



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

7th Session

Day 1

13th Assembly

HANSARD

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Erasmus, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Honourable John Todd.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Sam Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Good Morning. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain whether Her Honour the Commissioner is prepared to enter the Chamber and open the 7th Session of the 13th Assembly.

--Order

ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER MAKSAGAK:

Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to welcome you to the 7th Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

I would like to begin by congratulating the new Premier-elect, the Honourable Jim Antoine, and the new Minister-elect, the Honourable Floyd Roland.

--Applause

I know that you will work diligently to fulfil the mandate of this government. I look forward to officially administering the oath of allegiance and the oath of office later today.

Secondly, I would like to recognize the work of all Members of this Legislative Assembly. As you head into the final months of this government, you can look back with pride at what has been accomplished since you were elected in 1995. I recall opening the 2nd Session of this Assembly in February of 1996. At that time, I said I was confident that this government's vision of a Northwest Territories with a secure

financial future and a healthier, better educated and more self-sufficient population would be achieved. You can all be proud of the progress that has been made to date.

This government has achieved a balanced budget. The plan you embarked upon to create two new territories is in the final stages. Major steps have been taken toward securing the economic well-being of the territories: formula financing agreements have been signed for Nunavut and the Northwest Territories; Canada's first diamond mine opened in October, and planning for others is underway. This government was successful in having the sorting and valuation of the diamonds done in the north. Secondary diamond industries will also create jobs for northerners.

These are exciting times for all of us. The people of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut can look forward to two well run, secure governments. This is due in no small part to your work over the past three years. The past few weeks have been a difficult time for all Members of this House. It is my hope that you will not be discouraged or lose sight of the crucial role you are playing in the continuing evolution of this country. In this final year of the 13th Legislative Assembly, I encourage you to finish your work with the same dedication, energy and attention to duty that you have shown throughout your time in office.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few personal words of thanks to the many people who have supported me and my family through their actions, kind words, cards and prayers through the past eight months. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated from the heart.

Now, as we look forward to the exciting challenges ahead for us all in 1999, I wish to remind you that the United Nations has declared 1999 the International Year of Older Persons. As an older person myself, I encourage you to bring forward ideas and suggestions for ways to recognize and celebrate the many valuable contributions that older persons have made and are still making to our society.

As the Christmas season arrives, our thoughts turn with joy to family and friends, to happy memories. While it can be a very busy time for us all, we must not forget to pause for a moment and appreciate our many blessings, to enjoy our freedoms, our good health and, most importantly, all those who have brought happiness to our lives. I would like to wish

each and every one across the north the blessing of the season and every good wish for the New Year.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to declare open the 7th Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Orders of

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the day. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 1-13(7): Minister Absent From the House

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say good morning to everybody. I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Manik Thompson will be absent from the House today to attend to personal matters in Rankin Inlet. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 2-13(7): Sessional Statement

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Good morning again, Mr. Speaker, and honoured colleagues. I am proud to be standing here as your Premier-elect. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Floyd Roland on being selected as our new Cabinet Member. I wish to announce that Mr. Roland will assume responsibility for the Department of Public Works and Services and the Department of Transportation.

Today we begin the 7th Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly. This is the final session before the creation of two new territories on April 1, 1999.

Members of this House can look back with pride on what has been accomplished since the election in 1995:

- we have a balanced budget,
- we have strengthened our voice at the

national level,

- we have moved greater control over programs and services to communities and regions,
- we have made significant progress on the implementation of division; and,
- we are negotiating aboriginal rights agreements in virtually all regions in the western NWT.

We are nearing the end of our time together. In only four months the map of Canada will change forever with the creation of two new territories.

We have made great progress in the work that needs to be done by April 1st, but there are still important tasks ahead of us. Just as the new Government of Nunavut will be busy establishing itself next year, those of us who remain in the west will have to adjust to our new role.

Recent events have distracted us somewhat from our work and created some bad feelings between Members. It is time to put that aside and move on. As I have said before, northerners expect honesty, accountability and stability from their government. Together, we can restore public confidence and get back to the issues that affect the daily lives and the future of the people who chose us to be here. Our constituents are counting on us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 3-13(7): Minister's Forum on Schooling

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce today the appointment of members to the Minister's Forum on Schooling. The forum is a seven member committee that will travel to ten communities across the Northwest Territories. In the coming months it will hear from the public on the challenges and successes in our northern education system. The forum will look to the public to help examine the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's goals and activities in the kindergarten to grade 12 program. Debate on key issues will be encouraged. The results will provide me with the basis I need to form recommendations on the future direction of schooling.

The seven people who have been chosen as forum members are first, Mr. Robert Tordiff of Fort Smith and Ms. Mary Wilman of Iqaluit to co-chair the Forum. Other members of the group include Sheila Napayok, Sabet Biscaye, Gary Black, Ethel Blake and Uriash Puqignak. This group brings a very broad perspective and extensive experience to their work on the forum. Many have been directly involved in the delivery, management and governance of education and training programs.

By next April, the Minister's Forum will prepare two reports on their findings - one for the Northwest Territories and one for Nunavut. In the west, the report will be used to help update the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's Strategic Plan. In the east, the report will be given to the first Nunavut Minister of Education for their use.

It is important to recognize and understand the successes in northern education to date. The forum will look for suggestions on how to build on these successes and continue to improve education programs and resources in the north. It is important to also mention that community educators will be encouraged to actively participate in the consultation process. District education authorities, school principals and adult educators will be encouraged to host public forums in their communities. The results of these discussions will be forwarded to the forum.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the forum members for agreeing to undertake this work. It is a big commitment. I am confident that the forum will do a great job and I look forward to their reports after consultation with the public. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 4-13(7): Recognition of Staff

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have the good fortune to be the Minister of some very hard-working departments. Recent times have been a little difficult for staff in one of those departments, and often the negative remarks have been extended to include all of the GNWT. I want to say a few words today about the good work that all of our employees are doing.

No matter what the latest crisis in this House, elevators are still being inspected, computer systems are working, fuel is being

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delivered in small communities. The work of the public service goes on and that work is done well. The best performance in the government is one that nobody notices.

Of course, it is not just Public Works and Services staff that do a good job, and it is not just Transportation employees or Aboriginal Affairs staff who are doing excellent work for the NWT: teachers, finance clerks, nurses, wildlife officers and all others who provide the services that keep the NWT and its government running smoothly.

Since this is the holiday season, I would like to add my voice to those who have recently recognized the efforts of our public service. I would like to wish them and their families a happy time during the holidays.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 5-13(7): 1998 Summer Tourism Statistics

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The travel and tourism sector of our economy has seen tremendous growth over the past two decades. An increasing number of businesses in the Northwest Territories are providing a wide range of high-quality services to visitors from around the world.

This past summer, we saw an increase in campground and park revenue of 22 percent from 1997. Revenue from all regions was up with the largest gains being made in the North and South Slave Regions.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories has a number of advantages that hold tremendous appeal to visitors. We will continue to work with tourism operators to ensure that products and services utilize those advantages and that the tourism industry remains an important contributor to the well-being of northerners. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 1-13(7): Appreciation for Colleagues, Staff and Family

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On my last day as Acting Premier, I appreciate the opportunity to be the first to congratulate the new Premier-elect, and the new Cabinet Minister and also all those who ran for Cabinet portfolios, and especially to Mr. Kakfwi who during his speeches yesterday made some very good points and showed us what kind of real leader and the depth that he has. I wanted to let all Members here know that when I suddenly became the Acting Premier that Mr. Kakfwi was the first to come to my office to offer advice and support and ask me to tell him if there was anything I needed, that he was just down the hall. I appreciate and recognize that. Mr. Speaker, this morning as I was going to the office and thinking about today and relinquishing the office I have held for the last few days, the song by Mr. Johnny Paycheck kept coming to mind, it is entitled, Take This Job and Shove It.

--Laughter

For me it has been an honour and a privilege, especially the fact that I became Acting Premier two days before my 35th birthday. It is really something that I recognize that many other people do not have the chance to do. Despite the fact that I did not sleep very much during that period, really as the years go by, this will be something I cherish.

I wanted to spend this last minute here saying thank you to my Cabinet colleagues and especially to my staff, Mr. Paul Bachand, who I could not do without in the last few days. He is my executive assistant and acting principal secretary. Kelley Merilees is my secretary, Nicole Camphaug and John Manning who are my assistants and who have very quickly come to the occasion to assist me in the last while. Finally, Mr. Speaker, to my constituents and especially my family, Dorothy and my three boys and my daughter at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement 2-13(7): Electoral Boundaries

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to echo Minister Arlooktoo's congratulations to all those who participated yesterday and particularly to Mr. Antoine and Mr. Roland.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Great Hall we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations Proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 21 of that declaration calls for the authority of the government to be based on the will of the people. Article 21 goes on to say that, the will of the people shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage. In Canada, Mr. Speaker, we

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have the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which ensures constitutional protection for individual rights. The same constitution which protects the rights of aboriginal people to self-government also protects, through the Charter, an individual's right to relative parity of voting power.

In the 6th Session of this Assembly we considered the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission 1998. That report recommended two more seats for Yellowknife. As Members will no doubt recall, that recommendation was rejected in this House. Mr. Speaker, the Boundaries Commission recommended that six out of 16 or 37.5 percent of the seats in the future 14th Assembly be allocated to Yellowknife. I have no doubt that this recommendation was largely based on consideration of the case law relevant in charter references.

However, Members were not comfortable with more seats for Yellowknife only. Mr. Speaker, after looking at the numbers in a couple of other constituencies, another approach came to mind. Perhaps Members would consider adding a couple of seats outside of Yellowknife to help maintain the balance. Hay River and Inuvik are the two constituencies with the largest populations outside of Yellowknife, so why not consider adding another seat each to Hay River and Inuvik? The only problem there, Mr. Speaker, is that if you add two seats in Yellowknife and two in other communities, Yellowknife would have only 33 percent of the seats in the 14th Assembly. This falls short of

the 37.5 percent recommended by the learned members of the Boundaries Commission with, we can be sure, the charter requirements in mind. Mr. Speaker, there would be other ways to address this. Perhaps considering a total of five seats being added, three in Yellowknife and two outside, which would mean 36.8 percent of the seats in the House for Yellowknife which is not far off the 37 percent recommended by the Boundaries Commission. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do I have any nays? Sorry, Mr. Dent, you do not have unanimous consent. Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 3-13(7): Kindness to a Family in Need

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start off I would like to send greetings back to my wife and children. Mr. Speaker, seeing that this is the last time I will be making a Member's statement from this side of the House, I would like to leave us all with a story of human kindness, especially in light of Christmas coming on I think it would be a good story to share right now.

Mr. Speaker, it was through an unfortunate tragedy that happened this fall that a family suffered the loss of their home because of the piling situation in our community. As a result of that, Mr. Speaker, throughout the evening many people gathered to help that family out to remove their possessions that they had inside this house. I am told that friends and strangers of this family pulled together without being called upon. Strangers stopped by outside the home and lined up and formed a human chain to remove all the goods from their home and remove them out to a safer place. The family is taken care of now in a new place, but this example of how people come together is something we need to see more of on a more regular basis throughout the territories. We have heard many people speak of how government should do many more things to help the people, but this is where the people on their own initiative came together to help out those in need. As we part today and travel back to our homes and our constituencies, I hope that we can look to our people in our communities and

share stories of this nature and share in the spirit of Christmas and giving of kindness and joy.

I would like to thank all the Members and I look forward to working with them in the upcoming new year. All those that are travelling off to Nunavut, I wish them much luck. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 4-13(7): Accomplishments of the 13th Assembly

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to congratulate the new Premier-elect, Mr. Jim Antoine, and the new Cabinet Member, the Honourable Mr. Roland. I know they will work hard and provide guidance and vision for the future.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, three years ago we first came to this Assembly. Some of us were long-time Members and others like myself have been here previously, while others were new. We knew we had many tough issues to deal with. First and foremost we had the deficit to deal with, this affected us all, as well as our constituents. However, with the guidance of our previous Premier and his Finance Minister, we succeeded. We have also had many issues regarding division to deal with and again we have succeeded.

If it was not for the hard work of Mr. Morin and his colleagues, I am sure we could not have accomplished what we have in as little time we had. We should be proud of our work.

When we came to this house for the first time, most of us did not know each other. We have built friendships and good working relationships that will last for a long time. As the eastern Members get ready for their election and move out of this Assembly, I can say they will be missed. It has always been enjoyable to hear Mr. Picco give his rendition of the latest song he heard on the radio or to listen to Mr. O'Brien provide us with the latest joke of the day. Of course, I cannot forget my travelling companion and good friend, Mr. Ningark. As I call him brother John and I travelled to various areas of our country and it was always enjoyable to have his company.

This has been a very interesting and exhausting term, we have had our high points as well as our low points but we have survived and now can say that we have made history on many fronts and for the most part it gives me great pleasure. Over the last week we have dealt with many issues, some very troubling, but again we have pushed forward and provided the best results that we could have.

In closing, I would like to thank the Members from the east for their assistance and companionship over the last three years and hope for the best on their upcoming election and challenges

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ahead to realize their own territory. I would also like to wish my constituents in the North Slave along with all the residents of the country, a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement 5-13(7): Season's Greetings

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my congratulations to Mr. Antoine and Mr. Roland. I wish them every success in their new positions. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a few minutes, a couple of minutes here to pass on season's greetings to my communities of Sachs Harbour, Holman Island, Paulatuk, and Tuktoyaktuk, as this will probably be the last day we will be here before Christmas. I wish them all a safe and happy Christmas season. As well, I would like to wish all my colleagues in this House a merry Christmas and the best in the new year. I am hoping that I will be seeing my Nunavut colleagues again, before April 1st, so I am going to save my farewells until that time. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 6-13(7): Season's Greetings

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would as well like to start off by offering my congratulations to the Premier-elect, Mr. Antoine, and Minister-elect, Mr. Roland, my stalwart companion for this past three years. There is going to be a big hole on this side of the House as he clops across to the other side. I look forward to seeing him eyeball to eyeball instead of his handsome left profile.

Mr. Speaker, this truly has been a gruelling session for us and I think there are others, like myself, who feel like I am running on fumes here. It is time to go back to our families and our homes and recharge our batteries, so to speak. This will be our last opportunity as an Assembly that started together way back in 1995, I believe, to wish each other all the best of the season and especially to my Nunavut colleagues, that we will not be sharing this opportunity again. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my colleagues all the best of the season, especially my Nunavut colleagues who are not only going to be travelling home for Christmas, but shortly thereafter, out to the hustings and I wish all those that have chosen to put their case back to the people in 40-below weather, the best of luck. If we are all returned to these offices down the road, I am sure we will be getting together to discuss common issues.

Our Assembly has dealt with, Mr. Speaker, clearly some very difficult issues but I am confident that we have the strength and the resilience to learn from the critical lessons that we have experienced and that we will move ahead, that we will improve and progress. and that the people of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut will be the better for all our efforts at the end of the day. To all my constituents and all the people of the Northwest Territories as it now exists, I wish them all the best of the season, a safe holiday and nothing but health and prosperity in the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 7-13(7): Season's Greetings

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulation also to Mr. Roland and Mr. Antoine, who are very good hockey players. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Legislative

Assembly for their support and help over the past three years and I will try to name some of them: Cheryl Voytilla, Cheryl Menard, the research staff, security, Mr. Myles Moreside, Mr. Anderson, Ronna, of course Mr. Hamilton, Doug and Dave, our capable committee clerks, and I guess all the other staff here in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, that wonderful lady upstairs who works very hard for all Members, Ms. Betty Low, and her partner,

--Applause

Verna Currimbhoy. Over the past three years, Mr. Speaker, I have made some good friends here in this Assembly and probably ruffled a few feathers along the way. Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, was my son Wally's tenth birthday. It was the third birthday of Wally's that I have missed since coming to this Legislative Assembly. Sometimes politics seems to be a blood sport and over the last several weeks, I think it is fair to say that anxiety and stress were certainly evident here.

As we move into the Christmas season and new beginnings for many of us, I would like to wish all Members a safe and a happy Christmas, and take this opportunity to thank the people of Iqaluit for their support and wish Iqaluit, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories a safe and happy Christmas. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my wife who is home right now with our three children and our foster child. Since October 25th, I have been home five days, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Miltenberger said, that is a long time. Sometimes when you are away from home, you lose perspective and you get trapped and caught up in this crazy place, in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, my wife has been father and mother for the last three years and it has not been easy for her. Mr. Speaker, she will be in today, from Iqaluit with our baby, Pukkak, so I am sure Wal-mart, Saan's, and the other stores are going to be quite happy and so will I. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 8-13(7): Best Wishes to Nunavut and the NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also today would like to rise and congratulate Mr. Antoine and Mr. Roland on their election yesterday. I concurred with the view that it would be good to have regional representation in the Beaufort-Delta, it was under-represented, however Mr. Roland,

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forgive me for saying that I had kind of wished Vince Steen on the Cabinet, instead of you. I thought that would be a nice little Christmas present for the Cabinet because I know Mr. Steen tends to put them all on edge and that always warms my heart.

Mr. Speaker, as the Christmas season is approaching, I like the rest of you, will be returning to my constituency and I am looking forward to that. My little girl is there. She has got the tree up but not decorated and is anxiously awaiting Mom's return so if Mr. Antoine and Mr. Roland can get the ferry back in the water, I will be making my way home here in the next few days.

Mr. Speaker, as I return home, I reflect on the fact that in Hay River I have a beautiful home; I have a beautiful family; I represent a riding which has tremendous potential and a long history of stability and prosperity. I also recognize that for many of the communities in the north and for many people, this Christmas season does not bring those kinds of happiness. I think we need to always be very cognizant and aware of those we represent who have many needs and many challenges. As their representatives, I believe we must have them always in our minds.

Mr. Speaker, back not so many years ago, I sat on a CBC forum on the subject of division along with John Amagoalik, Ken Harper and Francois Paulette. Francois Paulette and I argued against division of the Northwest Territories, but I have to say that over the last three years, working with our Inuit and Nunavut colleagues, I have come to appreciate their aspirations and their goals. It is also incumbent on us to wish them Godspeed and good luck with all of their endeavours after division on April 1st, 1999. As Mr. Todd said, there are certain Members that you do bond with and I would like to pay special tribute to a Nunavut colleague, who has been especially close to me over the last three years, and I wish him all the best. That is Mr. Edward Picco. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ng.

Member's Statement 9-13(7): Seasons Greetings

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I also would like to join other Members in congratulating the Premier-elect, Mr. Antoine, and Cabinet Member-elect, Mr. Roland. I would also like to recognize and thank all the other candidates that did put their name forward for those positions. It gave us hard choices to make in that decision.

To my Nunavut colleagues, those that are seeking election to the first Nunavut Assembly, to those that have decided to retire or retire to move on to better things, I wish them all the best in the 1999 year. As this is the last sitting day that we have before Christmas, I would to say to my constituents, to all Northwest Territories residents, to my colleagues in this House, have a merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement 10-13(7): Abuse in Residential Schools

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a Member of the Legislature, I have taken the occasion to speak many times about community wellness and zero tolerance, but I have never addressed the issue of abuse in residential schools. There is a reason for that. In February of this year, there was an announcement of a conviction of a former supervisor in Grollier Hall. In August, I also attended a court case in Inuvik for a former supervisor who was convicted as well of various charges of sexual abuse against former students.

Mr. Speaker, I have never spoken to this because, simply it is a very difficult issue and I do not like to start talking about something that I am not sure I can finish. I will be very brief today, hopefully I can find the strength to speak to it in more detail in the future. I just want the Members to know, it is important to put it

before you, so you will have a context for the kind of person that I am and the way I act and conduct myself. I was there, in Grollier Hall, as a nine-year-old for five months in 1960. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 11-13(7): Establishment of a Child Advocacy Group

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time I wish everybody a merry Christmas and a happy new year, all the people in the north, and especially the youth and the children of the Northwest Territories. One thing I would like to hopefully see for the children of the Northwest Territories is give them something for Christmas that they all will feel a part of.

Mr. Speaker, what I am talking about is a consideration of establishing a child advocacy group in the Northwest Territories to deal with a large percentage of our population which is the youth, the children, and that they have to feel involved in playing a more active role in the day-to-day problems and things that happen around them. I think the most important asset that we have is people, is our youth. For myself, I feel strongly that we have to seriously consider looking at such an advocacy group, so that the youth and children can say what the problems are in regard to how they are being served and how the programs are being delivered on their behalf. They would also feel that there is someone out there caring for them when they do have problems with the law in regard to going into youth custody, family issues or problems at home. It is that type of effort by this government that will definitely put a smile on the youth and children of the north. Thank you everyone. Merry Christmas and happy new year.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement 12-13(7): Seasons Greetings

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to, like my colleague, congratulate Premier-elect, Mr. Antoine on behalf of the Natilikmiot riding and Mr. Roland, the

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new Minister, on behalf of Natilikmiot people. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send Christmas greetings to my colleagues here especially you, Mr. Speaker, and the staff of the Legislature. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to send Christmas greetings to the people of Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Pelly Bay and my former home, Repulse Bay. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would also like to send Christmas greetings to First Air, Air Canada, Canadian Air and I would also to say that young people of Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak always welcome apples and oranges from First Air, Air Canada and other airlines. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement 13-13(7): Condolences on the Passing of David Tagoona and Jon Lindell

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these have been trying times and we have had our share of it the last two weeks. I want to first of all congratulate Mr. Antoine and Mr. Roland. I want to remind everybody today that with the sudden tragic death of David Tagoona from Baker Lake and my good friend, Jon Lindell, that their funeral will be held on Saturday. I want to publicly say today to Nancy and to the Tagoona family how sorry I am for their tragic loss of both these two guys. I understand.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I recognize the difficulty. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statements 14-13(7): Challenges of the 13th Assembly

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start off by congratulating Mr. Antoine and Mr. Roland in their successful bids for election yesterday to their

respective positions. To the people who were not successful, including myself, better luck next time.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to reflect a little bit about our terms here. Mr. Speaker, it was at times very difficult and at other times exciting and a good place to be. Some of the difficulties that I have had, of course, I lost an uncle, my wife also lost an uncle and very recently now we have two uncles that are seriously ill with cancer. Other than personal challenges, we, as a legislature, had to face severe challenges as well that no other Assembly has had to face. I would think, our budget was slashed by 20 percent. We had to cut programs and services. We had to lay off countless civil servants. We had to deal with creating two new territories. We tried to agree on a constitution for the west. Mr. Speaker, through all of this I am glad that I was here before division. I am glad I was able to experience this with my eastern colleagues, to learn how they think and feel about things and to benefit from their experiences and wisdom. Mr. Speaker, when I look back today I wonder who else could have stayed the course to balance the budget other than Mr. Todd?

--Applause

Thank God, he has a thick skin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to continue his statement. Do we have any nays? Mr. Erasmus, you have unanimous consent.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Ningark for his wisdom and extremely balanced and fair views in our committee. I must say that I learned a lot from him. Now I had the pleasure to watch a very young Mr. Arlooktoo grow by leaps and bounds and I always appreciated his fairness and his frankness in committees. Of course, Mr. Ng is also very fair and level-headed and always open to discuss problems and their solutions. Sometimes he even took a little of our advice. Mr. Picco, of course, Mr. Speaker, he brought liveliness, wit and charm to this House and to our committee meetings. We all like to tease him, but I am sure I speak for all when I say we appreciate you, Ed. Ms. Thompson, I would like to thank you for nominating me. I appreciated our

numerous talks and discussions about aboriginal culture and customs. I very much appreciated her honesty, friendship and her funny notes. I do not have time to discuss all the Members, but I would like to thank all the eastern Members for their contributions.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. I will be happy to receive the calendar. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 15-13(7): Discussion Regarding an Early Election in the West

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to pass on my congratulations to both Mr. Antoine for his election to Premier and Mr. Roland in his election to Minister in our Cabinet. Also congratulations to those Members who competed in those races.

Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of expressions by the public, over the radio, to me personally and perhaps to other Members about the need for and a desire for an early election in the Western Territory. That requires a bit of explanation so the public understands what we have gone through to reach decisions on this. It has been the subject of discussion by the western Members off and on for the past year. In Nunavut an amendment was passed by federal statute that allows for the February election in Nunavut. Here in the west earlier this year we set October 4th as our election date, and there were some reasons why that particular date was selected. We needed to resolve a number of issues. One of the issues, of course, was the issue of trying to reach consensus and to reach a new constitution for the west. That issue took some time and it eventually was not resolved.

However, the other challenge before us was, could we get a new budget together for the west. By the time we reached resolution on that issue it was almost too late to call for an earlier election.

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As a Member I have always felt that we should go for an early election. I have dealt with that for the past year. My position was that and it continues to be that, but I have not been successful in convincing my Cabinet colleagues. As I said earlier, it was discussed extensively by all of us, but now once we got the two

major issues out of the way, the constitution and the budget, some other challenges are before us. One is, it would require a federal statute amendment to have an early election before us. While that is not impossible to achieve, there are a number of other technical matters and administrative matters that make it very challenging. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. It has been decided to keep the election for the fall of 1999.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish everyone out there a happy and merry Christmas and best holiday seasons. I hope that all of our colleagues have a safe journey home and enjoy their time with their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do I have any nays? Mr. Dent, you have unanimous consent.

--Applause

Revert to Member's Statement 2-13(7): Electoral Boundaries

HON. CHARLES DENT:

This may make for difficult reading in Hansard, Mr. Speaker, because there will be several pages between the start and finish of my statement. I had

been talking about a way of addressing or coming up with a solution to the situation that was left us by the Boundaries Commission report not being adopted and suggested that we could add perhaps five seats in total to the House. This sort of approach, Mr. Speaker, would be a political solution and there are no doubt other sorts of solutions that could be considered. As Members are aware, we are now facing a court challenge because the recommendations of the Boundaries Commission were rejected. Several Members in this House, as well as many members of the public have suggested that we need to look for a political solution rather than leaving important decisions to the courts.

Mr. Speaker, we must be able to handle our own affairs. We must be able to make tough decisions for ourselves when called upon. Mr. Speaker, the Members from Yellowknife will be calling on the Chairman of Western Caucus to call a special caucus meeting early in the new year to see if caucus members are willing to consider a political solution to the boundaries commission issue.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement 16-13(7): Season's Greetings

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this Legislative Assembly for Nahendeh I want to acknowledge the congratulations from all the Members here today for me taking this plunge and to being the Premier here. I would like to thank everybody here. I would also like to thank Stephen Kakfwi for doing a campaign here and speaking out. I would also like to thank all the Members that ran for the position of Minister and as well as congratulating Mr. Floyd Roland.

As well I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and season's greetings. I would like to extend that as well to my constituents, to my communities of Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake, Wrigley, Fort Liard and Fort Simpson, to everybody that is out there in the communities. I also wanted to say that the holiday season is the time to be with your families, a time to be with your own people in your own communities. I would like to say that we have gone through really tough times here. Even today we had

an example of it here with the tragedies and events that come back to people and that are having a big effect on us here. I would like to maybe say that, let us go home, visit our families, relax, think over the issues, talk to people, recharge your batteries because we still have some commitments to conclude for the rest of our term here. With that, I would like to say Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 17-13(7): Seasons Greetings

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take a moment to congratulate Mr. Antoine, the Premier-elect, and thank Mr. Kakfwi for putting his name forward too. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Roland, he will be missed, but I understand the Premier-elect has designated Mr. Roland to the portfolios that he held. That happens to be under the committee that I am a Member of, so I look forward to Mr. Roland coming before us.

At this time of the year, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all the colleagues that I have had the opportunity and pleasure of working with over the past year, a very happy and holy Christmas. I would like to thank all the staff of this government that, for the most part, make us here in the Legislative Assembly look good. It is their hard work that contributes towards that.

To all the residents of the Northwest Territories, I would like to say a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Item 5, recognition of

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visitors to the gallery. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS TO THE GALLERY

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Maureen Johnston, the RVP from the UNW in Fort Smith, who is here this weekend, I know, to successfully conclude a collective agreement that can be taken out to her people and constituents that she represents. Please welcome, if you will, Ms. Johnston.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Dawna O'Brien, she is a constituent of mine from Hay River and everyone knows her because she used to work here at the Legislative Assembly. It is great to see you, Dawna.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my executive secretary, Edith, and the newest addition to her family, Brandon. She has taken a leave of absence while her and her newborn baby are getting acquainted. I would like to welcome her.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Kelley Merilees who is my executive secretary and who keeps my office organized well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this occasion on the last day that we are sitting this year to recognize Mrs. Pat Thomas, the President of the NWTTA, and wish her and all teachers throughout the territories, a merry Christmas.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the members of the press. I realize that at times it has been difficult for Members, but I think they are a part and parcel of our system and a very important element. I think that they, on their part, do their work diligently and hard and I think they deserve recognition, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following on what Mr. Ootes had said, I think it is only right that we also recognize all the translators that work hard here and without them, we would not be able to get our job done. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Picco.

--Laughter

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 1-13(7): Minister's Forum on Schooling

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it is the last day and Members do not want to hear too many questions, but that is what I am paid to do.

--Applause/Laughter

Thank you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the fans over there.

--Laughter

Seriously, Mr. Speaker, Minister Dent, I think, announced something quite interesting and that was the Ministers' Forum on Schooling. It sounds good in the press release that he put out and in his Minister's statement, but I do not see any terms of reference for the committee and exactly what they are supposed to do. It seems a bit fuzzy-wuzzy, so I wonder if the Minister could maybe give us a bit more explanation on the terms of reference for this, how it is going to report back to the Assembly, is the NWTTA involved and so on? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 1-13(7): Minister's Forum on Schooling

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on a couple of occasions in this House, I have given statements about the renewal of the department's strategic plan, which is called, Towards 2010. That plan was first adopted five years ago and in the intervening time, a number of changes have taken place to our system, such as grade extensions. There have been a number of other changes and it was felt necessary to update that plan. What I have done is, asked this forum to conduct public, consultation to advise as to the successes in the strategic plan in the area of education, what some of the challenges are that we face, and to provide advice on how the strategic plan should be updated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr.

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Picco.

Supplementary To Question 1-13(7): Minister's Forum on Schooling

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, so I guess the Minister's Forum on Schooling then is to review the strategic plan that was released five years ago. I am wondering what type of consultation will be done, not only with the parents and teachers, but with the NWTTA, or the Nunavut teachers, or how that is going to work across the territories? The Minister also mentioned there were ten communities picked. I am wondering how that was chosen. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 1-13(7): Minister's Forum on Schooling

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the first question, as I mentioned in my statement, the consultation will take place not only by members of the forum, but district education authorities, principals and other adult educators are invited to conduct consultation sessions within their communities so we can have the broadest possible consultation across the north. We will be advertising this consultation is ongoing and inviting written submissions from those who cannot attend the public forums, wherever they may be. Certainly, we would expect to have some input from teachers or the teachers' association, if the association should choose to submit.

In response to the second question, it was felt that it would be worthwhile to make sure that a reasonable number of communities were visited across the north to allow the holding of public meetings. However, given the amount of time that is available and budgetary constraints, it was not felt that it would be possible to get to all communities. What we tried to do was pick a representative sample of communities across the north, as was done for the student financial assistance forum. The members of the forum could travel to hear regional concerns, but not spend an awful lot of money and time getting out to each and every community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 2-13(7): Transition Agreement Negotiations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of power and electricity, the Power Corporation. I was wondering, could he indicate to the House the status of the eleventh hour negotiations that have been under way so that we can go home to our constituents with some idea of what is happening with this critical and essential service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 2-13(7): Transition Agreement Negotiations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the situation has not changed from when I informed this House two days ago that we have not yet achieved a sign-off by all the parties on the transition agreement. There is still one area of difference. We will continue to press forward. I still believe that we will get all of the parties signing-off in a relatively short time and we will be able to deal with the legislation in the March sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 2-13(7): Transition Agreement Negotiations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister commit to informing the Members of this House if and when a deal is initialled and finalized so that we can, in fact, reassure our constituents that the one sticking issue on the road to division has been taken care of and that, in fact, we are going to be able to move ahead? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 2-13(7): Transition Agreement Negotiations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely. I will endeavour to, advise all Members, both east and west, of the political solution immediately, once achieved. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 3-13(7): Potential for Privatization of NWTPC

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just following up on Mr. Miltenberger's questions regarding the NWT Power Corporation, I have had a call from someone who is concerned. They are an employee of the corporation and naturally nearing retirement. They are concerned about their pension and so forth, what would happen. The main concern that this individual seemed to have was, the question of privatization, the potential for that. I wonder if the Minister could address that question. Is there a potential for privatization of the Power Corporation, either in the near term or in the long-term? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 3-13(7): Potential for Privatization of NWTPC

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some time ago, when asked this question, I informed this House that our government had considered whether or not to pursue privatization and had decided that for the life of this government, it would not. I cannot speak for future governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 3-13(7): Potential for Privatization of NWTPC

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MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I will take my chance that it may be a hypothetical, in the event of privatization would the pensions of our employees with the Power Corporation be at risk. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I am sorry, Mr. Ootes, it is a hypothetical question and it has to be ruled out of order. Mr. Ootes, would you like to rephrase your question.

Supplementary To Question 3-13(7): Potential for Privatization of NWTPC

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are pensions of the current employees at all at risk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 3-13(7): Potential for Privatization of NWTPC

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, the current pension plan is a public service pension plan. Obviously, if a future government were to privatize the corporation, that pension plan could not stay within the public service. There would have to be some change. Since this government has no intention of addressing privatization I have not studied the issue. I would expect that even a future government would be required to work with the employees through their union if the initiative was to privatize and do what they could to protect the employees' interest and pensions. Mr. Speaker, I must reiterate that since we do not see this as part of our mandate to privatize the Power Corporation that we have not looked into what might happen to pensions in the future.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 3-13(7): Potential for Privatization of NWTPC

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister said in reference to no privatization for the life of this

government, could the Minister state if that is to April 1, 1999, or until an election in the west? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have listened to the question and the Minister did answer the question. I will rule the question out of order. Mr. Ootes. Final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 3-13(7): Potential for Privatization of NWTPC

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister clarify what he means by the life of this government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 3-13(7): Potential for Privatization of NWTPC

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of the term would mean for the life of the 13th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 4-13(7): Continuation of Mandatory Leave

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier-elect, Mr. Antoine. I think we are all aware of a policy that was initiated by this government three years ago as a cost cutting measure, commonly referred to as Donny Days. That has been extremely well received by the bureaucracy, and I believe that it does help to create festive atmospheres in our communities and I am very much supportive of it, and I also know the employees that have spoken to me are very much in favour of it also. I just wondered if the Premier-elect could assure the members of the public service that, indeed, Jimmy Days, will still continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question should be directed to the Acting Premier. I would have to ask the Acting Premier first. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Return To Question 4-13(7): Continuation of Mandatory Leave

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been approached on this matter a number of times in the last few weeks as to whether they would be called Gooy Days. I have to tell you that I am tired of that and that you can call them Jimmy Days but for this year, 1998, they will continue and for future years it will be up to the Cabinet whether or not they will. The government does appreciate and understand that they are very popular with the civil service and that it is an effective measure in terms of contributing to the efficiency of this government in dollar terms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Just to remind the Members that the Premier-elect and the other Member elected to Cabinet have not been sworn in yet. It is really unfair to them to try to get an answer from them as they have not been motioned into their positions. We will still continue on as Mr. Antoine is the Minister of Transportation. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 5-13(7): Forming a Child Advocacy Group

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ng. It is in regard to my statement about formulating some sort of a child's advocacy group to oversee issues of children, youth, and have an avenue for them to be able to have an agency that oversees the interest of children. I would like to ask the Minister, has his department done or are they now working on the possibility of establishing such an organization?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 5-13(7): Forming a Child Advocacy Group

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge have we looked at anything along those lines. I know that it has been brought up by the honourable Member in

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the past, but quite frankly, we have been working with trying to implement the new child welfare acts that have been passed by this Assembly, child and family services legislation and the workshops to train health care and social service care professionals in the field; and trying to meet the needs of that new legislation in preparing for communities to become more involved in the whole aspect of child welfare matters within their communities, through plan and care committees and direct involvement at the community level, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 5-13(7): Forming a Child Advocacy Group

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a lot of acts and bills on the books dealing with children, but I think it is essential that we do have a group in place to consider looking at these different acts and regulations but ensuring that the child's well-being is being taken care of. I would like to ask the Minister, has his department or himself met with other jurisdictions in southern Canada, Saskatchewan, Toronto or British Columbia to see how their child advocacy group is in place and how it is working so we might be able to adopt it up here?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 5-13(7): Forming a Child Advocacy Group

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has not come to the agenda of any Health Ministers or Social Services Ministers at our annual meetings or at meetings outside of those. I can say that, it is something we can take a look at without the other jurisdictions doing it. If there is a way to improve things to make it more efficient or effective, we would

have no problems with trying to support anything along those lines, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 5-13(7): Forming a Child Advocacy Group

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me if there is a possibility of a private Member's bill coming forward, will his department support such an initiative or work along with that individual to establish a child advocacy committee in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 5-13(7): Forming a Child Advocacy Group

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot speak to that now, not knowing what bill is maybe contemplated. It is not before this House. We would be willing to look at, as I have indicated, ways to improve the system if that means bringing in legislation or making legislative changes, we would take a look at that. One must recognize the time frames that we are dealing with here and possible looking at something post April 1, 1999, for both new territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, petitions. Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Item 10, tabling of documents. Item 11, notices of motion. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1-13(7): Appointment of Premier of the Northwest Territories

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 14, 1998, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Legislative Assembly

confirms that the Member for Nahendeh the Honourable Jim Antoine, has been chosen to be Premier of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Todd.

Motion 2-13(7): Extended Adjournment

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 14, 1998, that I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Friday, December 11, 1998, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, March 16, 1999.

And further, that any time prior to March 16, 1999, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Rabesca.

Motion 3-13(7): Appointment of a Member to the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 14, 1998, that I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest

Territories that the Honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Floyd K. Roland, be appointed to the

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Executive Council/Cabinet of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 13, motions. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 13: MOTIONS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 2-13(7) today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 2-13(7). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Todd, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 2-13(7): Extended Adjournment

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you colleagues.

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Friday, December 11, 1998, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, March 16, 1999.

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to March 16, 1999, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you.

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. Motions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 1-13(7) today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Baffin South is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 1-13(7). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Arlooktoo, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 1-13(7): Appointment of Premier of the Northwest Territories

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

WHEREAS section 57 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides that there shall be a Premier chosen by the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the position of Premier of the Northwest Territories is vacant due to the resignation of the Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Morin;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has elected one of its Members to be Premier;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly desires to appoint its Premier;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Legislative Assembly confirms that the Member for Nahendeh, the Honourable Jim Antoine, has been chosen to be Premier of the Northwest Territories.

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 unanimously.

--Applause

Motions. Mr. Rabesca.

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 2-13(7), Appointment of a Member to the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for North Slave is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 3-13(7), do we have any nays? There are no nays? Mr. Rabesca, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 3-13(7): Appointment of a Member to the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 55 (1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides that there shall be an Executive Council of the Northwest Territories composed of persons, appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS there is a vacancy on the Executive Council due to the appointment of the Honourable Jim Antoine as Premier of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has elected one of its Members to serve on the Executive Council;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly desires to recommend the appointment to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Natilikmiot that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that the Honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Floyd K. Roland, be appointed to the Executive Council/Cabinet of the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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--Applause

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 unanimously.

--Applause

Motions. Item 14, first reading of bills. Item 15, second reading of bills. Before we go into the orders of the day, I just have some closing comments.

We have now come to our last time together in the Legislative Assembly before the Nunavut election. All Members have worked hard and made the sacrifice necessary to provide a smooth path for the coming transition for the two new governments of the north. I am very proud of our efforts in this part of Canadian history. We have had some happy moments, such as recognizing the 50th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. We have also had some difficult times which we have met head-on and dealt with. I want all Members to know how much I have enjoyed working with them and acting as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to also thank all the Pages that have assisted us...

--Applause

... especially those from Aivilik and Kivallivik, who have been effective and pleasant. As an aboriginal person I appreciate our system of consensus government, which is designed to operate with cooperation, compassion, caring. All this has made it easier for me to be a Member of this House.

I invite all Members and staff to join me at 12:30 this afternoon for a Christmas feast in the Great Hall. I wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas and New Year as you return to your communities to rejoin your families and friends.

--Applause

Item 16, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 16, 1999.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Until the next time we meet, God Bless.
This House stands adjourned to Tuesday, March 16,
1999 at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT