forecast on a one-time retroactive adjustment to the grant from Canada in the 1997-98 fiscal year

has permitted the government to address a few critical needs through supplementary appropriations. With the revenue adjustments and additional supplementary appropriations, we do project an accumulated surplus at the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year of approximately \$52 million as compared to an accumulated deficit of \$28 million forecast in the 1998-99 Main Estimates. However, Mr. Chairman, our fiscal situation still requires vigilance.

The operations and maintenance appropriation grant include \$2.3 million for the Department of RWED to address a shortfall in the fire suppression budget as a result of significantly more fires in the previous years, \$1.2 million to establish the diamond projects division in the Department of RWED, and \$752,000 for the Department of RWED to initiate third party partnerships to address urgent needs for the new Nunavut Territory. The capital appropriation grants include \$1.7 million for the NWT Housing Corporation to fund the Minimum Down Payment Assistance Program Pilot Project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. We have no general comments from the committee, so therefore, we would now move on to the next process. Would the Minister like to bring in witnesses?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, bring in the witnesses and seat them please. Could I have the Minister introduce his witness please?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Mr. Lew Voytilla, the Deputy Minister of the FMB.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Welcome to the committee. General comments from the Members on the bill. I am not hearing any general comments. Does the committee we move clause by clause on the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page 5 of the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99, I have Department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Activity not previously authorized. Resource Management and Economic Development, not previously authorized, \$1.952 million.

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Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Forest management, not previously authorized, \$2.3 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$4.252 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. The next page, Page 6, NWT Housing Corporation capital activity. NWT Housing Corporation, not previously authorized, \$1.695 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.695 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. On page 1, clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 5 of Bill 32. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. We have schedule part 1, vote 1, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$4.252 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Part 2, vote 2, capital. Total capital, \$1.695 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Total supplementary appropriation in parts 1 and 2, \$5.947 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. The preamble on page 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 32 is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steen):

Thank you. Bill 32 is now ready for third reading. I thank the Minister, Mr. Todd, and his witness, and I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99, and would like to report that Bill 32 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. Ningark. 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. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 20, Division Measures Act, No. 2

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 20, Division Measures Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. 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? The motion is carried. Bill 20 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Bill 21, Nunavut Statutes Amendment Act, No. 2

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HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Kivallivik for that Bill 21, the Nunavut Statutes Amendment Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. Thank you. (Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 21 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Bill 22, Legal Registries Division Measures Act

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that Bill 22, Legal Registries Division Measures Act, be read for the third time. 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? The motion is carried. Bill 22 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Bill 23, Nunavut Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, that Bill 23, Nunavut Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the third time. 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? The motion is carried. Bill 23 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Henry.

Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Public Highways Act and the Motor Vehicles Act

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Public Highways Act, and Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the third time. 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? The motion is carried. Bill 19 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Ms. Thompson.

Bill 24, Community Employees' Benefits Program Transfer Act

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 24, Community Employees' Benefits Program Transfer Act, be read for the third time. 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? The motion is carried. Bill 24 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 25, Workers' Compensation Division Measures Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 25, Workers' Compensation Division Measures Act

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 25 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Bill 26, Nunavut Workers' Compensation Statutes Amendment Act

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik that Bill 26, Nunavut Workers' Compensation Statutes Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 26 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be read for the third time. 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? The motion is carried. Bill 27 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act, be read for the third time. 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? The motion is carried. Bill 28 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking consent to proceed with Bill 32. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd, you have unanimous consent.

Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1998-99, be read for the third time. 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

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opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 32 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 33 has had third reading. Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber and assent the bills and prorogue the Sixth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly?

COMMISSIONER MAKSAGAK:

Mr. Speaker, Acting Premier, and honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly. Greetings.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

Bill 14, Nunavut Judicial System Implementation Act

Bill 15, Nunavut Statutes Amendment Act

Bill 16, Nunavut Statutes Replacement Act

Bill 17, Division Measures Act

Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Public Highways Act and the Motor Vehicles Act

Bill 20, Division Measures Act, No. 2

Bill 21, Nunavut Statutes Amendment Act, No. 2

Bill 22, Legal Registries Division Measures Act

Bill 23, Nunavut Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act

Bill 24, Community Employees' Benefits Program Transfer Act

Bill 25, Workers' Compensation Division Measures Act

Bill 26, Nunavut Workers' Compensation Statutes Amendment Act

Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act

Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act

Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4 1998-99

Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Prior to proroguing this session, I wish to announce that the Seventh Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly will convene on Friday, December 11, 1998, at 10:00 a.m.

As the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the Sixth Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

--Applause