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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Morin, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Rabesca, Honourable Floyd 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. Rabesca. Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 28-13(7): Western Boundaries

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to update Members on recent discussions with Mr. Justice de Weerd. The parties spoke to Mr. Justice de Weerd by conference call on Friday, March 26, 1999. We are all concerned about the April 1st deadline. I instructed my officials to seek an interim extension to the April 1st deadline to give us a comfort zone to work out a longer extension on the time. Mr. Justice de Weerd agreed on Friday to an interim extension to April 10, 1999. In addition, a motion to extend that time further will now be heard by Mr. Justice de Weerd in Yellowknife on Wednesday March 31, 1999. Open court will be held at approximately 10:00 a.m. to hear this motion. Everybody is welcome to come and listen to the case.

We have consistently said that the best decision for all residents of the Northwest Territories is to try to find a political solution. All parties seem to agree to that. We also agree that we have to buy some time to talk about that political solution. Hopefully, we will get that time on Wednesday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 29-13(7): Resignation of Ministers

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that I have received resignations, effective 5:00 p.m. today, from the Honourable John Todd and the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo. As Minister of Finance and Government House Leader, Mr. Todd has been a true leader during some of the most difficult years this government has faced. He has worked relentlessly to manage our limited resources in an environment full of challenging issues and demands on those resources. His vision, energy and his colourful personality will be missed.

Mr. Arlooktoo has continually displayed political skill and wisdom beyond his years. His quiet confidence and his sense of humour have been a stabilizing element in Cabinet. He has capably managed his portfolio responsibilities and has, on many occasions, demonstrated his leadership as Deputy Premier.

On behalf of Cabinet, I would like to say to these two Ministers that we are grateful for your work, your sacrifices and your inspiration and we wish you the best for the future. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that I will take over responsibility for their portfolios on an interim basis. Mahsi, Mr. speaker

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 30-13(7): National Wildlife Week, April 4-10, 1999

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, this is in regard to National Wildlife Week, April 4-10th. Mr. Speaker, the biggest threat to wildlife today is the loss of suitable habitat. In southern Canada, animals are being squeezed out of areas where they once flourished. Fortunately, wildlife in the Northwest Territories has not been threatened to the same extent. We have a unique opportunity in the north to be proactive in looking after our wildlife and its habitat.

Please join me in celebrating National Wildlife Week during April 4-10, 1999. This year's theme, Home is Where There is Habitat, reminds us that without sufficient food, water, shelter and space, wildlife simply cannot survive.

Many wildlife species travel great distances through a variety of habitats. For example, grizzly bears wander hundreds of kilometres looking for food while caribou travel vast distances during the annual migration. Even though wildlife species may not live permanently in an area of development, their needs must be considered in planning for any development. With growing interest in the resource development potential of the NWT, including oil, gas and minerals, it is increasingly important for us to remain good stewards of our wildlife and their habitat. The Protected Areas Strategy will help us maintain wildlife habitat by protecting wilderness and important traditional harvesting areas. As we enter our first year as the new Northwest Territories, we want to celebrate our wildlife and their habitats. National Wildlife Week provides an excellent opportunity to profile our rich wildlife resource and its importance in our northern culture. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Before we go to Members' statements I would like to begin by recognizing the Honourable John Todd, who unfortunately was not present last week when the name plates were presented by the Legislative Assembly to

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the eastern Members. This was to recognize their services to the 13th Legislative Assembly. Mr. Todd, you will find your name plate in front of you and our appreciation attached to it. At the same time, Members from the western Northwest Territories will also find their name plates on their desk. This gift from the Legislative Assembly also recognizes your services and commitment to the issues of the continuing 13th Assembly. With that I will continue with the business of the House. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 79-13(7): Cabinet Selection Reflections and Experiences

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. Steen as the two Members elect to Cabinet today. I had them both over for supper last night and they were joking with me about whether or not the turkey was cooked and whether I was taking this opportunity to feed them so that I could poison them. I must confess, at the time I did not think it was necessary.

--Laughter

They kidded me about what time the Leadership Committee started today attempting to lead me to believe that it started later than it did. You might think them honourable men, but they also suggested that they might hijack some of the candidates on the way to the Legislature today and lock them up in a room with a television so they could follow the proceedings, but not get out until it was too late to vote.

All this talk of pranks and capers resulted in me having a terrible dream last night and this was what I really dreamed. I am not making this up. This is not a joke. I dreamed I was in Hay River trying to get to Yellowknife for the Cabinet selection. I was driving an old car and after loading it up to set out the door fell off. I then rushed to the airport to catch Buffalo Airways at 7:30 and in my dream it was just taking off the runway and it was only 7:27, three minutes ahead of schedule. I then called Landa Aviation to charter a flight, and Larry and Anne were away. The replacement pilot told me he could not fly me to Yellowknife, because his dog had just had puppies the night before. Just as I was resigning myself to the fact that, perhaps, I was not meant to be in Yellowknife today, I woke up and was pleasantly relieved to see that I was in Yellowknife. So as to avoid any unforeseen circumstances, such as hijackers, I left for the Legislature at 7:00 a.m. As the morning proceeded I realized that it might have been better if my nightmarish dream had in fact been a reality.

Seriously, everything turns out the way that it was meant to be. Now I do not have to be away from Hay River for the next six months, I do not have to move my office, I don't have to put my business into a blind trust, yet, and yahoo, I can spend the summer at home in my constituency. As I always believe, all things do work together for good.

Congratulations and thank you to all the candidates who had the courage to put their names forward and

especially good wishes to Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. Steen. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 80-13(7): Congratulations to Cabinet Members-Elect

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to add my congratulations to Mr. Steen and Mr. Miltenberger for being elevated to our exalted positions of Cabinet Ministers. I am confident they will do excellent work there and do an excellent job of representing all of us, Mr. Speaker. However, I would like to make reference to Mr. Steen's promise that he would continue to be one of the Ordinary Members in thought, and sometimes in practice. I think we should hold Mr. Steen to that, because we may, from time to time, need a vote on this side of the House. I think it is important for you to remember that, Mr. Steen, because it was a promise and I think there were Members that voted a specific way in considering that.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that it was a pleasure to be able to take part in the leadership race. Certainly I think it was a good process and one that I enjoyed taking part in. Naturally I am disappointed I did not get elevated to that exalted position, however, there will be another race hopefully in November, in which hopefully I will be able to return and seek a position then.

That particular opportunity this morning gave me a chance, Mr. Speaker, to speak about a number of areas, and one was the need to address a program over the next ten years to address the needs of our youth. I see we have many of them in the House here today, and I think that is a critical area for us to address our concerns. After all, here sit the future leaders of the Northwest Territories. Here are the leaders in the next millennium. People who will be sitting in this House perhaps in ten or 15 years, perhaps in five years depending on their age. I think it is important for this government to dedicate itself to youth issues, youth programs and youth needs. Be they whatever they are, social areas, economic areas. That is what is really important, Mr. Speaker. I think everybody in the territories will agree with me if we do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statement. Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement 81-13(7): Acknowledgement of Colleagues' Support

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this one opportunity in three and a half years to say hello to my family back home. I will be hopefully home in the next day or so. I would like to thank my colleagues for the honour they have bestowed upon me, by electing me to Cabinet. I will work as hard as I have to, and as long as I have to, to do the job on behalf of all the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Morin.

Member's Statement 82-13(7): Tribute to Mr. Todd and Mr. Arlooktoo

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand up and publicly say to the Minister of Finance, the Honourable John

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Todd, as well as the Minister, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, thank you very much for the honour of working with you for the past three years. In your case, Mr. Todd, the past six or seven I believe. I really appreciated what these two Members brought to Cabinet as well as to this Legislative Assembly.

I can remember quite well, Mr. Speaker, three years ago when we received an economic plan from the staff at the government, and everything looked like doom and gloom. We have managed to survive that over three years with the great help of the Honourable John Todd as the Minister of Finance, the man that we always said should give t-shirts to all the MLAs saying we are broke, or say no. It is not easy to be in politics when there is no money. It is not easy to make the tough decisions.

Mr. Todd, I do appreciate the tough decisions that Cabinet had to make as well as yourself, the

leadership you played. I believe both new territories are going to benefit from the decisions this government has made in the past, I believe that both new territories are going to benefit from the decisions the Minister of Finance made. I would like to thank you once again, Mr. Todd, on behalf of the constituents of Tu Nedhe, and the rest of the people in the western Arctic, as well as Nunavut. It has been a great three years working with you, best of luck, I know you will do well.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Steen and Mr. Miltenberger on their appointment to Cabinet. We will have fun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 83-13(7): Opening of Fort McPherson Curling Rink

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to celebrate with the people of Fort McPherson the opening of the John J. Francis curling rink. This facility is an example of what happens when the government programs follow community priorities and work along with the community to meet those priorities. This curling rink was not funded 100 percent by the government. A large portion of the construction costs were fundraised within the community of Fort McPherson. This was possible, because the curling rink was a dream held by the residents of Fort McPherson and a priority for the people of Fort McPherson. It will give them the power and the opportunity to make all efforts in the community come true.

When building a dream we also are building an opportunity that brings the people, the residents, the children and the elders together in one place to play, to laugh and to watch each other during a period of the year when most of the people stay at home and watch television. The commitment shown by the people of the community to bring this project is a recognition that health, activity and leisure time by the residents of Fort McPherson will have the opportunity in this facility to spend time together and play together.

Mr. Speaker, Fort McPherson will now have an opportunity to compete locally, regionally and territorially, and be able to travel to the regional

playdowns, the territorial playdowns, and possibly to the Brier. Mr. Speaker, opportunities such as this can only come with the efforts shown by the government, the people in the communities, and the people in this House to make the dreams of small communities a reality. Mr. Speaker, along with the people and residents of Fort McPherson, I would like to thank the Honourable Manitok Thompson, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, for showing that she does have faith in the small communities, and also to make those dreams become a reality.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the community of Fort McPherson on the opening of this facility and wish them all happiness and good health and good curling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement 84-13(7): Appreciation of Colleagues' Support

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the Members that put their trust and faith in me as a Cabinet Minister. I appreciate that I was up against some good Members and I must say that, on a third try, it is good to be able to say that you have succeeded. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that my constituents at home, I am sure are just as appreciative of the fact that I am here in Cabinet as I am, and they appreciate the Members putting their trust in me as a representative of my region, now as a representative of the territory through Cabinet. I assure the Members and I assured Cabinet earlier, I will do whatever I have to do to cooperate with the Premier and with the Members to assure that we advance as a new territory. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 85-13(7): Congratulations to Cabinet Members-Elect

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to also congratulate Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. Steen on their election to Cabinet. I would like to thank the Members who voted for me, who said they would vote for me and did. I would also like to thank Mr. Steen for indicating that he was successful on his third try because that indicates to me that perhaps there still is some hope. This was my second try. Perhaps there is still some hope, if I am re-elected, of getting on the Cabinet next fall.

At this time, I would also like to thank Mr. Todd and Mr. Arlooktoo for the work that they have done on Cabinet and for serving in this Legislature. I know that both of you have always been very forthright when I came to you and spoke to you about projects or programs that I was trying to get some assistance on for Yellowknife, Detah or Ndilo. I appreciate that and wish you all the luck in the future. Thank you.

--Applause

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MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 86-13(7): Congratulations to Cabinet Members-Elect and New Commissioner

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to start my Member's statement by congratulating Mr. Steen and Mr. Miltenberger in their victory for a Cabinet position. I am positive they will represent our government in a fair and equitable manner for the government of the entire Western Territory.

I am also pleased to congratulate Dan Marion for his recent appointment to the Office of Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Marion brings many years of experience and knowledge of the north to this position. Over the years that I have known Mr. Marion he is always there for the community. Mr. Marion has served as mayor, as hamlet councillor, community service board member, and many other organizations within the community, as well as throughout the Western Territory. He is a man of compassion, a family man that works hard for his family and community. I feel that he will make our new territory proud. Once again, congratulations to Mr. Steen, Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. Marion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 87-13(7): Congratulations to Incoming and Outgoing Cabinet Members

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a couple of moments, too, to congratulate Mr. Steen and Mr. Miltenberger on their selection to represent this government as Cabinet Ministers from April 1. Congratulations to both of you. I would also like to say thank you on behalf of my constituents in Yellowknife South to Mr. Todd and Mr. Arlooktoo, serving as Ministers of this government. I think you have done an extremely good job. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd has spoken in this House suggesting that he is probably going to have a little rest from politics. Mr. Speaker, it probably will be a short rest, and those that believe Mr. Todd is finished in politics probably still believe in Santa Claus and the tooth fairy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Henry.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize two classes from Ecole St. Joseph School in Yellowknife. The first class is Mrs. Campbell's grade 7 English class, and the second class of students is Madame Partington's grade 7/8 French Immersion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize two grade 8 classes from the Mildred Hall School here in Yellowknife. They are students who will be in our trial run, Mr. Speaker, for the Territorial Youth Assembly to be held in April, and then the Territorial Assembly will be held in May. This is a new education program we are starting here at the Legislative Assembly. I want to welcome those students and teachers here today.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me honour to recognize a hard worker of this Legislature, one of the researchers, Mr. Doug Pon, who I worked with in the Resource Management and Development Committee.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. For those that have not been recognized, including some of the staff, welcome to the Assembly.

--Applause

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 49-13(7): Land Claim Agreements Implementation

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister in regard to the whole area of the land claims rights that this government, as a third party to those negotiations, have signed on to these land claim agreements. There are certain obligations that the Government of Canada has made, an obligation that this Government of the Northwest Territories has made, along with the aboriginal people, to uphold those land claim agreements. I would like to ask the Minister, has he considered looking at the implications of this court decision that presently is being dealt with and how it may jeopardize those inherent rights that flow from these land claims agreements under section 35?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 49-13(7): Land Claim Agreements Implementation

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, we do work in the whole area of implementing the claims that have been negotiated, the land claims through the comprehensive Land Claims Agreements and yes, we are as a government a signatory to the agreement and we have an implementation committee consisting of the Government of the Northwest Territories along with the federal government and the claimant groups. For example, the Gwich'in Nation are also a claimant

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group so they are also part of it, so like the Innuvialuit have similar arrangements along with the Dene, Metis from the Sahtu; so, yes, we are a third party to these Land Claims Agreements and the agreements are such that if anything is going to happen to the claims, then all the three parties have to be included. So, I do not think there is any danger of any changes at all to the agreements as they have been signed today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 49-13(7): Land Claim Agreements Implementation

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the de Weerdts decision, he made reference that the Charter of Rights basically does not fall in line with the rights that flow from section 25 and section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. Section 35 is the section that the Land Claims Agreements flow through, but also it recognizes the distinct right of aboriginal people to establish certain regimes through their Land Claim Agreements. I would like to ask the Premier, in regard to Justice de Weerdts decision, of considering the Charter of Rights over and above the constitutionally protected rights of aboriginal people under section 35...

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have to rule the question out of order. The Member is seeking a legal opinion of the Minister, which is not allowed. Would you like to rephrase your question, Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier tell me if they have considered the implications of the de Weerdts decision in regard to the aboriginal land claim protection rights that flow from section 35 and the rights that all Canadians have under the Charter of Rights. Have you considered the implications of this decision on the aboriginal people that do have land claims under section 35?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 49-13(7): Land Claim Agreements Implementation

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government did not look into that specific area that the honourable Member is making reference to. We are setting a course of action as a government in Bill 15 to try and find a political solution, but all these highly technical questions, I am going to have to take it as advisement and direct our legal assistant, our lawyers, to look at the questions and see what the connection is here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 49-13(7): Land Claim Agreements Implementation

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier. Can the Premier give some thought to, in reviewing this, of considering a constitutional expert who does have a constitutional background in regard to considering implications of the de Weerdts decision and also the question of the Charter of Rights for aboriginal people under section 35? Will the Premier give me assurances that he will consider a constitutional expert in this field?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 49-13(7): Land Claim Agreements Implementation

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are seeking some help in the constitutional expert area and we will get back to the Member on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 50-13(7): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My subject today will be in the area of a question for Mr. Roland, the Minister of Transportation and Public Works and Services. It is with respect to the Yellowknife Office Space Rationalization Plan, Mr. Speaker. For some time I have been trying to track this down and to get some answers from the government as to what they are doing with regard to the Office Space Rationalization Plan in Yellowknife.

By way of background, Mr. Speaker, you will recall that at one time the Lahm Ridge Tower was to be eliminated and when that was put back on the list to be included in the Yellowknife Office Space Rationalization Plan to be retained, then it became the Laing Building that was to be eliminated. Just two months ago the government changed its mind again and decided that they would keep the Laing Building. Mr. Speaker, this is going full circle and I need an answer, when are we going to get a copy of the Office Space Rationalization Plan in Yellowknife? Thank you.

--Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 50-13(7): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try and answer Mr. Ootes's concern. Mr. Speaker, when I took over the portfolio of Public Works and Services, I was aware that the Office Space Plan for Yellowknife was a concern of Mr. Ootes, as well as the committee. We have looked into this matter, no decision has been made as to the specific building Mr. Ootes brings up. I have committed to the committee and I have written a letter, I believe it should be in the hands of the committee, as to setting up a meeting when we can do a specific briefing regarding the Office Space Plan for Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 50-13(7): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the committee is going to meet sooner than some other committees that are

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supposed to be meeting in this House. In any event, I will leave that subject, but my question, further question to this, Mr. Speaker, is the decision made that the Laing Building be retained and be refurbished and I understand with substantial sums of money, so, what is the problem with getting the Office Space Rationalization Plan before us? I would like to ask the Minister, when will I have an answer to my question, when am I going to get the Office Space Rationalization Plan? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 50-13(7): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Office Space Plan, as Mr. Ootes brings up as I stated, I have written to the committee, he is a Member of that committee, when they set a date I said I would gladly have the department and myself ready for them to do this briefing. As everybody knows, the Office Space Plan is just that, it is a plan. I believe they have the original plan in place, I believe that has been given to

the committee in the past. I have looked at it and as for a decision made on any buildings and money committed to it, well, the budget has not been passed yet so there is no money in this existing year's budget for the refurbishing, as Mr. Ootes called it, for the Laing Building. That is yet to be decided as to where we go and that is one of the reasons I would like to meet with the committee on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 50-13(7): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hate to be contradictory, but it was announced some months ago that the Laing Building was going to be retained and in order to retain it money was going to be spent on it. Additionally, yes, it is true the Minister has promised to brief the committee on this, but I have been asking for the Office Space Rationalization Plan outside of a committee briefing. I have not yet also received the original Office Space Plan which we always requested. So, I guess my question is, of the Minister, has the Laing Building definitely been included to be retained by this government? Will the Laing Building definitely be retained by this government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 50-13(7): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give the Member the definite answer he would like. That is an option yet that has to go through the committee stage, as well as to Cabinet. If I choose and the Cabinet supports the direction for either keeping the building or to let it go, that decision is yet to be made so I cannot tell the Member today, yes or no to his specific question. As I said earlier, I am looking for input from the committee as to where the direction goes. The original plan that was in place, which looked at the sale of the building and moving departments into other office space in Yellowknife has been put on hold because the plan that was put out and the tenders

that were put out had come back to the department and have been shown not to be feasible at this present time as they were existing.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 50-13(7): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us why the Laing Building sale was not feasible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 50-13(7): Yellowknife Office Space Plan

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the reasons that comes to mind when we refer specifically to the Laing Building was the results back from the tender showed that it was uneconomical to sell it for the prices that were submitted and we had to look at other options that were available to us. That is what I instructed the department to do and we have not finalized that yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 51-13(7): Business Input into Protected Area Strategy

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the honourable Member, Mr. Kakfwi, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, in today's statement the Minister talked about the National Wildlife Week, April 4-10th. In his statement, and I quote, "the Protected Area Strategy will help us maintain wildlife habitat by protecting wilderness and important traditional harvesting areas." Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the government's excellent position in this regard. I have also spoken in this House about the government's need to create an environment so that jobs can be

created for the population of the Northwest Territories and we have been well represented by these people in the gallery today. I talked, Mr. Speaker, about the need for business to have a good voice into the strategy. I was wondering if the Minister could give the House an update on the voice of business at this particular strategy and some assurances that it is being well represented there to create the jobs and the environment for job creation in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 51-13(7): Business Input into Protected Area Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the beginning of 1998, on request from the federal government to take the lead in developing the Protected Area Strategy, this government convened a conference in Inuvik that asked the aboriginal leaders from the western Arctic to set out a process which they would support that would have involvement from the

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governments, federal, territorial as well as the aboriginal organizations, and in turn the process would allow for the involvement of stakeholders such as environmental groups and industry and members from the business community of the north. An advisory committee was established that allowed for input from the major stakeholders as well as the other groups that I have mentioned.

We have completed a Protected Area Strategy which has been approved for submission by this government on behalf of all the aboriginal organizations and the stakeholders involved to the federal government. It has been forwarded to the federal government at this time, as I said, with the full support of all the people that were involved in the process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 51-13(7): Business Input into Protected Area Strategy

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for the response. The Minister mentioned that the strategy has been prepared and has been forwarded to the federal ministry. My question to the Minister is, he had mentioned that all parties were in agreement with it, if I could have assurances that the business input did have agreement to the forwarding of this proposal to the federal government I would appreciate it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 51-13(7): Business Input into Protected Area Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my information is that, aside from the South Slave Metis Tribal Council, who at the 11th hour decided because of their interpretation of certain wording to no longer support the strategy, all parties, all aboriginal organizations, including the environmental groups, the representatives of business and from industry, are in support of this strategy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 51-13(7): Business Input into Protected Area Strategy

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister advise me when the strategy that has been forwarded to the federal government will be available for public review with maps of the areas that are protected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 51-13(7): Business Input into Protected Area Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are hoping the federal government will indicate its support, hopefully with the appropriate commitment to fund this strategy as soon

as possible. I will take the last part of the Member's question as notice as I am not privy to that information at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 52-13(7): Clarification on Aurora Fund Issues Strategy

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my question may be directed to the Premier, however, I appreciate it if he has to refer to another Member. It is with regard to the Aurora Fund. My question, Mr. Speaker, is that I would like to start getting some clarification on this whole area, because to be quite honest I have been left with the impression that I do not know how much has been invested in this fund. I do not know how much has been received for this fund. It has been difficult for me to interpret this whole area. What I would like to know to start with, Mr. Speaker, is who will be taking over as chairman of the board or organization that heads this, that Mr. Todd has been chair of. Who will be taking his position? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 52-13(7): Clarification on Aurora Fund Issues Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, whoever is assigned the Ministry of Finance will be taking over as the chair of the Aurora Fund. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 52-13(7): Clarification on Aurora Fund Issues Strategy

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Premier can also undertake to commit to me to provide within the next ten days, before April 13, 1999, a listing of all of the monies received for this fund, all of the monies that have been invested, and the amount of money

invested in each organization that has been awarded to various organizations in this territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 52-13(7): Clarification on Aurora Fund Issues Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have to take this question under advisement. I need to get some clarification about the Aurora Fund on the limits of providing the type of information that the honourable Member is asking for and I will get back to him as quickly as I can. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 52-13(7): Clarification on Aurora Fund Issues Strategy

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Additionally, I wonder if the Minister could provide me with a list of the board members and a list of all those individuals who have worked on the Aurora Fund? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

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Further Return To Question 52-13(7): Clarification on Aurora Fund Issues Strategy

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Yes, thank you. We will get the information that the honourable Member is asking for in regard to who are the board members and who are the employees involved in the Aurora Fund. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 53-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, recently this government approved Sirius Diamonds for a training program. I am not sure if there were other items that were approved to assist them in their efforts to open a cutting and polishing facility here in Yellowknife. They had a diamond training course in Victoria and I have been led to believe that there was not one aboriginal selected on that course. I have a very, very difficult time understanding how this could be done when we are paying for that. I would like the Minister to indicate if what I am hearing is true, that there were no aboriginal people selected to go on this training course in Victoria?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 53-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sirius Diamonds is supported through a training on-the-job-program to provide training to people in the diamond industry. Although I do not have any figures with me in the House, Mr. Speaker, I believe, the Members is correct and there are no aboriginal trainees in the program at present. If I remember the situation correctly, Mr. Speaker, and if I am wrong I will make sure to correct this with the Member, I do not believe that Sirius had any program applicants who were aboriginal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 53-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, if there were no aboriginal people involved, then I do not think we can give serious consideration to any further ongoing financial commitment to these people. What I would like to know is do we have an ongoing financial commitment to Sirius Diamonds for further on-the-job-training, whether it is for these same people or for new people?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 53-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

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HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the program will be ongoing for the existing trainees who are all northern residents. I believe a commitment has been made for a second intake, so the existing trainees will qualify for ongoing support and I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that there will be a second program offered.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 53-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that there would be a second intake. I am assuming he is meeting with the same Sirius Diamonds people. I would like to have a commitment from the Minister that a certain percentage of those training dollars should be allocated for aboriginal trainees because I do not think we should give one dime to these guys if they are not going to make a serious effort to ensure that the aboriginal people who comprise 50 percent or thereabouts of the western population, if they are not going to make a serious commitment to one half of the population in the western NWT, then why should we bother providing them with any money? We have all kinds of diamond companies lining up to open up their business here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 53-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the commitment I will make is that the department will work with Sirius Diamonds and all other companies to ensure that we do get a representative workforce in

the diamond industry in the Northwest Territories. We were hoping that with the second intake being planned for residents in Yellowknife, there will be a greater opportunity for us to encourage northern aboriginal people to apply.

It is also important to note that the courses offered by Aurora College are being taken advantage of by many aboriginal people. So, we are hoping that some of the graduates from the Aurora College course will find jobs in the secondary diamond industry with Sirius or any one of the other approved diamond projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 53-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am certainly glad to hear that we are going to train only northerners. I do not think we want to be training someone that just jumped off the plane, has been here for one day and signs up, but what I would like to know is, can we make a commitment that a certain percentage of these people will be aboriginal northerners, since we do make up 48 percent or thereabouts of the population in the western NWT? It does not have to be that high, but can there be a commitment that at least a certain percentage of that money will be for northern aboriginal people? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 53-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look at what sorts of limitations there might be on training-on-the-job programs and advise the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 54-13(7): GNWT Contracting Policies

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works. It is in regard to his department and the whole aspect of contracts and how contracts are let go. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, is there a policy in place in regard to individuals or a group of individuals who may owe money to this government or have outstanding bills or whatnot with this government, from being able to bid on negotiated contracts, sole source contracts or public tenders?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 54-13(7): GNWT Contracting Policies

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am not aware of any rules that are in place if a construction company was owing funds to this government if they would be prohibited from bidding on any contracts that are open to the public. I would have to check on the specifics to get back to the Member. If he has a specific area of concern, I would gladly meet with the Member to try and address his concern and see what can be done about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 54-13(7): GNWT Contracting Policies

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is more in line with the concerns that you have from employees or people who have worked for different contractors who have not been paid or who have had contracts with this government and who have not fulfilled them. There are a lot of concerns out there from people who have worked for certain contractors who may have moved south, but then were left with not being paid their wages for working for these individuals. I would like to ask the Minister also, is there a certain outstanding amount of money that is owed to this government by funds which are used for training individuals on certain projects that contractors may have taken on, on behalf of this government.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Roland

Further Return To Question 54-13(7): GNWT Contracting Policies

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the area of funds being owed to this government, if they are to another department, I would have to look into that to see what kind of a relationship there would be. I know, for example, if it is to do with a contractor or if there is money being claimed against a contractor that is working for the government or has a government contract, there would be built into the contract on withholding a certain amount of dollars that could be put towards it, but that is on a specific project if they are working in that area.

I am unfamiliar right now and I will have to get back to the Member, as I said earlier, on the specifics. If he had some concerns that I could address with him later on, possibly after we rise, to get the specifics to see what area he is looking at. As it refers from one department to another, I am not sure if there are any agreements in place on withholding on public contracts are open to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 55-13(7): Pay Equity for Excluded Employees

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Premier. Last week, I asked in this House from the Minister of Finance on the issue of equal pay benefits for excluded employees. At that time the Minister stated that he would consult with his Cabinet colleagues to see if they could extend the deadline to consider equal pay settlements for the excluded employees. Mr. Speaker, I have five more letters that I have received from librarians who are lumped in with wildlife officers into one classification code. The Minister explained last week that they would not be receiving benefits, or at least in letters it was explained they would not be receiving benefits, because they are in that classification code.

Now my question for the Premier is, the Minister of Finance agreed to consult his Cabinet colleagues and have some idea by today as to whether the deadline for these employees could be extended for consideration. Could the Minister tell us, the Premier tell us, if that meeting took place and if it will be extended? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier, Mr. Antoine. Two questions were asked.

Return to Question 55-13(7): Pay Equity for Excluded Employees

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member asked about whether the Minister of Finance consulted us and if he extended the deadline to the excluded employees who were caught in the situation and I would like to respond by saying that this will be the responsibility of the Finance Minister and we will wait until that assignment is done here, hopefully in the next couple of days. We still have until the end of the month to look at this and make any necessary changes if we have to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary to Question 55-13(7): Pay Equity for Excluded Employees

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It makes it very difficult for people that are out there to get some answer on this. Mr. Speaker, in one of the letters, and I can only paraphrase what I know, and that is that they did not even know or were not even aware of the possibility of being provided with equal pay benefits. I think we have a bit of a situation on our hands that

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needs to be addressed. I had hoped that Cabinet would have addressed this issue by now. My question for the Premier is, will he, with all due respect, extend the deadline so there is fair treatment for those people out there who feel they have not been treated fairly in considering equal pay benefits?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Returns to Question 55-13(7): Pay Equity for Excluded Employees

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the situation here, we are caught in one of the situations here, when we are doing a transition here, but I will try to get the information and clarification as soon as I can and I will try to get back to the Member as soon as I can. This transition period here, once the new Finance Minister is assigned, we will immediately, first duty would be to try and get some clarification on this very important question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary to Question 55-13(7): Pay Equity for Excluded Employees

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Premier's interest in addressing this issue. Would he also commit to immediately e-mailing the employees that may be affected by this so that they understand what the decision on this may be? Also there is the concern, what about the excluded employees that are no longer employees of this government? My question is how does he intend to address the issue for them? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Again, two questions. Mr. Antoine.

Further Returns to Question 55-13(7): Pay Equity for Excluded Employees

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will address these issues as soon as we have a new Minister of Finance and we will try to clarify the situation for the affected employees and try to get the decision known as quickly as we can to the people who are affected here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 56-13(7): Aboriginal Employment Opportunities

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent, with some questions my colleague, Mr. Erasmus, was asking today regarding employment opportunities for aboriginal people in the Sirius Diamonds Agreement and Mr. Dent's department. My question to the Minister is, were there any employment expectations put on the funding agreement between Sirius Diamonds and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 56-13(7): Aboriginal Employment Opportunities

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not normally get into the detail of agreements for training-on-the-job programs, so I am not familiar with the terms and conditions of any specific agreement. I would expect there would be a stipulation that trainees must be northerners, but I do not know if the stipulation goes beyond that. I will have to look into the matter and get back to the Members on that issue.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary to Question 56-13(7): Aboriginal Employment Opportunities

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I accept the Minister, of course, would not get into the details, but there are some fundamental things that I think the Minister should be aware of and if he is not, I would suggest that it is important to be aware of them. This government had an agreement with BHP Diamonds, who we gave no money to. There were conditions put on them regarding the hiring of northerners and aboriginal people. There was money given to Sirius

Diamonds and my question, is the government being consistent in its policies regarding one organization having to employ northerners and aboriginal people and then another one who is getting money from this government with no conditions? That is my reason for asking. Are there no conditions put on funding to organizations having to employ northerners or aboriginal people or both, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return to Question 56-13(7): Aboriginal Employment Opportunities

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated previously, I do not know whether or not there is that stipulation on training on the job contracts. I would doubt that there is. I should point out that in our agreement with BHP, it is a voluntary agreement. It is not one that we can enforce and we are in the same situation with other employers. I have no doubt this government and my department encouraged Sirius Diamonds to do their utmost to employ northern aboriginal people, as well as other northerners, because this government does want to see a representative workforce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary to Question 56-13(7): Aboriginal Employment Opportunities

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a final question to the Minister. Will the Minister make available to the Members of this Legislature a copy of the agreement between Sirius Diamonds and the Government of the Northwest Territories so we can compare if the government is being consistent with their requirements of industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

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Further Return to Question 56-13(7): Aboriginal Employment Opportunities

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not certain those contracts are public documents. I will have to look into that. In any case, since it is a contract between a private company it may not be entirely open for perusal, but there may be some way which we could black out certain portions of the contract to allow Members access to it. We will see whether or not that can be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary to Question 56-13(7): Aboriginal Employment Opportunities

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was finished until the Minister gave me his response. Mr. Speaker, the agreement between BHP Diamonds and this government is available to Members of this House. My question again to the Minister is, the document between Sirius Diamonds and the Government of the Northwest Territories is public money that is spent and I would ask the Minister again, will he make that document available to Members of this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent

Further Return to Question 56-13(7): Aboriginal Employment Opportunities

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a big difference. One is a contract document, one is not. When this government has a contract, like a lease, the details of those leases are not made public, as Mr. Henry knows. We may or may not be able to make a contract available to Members of this House on the training on the job program, but I will say again, the agreement with BHP is not a contractual one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko

Question 57-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. As we all know, the economic situation in the Inuvik region is in dire straits and not as plentiful in regard to job creation and economic opportunities like some other regions, but I would like to ask the Minister, especially one of the methods we have been using in the negotiating contract process is to ensure we get as much economic opportunities and benefits out of these negotiated contracts to stimulate not only the community, but the region as a whole. Especially when it comes down to employment opportunities for the Inuvik region and communities and also the opportunities for the local suppliers who have made it their business to establish business in the Inuvik region to supply goods and services to this government. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, what is this department doing to ensure that the maximum benefits from negotiated contracts are perceived in the local and regional level in the Mackenzie Delta?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 57-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department does not have any direct involvement in negotiated contracts such as the one the Member refers to. As a sponsoring department, we are responsible for funding a contract like the new school in Fort McPherson, Aklavik, or in Tsiigehtchic. However, Mr. Speaker, the details of negotiating the economic impact and benefits from a contract to build one of those buildings would fall under the mandate of the Department of Public Works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 57-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funds will be coming from the Department of Education. That is why I want to ensure that the department allows those funds to flow directly to the communities and the regions when it comes to development of infrastructure for the department. I would like to ask the Minister who, at the end of the day, will have to make the final decision on exactly what process is being used. Can I get some commitment from the Minister that he will consider the different aspects of the regional economy and also employment opportunities when making that decision?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 57-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process for the negotiated contracts is that the contract itself is negotiated by the Department of Public Works and Services so, I cannot make any commitment as Minister of Education. My department provides the money from the budget to build the school or learning center, but we are not responsible for determining the final contract arrangements. That, Mr. Speaker, is decided by the Department of Public Works and has to come back to Cabinet and meet the criteria that have been established for negotiated contracts. If it does, Cabinet will usually support it. Certainly economic benefit for the community and the region is considered by Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 57-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear the Minister state that economic development for the communities and region is one of the priorities, but I would like to make it clear to the Minister that I feel it should be the only priority that you consider when you allow any major development or construction of infrastructure for the Department of Education. I would like to ask the Minister again, will he consider ensuring that there will be maximum benefits and opportunities for the communities and

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the region in any such projects in regard to construction of infrastructure for the Department of Education?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 57-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would think that in any negotiated contract, those are considerations that are brought to the table whether it is Education, Housing Corporation, or Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 58-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, continuing on this Sirius Diamonds issue and the matter of consistency. As Mr. Henry has mentioned, when the BHP Mines went ahead, we struck a deal with them where they had to provide aboriginal people with jobs, but with Sirius Diamonds it does not seem there were any conditions whatsoever put in their contract even though we have total control over the contract. I just wanted to know, is this the Minister's idea of consistency being played throughout the government's policies?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 58-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I am confident that this government and my department very strongly encouraged Sirius to consider aboriginal applicants. I believe that Sirius did not receive any applications from aboriginal

people, in spite of the fact that during an open house here in the great hall of this Legislative Assembly, we had hundreds of people attend who were interested in jobs in the diamond field, but we did not get that many people who actually applied for jobs. This was surprising. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 58-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest that perhaps it was because there was not enough emphasis placed on the importance of this issue. However, perhaps the Minister could indicate how much financial assistance was provided to Sirius Diamonds through this particular training venture?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 58-13(7): Diamond Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am afraid I do not know the numbers off the top of my head, so I will have to take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 59-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works in regard to the negotiated contracts and the way negotiated contracts are being developed or being negotiated. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what are some of the priorities that are put forth in regard to negotiated contracts.

As a Member of this House, I support negotiated contracts but also under the emphasis that it will maximize the community and economic benefits of

the regions. I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works when negotiated contracts are being looked at, that there be some levels considered when prioritizing those contracts especially, number one, that the local economy be maximized, that regional suppliers and contractors be given first opportunity for any contracts in the Inuvik region, are most of all that the resources for these projects stay within the region and not go to southern suppliers or basically outside the Mackenzie Delta region or Inuvik region. Can I get some clarification on what the priorities of the government are when it comes to negotiated contracts?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have not heard three questions, but there is a requirement for three answers here, so I will say that you have three questions asked. Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 59-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when a negotiated contract is wanted to be entered into by a band or a company or a development corporation, it is presented in the sense that they have to list out number one, what are the economic benefits that will go to the northern residents and businesses to the greatest extent possible. That is one of the things. Economic opportunities for diversification, as well as training and development of the local residents and businesses, that should be maximized. As well, negotiated contracts should contribute to the support and development of self-sustaining businesses at the local and regional level. Elected community leaders and the local member of the Legislative Assembly must provide written support for the negotiated contract. Goods and services obtained by the GNWT through negotiated contracts shall be provided at a reasonable cost. Implementation should be consistent with provisions of Land Claim Agreements.

Those are the issues or areas that have to be laid out for when it is brought forward to Cabinet before it receives approval. Based on those, Cabinet would look at those areas and see how the negotiated contract being brought forward would fulfil those and, based on that, a decision would be made. In this specific case, I believe the Member is referring to, it did receive approval back in November, 1998. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

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Supplementary To Question 59-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the whole area of regional suppliers, we have what is known as the BIP process in which there are local suppliers in the Inuvik region who do supply goods and services in which these companies have been in place for a number of years. They have established residency, they have a business, they have been there for a number of years, they support the regional economy. I would like to ask the Minister exactly how is the BIP taken into account when they look at these negotiated contracts?

Further Return To Question 59-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Benefits

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the proponent in the negotiated contract wants to get information for subcontracts, they would then fall under, I believe, the Business Incentive Policy. But I am aware, at this time, that the Business Incentive Policy does state local, then territorial. I do not believe that it recognizes the regional aspect in the Business Incentive Policy. From within my department, I do not have a hand in on the Business Incentive Policy process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 60-13(7): Student Hiring Program

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, the university and college students will soon be coming back to the north and looking for some work so that they could have a few extra dollars when they go back to school next year. I was wondering if the Premier could let us know what types of plans this government has in place to ensure that as many students as possible receive jobs when they get back here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 60-13(7): Student Hiring Program

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for this lies with the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. However, I just want to respond in the manner of saying that I think it is something that this government has done in the past where we try to accommodate the returning students from universities and colleges. I think they are very important human assets for us here in the Northwest Territories, and we have to take that into consideration and take a look into what we as a government could do. I think we need some advice from the member of the Cabinet responsible for this. Hopefully, we will get the proper response and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 60-13(7): Student Hiring Program

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is another area where I am quite concerned. There are certain departments and agencies that do not seem to hire aboriginal students. I do not want to single out any, however, there are some. I would like to know, and I think that is primarily because they have to run around to every department bringing their resumes around. Is there going to be a central hiring agency or would the government commit to having a central hiring agency, particularly in a large center like Yellowknife so that the students do not have to go all over the place with their resumes, just go through one central hiring agency? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 60-13(7): Student Hiring Program

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the past I think this government has hired summer students,

ones who return back from colleges and universities, and it is going to happen within the next month or so. I think it is a good idea that the honourable Member has of maybe having a centrally located place where we could process these applications. We certainly are committed to look at it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Question period will be over after your final question, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 60-13(7): Student Hiring Program

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year at this time, the Finance Minister had indicated that the government was looking at paying a certain salary or wage to summer students when they came back. He had indicated that he might have this in place for this year as it could not be in place for last year. Has the government looked at that, and are they going to be implementing that this year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 60-13(7): Student Hiring Program

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think we are going to be in a position to have that implemented this year. I think it has to do with having it subject to a collective agreement with the UNW, I understand, and I do not think we will be having that in place this year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Reply 3-13(7):

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In two hours' time I will be handing in my keys and the ministerial badge to the Premier, so this is my last opportunity to make a few

comments and I appreciate this opportunity to do so. This is a time of reflection of the past three and a half years or so that I have had the privilege of representing the people of Baffin

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South and it is also a time to look to the future. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say first of all that I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent Baffin South for this term of the 13th Assembly. I was also fortunate in 1995 to be given Cabinet responsibilities and the added responsibility of representing the NWT through ministerial responsibilities in many important national events and meetings. However, I have never for one moment forgotten that it is the people of Sanikiluaq, Cape Dorset and Kimmirut that put me in this Legislative Assembly. I have always appreciated the strong support and advice I received from my constituents, even though being on Cabinet meant that I did not have as much time as I would have liked to have spent in my constituency. Even so, many things were accomplished in Baffin South in these three years. With the support of my Cabinet colleagues and Members of this Assembly, many significant events and projects were built or committed.

In reviewing new and planned infrastructure in Baffin South, Mr. Speaker, I feel very proud to have been the elected representative where these many important projects were approved or committed. In Cape Dorset we now have a new airport terminal, airport improvements, a new hamlet garage, an addition to the hamlet office, a new learning centre, a new school, roads, lands, tank farm enlargements, as well as important work on the territorial park there. As we speak, also, Mr. Speaker, offices and housing for decentralized jobs and government programs are being built in Cape Dorset. Kimmirut has also acquired a community breakwater, hamlet equipment, tank farm, airport and terminal improvements and a new residential sub-division. A site has been selected and a commitment made to start the building of the new arena. It is an important project on which the community has worked very hard over many years. I am also optimistic that the ground has been prepared for the Government of Nunavut to finally be able to fill the long standing need for a new airstrip in Kimmirut. Mr. Speaker, in Sanikiluaq we were fortunate to acquire a new community hall, new airport terminal, land development and tank farm, hamlet office and health centre improvements.

As Minister of Housing, Mr. Speaker, I was happy to be able to identify more money for housing in the NWT, including the Plan 2000 Initiative. I am also happy that I was able to carry through on my election campaign commitment to freeze social housing rents during my term.

Mr. Speaker, I also feel very encouraged by the work of the task force on Inuit stone carvings, which I helped establish. The conference we held in Cape Dorset on the future of Inuit stone carvings in Nunavut this past October came up with 50 important recommendations. I am pleased to learn that the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and the new Department of Sustainable Development in Nunavut will be placing a stronger emphasis on our Nunavut economy as a mixed economy. Arts and crafts, tourism, renewable resources, as well as non-renewable resources. I firmly believe that with its potential for creating jobs in all communities and the enormous talent and recognition of Inuit artists worldwide, there is no reason why arts and crafts cannot be a major source of new jobs in the Nunavut economy. Progress is being made toward achieving this goal. I was pleased to learn that an experienced full-time coordinator, Ms. Bev Beatie, has recently been hired to implement the recommendations of the Cape Dorset meeting, and funds have been committed to support the volunteer board of directors of the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association.

I am also very pleased that the work of Inuit artists will be prominently featured in the new buildings now being planned for the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada. With the support of the Kiviktallik Corporation and the Nunavut Construction Corporation, plans are also being made to include carving stone material such as soapstone and marble for use in the flooring, wall coverings, table tops and even light fixtures in these showcase buildings. Also there will be Inuit art in these buildings. One of my constituents, Sam Pitsedak, and a group of Inuit artists are working on the building of the mace for the new Legislature of Nunavut, and I am sure it will be as memorable a work as the NWT Legislative Mace, whose artists were from my constituency also. Having you, Mr. Speaker, and the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, visit Cape Dorset to honour these artists a couple of years ago was an occasion we treasure.

Now that 50 years have passed since the first Inuit Art Exhibition was held in 1949, I am also pleased that today the Inuit art dealers are discussing promoting

the year 1999-2000 as a year of celebration for Inuit art. The Business of Art Conference is being planned for Nunavut in the coming year and a proposal has been presented to the Canada Council Millennium Committee to celebrate the turn of the century through an international sculpture project called, Our Lives in Stone, which brought master carvers from Nunavut together with carvers from Canada and the circumpolar countries. I am confident that the new Nunavut government will provide continuing financial support for the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, which wants to develop a much-needed strategic plan to support the Inuit carving industry.

Mr. Speaker, while I served as MLA for Baffin South, I was assisted by very capable constituency assistants. I wish to express my great thanks to the late Charlie Manning and now to my current outgoing constituency assistant, Mr. John Manning, for working hard to resolve many constituency concerns and issues. Although I do not have the time today to thank everyone who helped me in so many ways during my term, I wish to mention some people.

Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank you and your staff, along with the clerk, Mr. David Hamilton, and everybody who works here for the support and assistance and friendship that I have enjoyed. I also want to make special mention of all the interpreters in all the languages that worked in this Assembly, especially the Inuktitut interpreters who have assisted me so many times. Mr. Speaker, my office staff, Kelly Merilees and Nicole Camphaug, have also been very supportive and important these past few months in my office. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank all the Members here and Members of the Legislative Assembly and all of my Cabinet colleagues, from the Premier to all the Ministers. I would like to congratulate Mr. Steen and Mr. Miltenberger for their victory this morning in getting into Cabinet. Mr. Speaker, I have had tremendous support from individual Cabinet ministers. I would like to thank Mr. Morin for his kind words earlier. I just want to echo what Mr. Ningark and another Member said the other day, that the Mr. Morin I have known, is a man of his word and is a person with whom I have built a great friendship over the past few years and I hope to continue to do so. I appreciate very much the ongoing

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advice I get from Mr. Todd and the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the many positive things I reflect on as I review my term in this 13th NWT Legislative Assembly, the last one before division. Although I had hoped to continue as an MLA in Nunavut, today I want to express my gratitude for the privilege of representing the Baffin South in the last NWT Legislative Assembly. It was at the age of 31 that I became fortunate to have been entrusted with that responsibility of representing such unique and talented constituents. As for my experience, I also enjoyed meeting and working with my fellow MLA colleagues in this Assembly. I will remember the interesting and intense debates that we have had in the last Assembly before division. I am also very grateful for the new friends I have met and the many new things I have learned.

Mr. Speaker, throughout all these undertakings, I could always count on the strong support of my wife Dorothy and our four children. I simply could not have done it without Dorothy's strong support. She put up with my frequent absences and the children put up with me missing their birthdays and school concerts. I am very thankful to them for that. I also wish to offer congratulations to my successor, Mr. Okayuk Akesuk, and wish him well in the challenges he will face representing the constituents of Baffin South. I accept the results of the recent election and wish to assure my successor that I will be willing to offer my experience and advice and support on important issues he must now deal with. Although I fully understand and accept that the people of Baffin South have chosen to pass the torch to new hands.

In these last words as MLA for Baffin South, I would like to close by sharing some thoughts about opportunities and challenges for the new Nunavut government.

Mr. Speaker, when I look at our rapidly growing young population in Nunavut, it is clear to me that the first priority of the Nunavut government must be to create more jobs. Building on the work done by a government, I believe there is a commitment on the part of the Government of Canada to work with the new Nunavut Government to establish a new Nunavut economic strategy which will create a more attractive investment climate and taxation regime. The Nunavut economy is a mixed economy. I have already spoken of my enthusiasm in strengthening arts and crafts. The Nunavut government must also focus more on tourism, renewable resources, along with the non-renewable resource sector.

Mr. Speaker, decentralization must be implemented hand in hand with an intense training strategy which are the clear goals, ensuring that long-term community residents get a good share of new decentralized jobs. I also believe that Nunavut will also have to look at a streamlined and new community transfer policy to ensure that all Nunavut communities benefit from new jobs, not just the eight decentralized communities and three regional centers. Our college and school programs can be reoriented so that they target many existing jobs in communities which are still held by transient southerners: nurses, trades, teaching, finance officers and administrators. Small business in Nunavut can benefit from an improvement to the Nunavut Business Incentive Policy, along with a clear commitment to respect Article 24 and other key provisions of the Nunavut Final Agreement toward greater Inuit employment and participation in Nunavut business and public sector opportunities.

Nunavut must be a government run by northern residents. The new government must work quickly to reduce dependence on the Western Territory and Ottawa through a renewed emphasis on education and training for Nunavut residents.

Nunavut's crippling social housing shortage is impairing all aspects of our growth and development. It is essential that the Nunavut government work quickly in partnership with the Government of Canada to restore vital social housing programs. I have worked hard on this issue for the past three years with the Government of Canada. I believe that with continued pressure and attention being paid to Nunavut and its social needs, the Government of Canada might soon be willing to take action.

Also, despite significant expenditures on courts, police and jails, the justice system in Nunavut is still too often irrelevant to the Inuit and ineffective in preventing crime. Our justice system emphasizes guilt and punishment. Victims have largely been left out of the justice system except as witnesses and offenders have not had very much opportunity to remedy the wrongs they have done. I had the privilege of participating in the Nunavut Social Development Councils Conference last fall entitled Toward Justice that Brings Peace. I agree with the emphasis, in that conference, that the Inuit have the strength and resources to tackle social problems at the community level. Our justice system seems to be dominated by the legal professions. Victims, offenders and our community leaders seem to be largely left out of the criminal justice system. We

must rely more on the strength and resources in our communities to deal with the many justice issues rather than continuing with a very expensive justice system which relies heavily on professionals who are temporarily imported to our communities or sending community residents to far-away jails or other facilities. I also firmly believe that efforts made to support healing and wellness are critical to preventing many people from having ongoing conflicts with the justice system and will also strengthen our communities politically, socially and economically.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut have been preparing for many years for a government which is closer to home, a government which will speak to the Inuit majority. How do we ensure that the Nunavut government reflects the first language of the majority of our citizens, Inuktitut? The Nunavut government must communicate to our people and the Inuktitut language must be given more visibility and respect on our public signs, in all of our publications, in all public proceedings. To make the Nunavut government more responsive to the people of Nunavut, the government must do much more than translate the laws, policies and programs inherited from the GNWT. The Government of Nunavut must also change those laws and policies to reflect the values and traditions and beliefs of the Inuit traditional knowledge. The new government of Nunavut must find a way to ensure that Inuit traditional knowledge is incorporated to the programs, policies and legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is a huge area with a small, but growing, population. I believe that the administrative model we have inherited from the GNWT sometimes makes us think of ourselves as people from regions. I believe it is critical that the residents of Nunavut must work together as one. Although it has been decided that the capital will be located in the Baffin region, I believe that Nunavut must work hard to ensure that the

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people of the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq are fully involved in everything the new government does. Ways must be found to ensure that everyone has access to the new government no matter where they live. The Nunavut government must also develop strong connections with government at the municipal level and with the business community.

Nunavut Tungavik Incorporated was a party to the Nunavut Political Accord and was active in planning the new government. The Nunavut government can

continue that partnership, seeking the support and advice of NTI to make sure that the Nunavut Final Agreement is respected and strengthened in Nunavut. Even as we move quickly to establish capacity and self-sufficiency in delivering made-in-Nunavut government programs and services, Nunavut must also recognize its place as a new jurisdiction in Canada. I believe that Nunavut can and must work with the head of the government in the Yukon and the NWT to ensure that the north has a stronger voice in national decision-making at First Ministers and Premiers conferences. We must also establish strong and direct links with the federal government in Ottawa to ensure that the national government provides continued support and implements constructive policies to enhance economic growth, self-sufficiency, and increased capacity of Nunavut residents.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is a government which values all of its residents, Inuit and non-Inuit, but because of its strong Inuit majority, the Nunavut government will also be seen as a strong voice for the Inuit of Canada and as a new partner in the circumpolar world. While developing programs which are more responsive to the unique needs of our residents in remote communities, the Nunavut government must also establish strong links to our Arctic neighbours in the Western Territory, the Yukon, and our circumpolar neighbours in Alaska, the Soviet north, and Nordic countries in Greenland. While mindful of the challenges that provide for social needs of our rapidly growing population, the need to develop our economy and create jobs, the need to develop partnership for the benefit of all the people in Nunavut, I am optimistic about Nunavut and anxious to participate. Political life is demanding of one's time and energy and create pressure for families.

My constituents have decided, in their wisdom, Mr. Speaker, that I need a rest for a while from the demands of political life and the pressures of being Cabinet Minister. I will welcome the opportunity to take a break, spend more overdue quality time with my family and consider how I might make a contribution to the challenge of establishing a new and more responsive government in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to say again how thankful I am to the people of Baffin South to have been given the honour and privilege of representing them in this House and of representing the people of the NWT through my Cabinet responsibilities. I have learned a lot from my experiences in this Assembly and this government. I now look forward to being

more involved in Nunavut. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you once again, and all Members of this House, for this opportunity to make these brief remarks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 26-13(7): Report for the Meeting to Discuss the Future of Inuit Stone Carving in Nunavut

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document, a report from the meeting to discuss the future of Inuit stone carving in Nunavut with its 50 recommendations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Ootes.

Tabled Document 27-13(7): Package of Letters from NWT Library Association Members Regarding the Pay Equity Offer for Librarians

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table six letters I have received. They are in regard to pay equity for librarians. They are from Alexandra Hook, Alison Welch, Denise Anderson,Carolynn Kobelka and Florence Cook. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 8-13(7): Extended Adjournment

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Monday, March 29, 1999, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, April 13, 1999;

And further, that any time prior to April 13, 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.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Motion 9-13(7): Appointment of Members to the Executive Council of the NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, I will move the following motion.

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Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that the honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Michael Miltenberger, and the honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Vince Steen, be appointed to the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have seven motions that I would like to make today concerning appointments. Therefore, I seek unanimous consent

to waive Rule 47 and permit me to give notice for more than two motions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 47 to give notice on more than two motions. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger

you have unanimous consent.

Motion 10-13(7): Appointment of Deputy Speaker

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. David Krutko, be appointed as Deputy Speaker effective April 1, 1999.

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

Motion 11-13(7): Appointments to the Management and Services Board

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be appointed to the Management and Services Board of this Assembly effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Don Morin
2. Mr. Jake Ootes
3. Mr. James Rabesca

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

Motion 12-13(7): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Social Programs

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be

appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Roy Erasmus
2. Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
3. Mr. Don Morin

And further that the following Members be named as alternates to the Standing Committee on Social Programs effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. David Krutko
2. Mr. Jake Ootes
3. Mr. James Rabesca

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

Motion 13-13(7): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Seamus Henry
2. Mr. David Krutko
3. Mr. Jake Ootes
4. Mr. James Rabesca

And further, that the following Members be named as alternates to the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Roy Erasmus
2. Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
3. Mr. Don Morin

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

Motion 14-13(7): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Government Operations

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Government Operations effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Roy Erasmus
2. Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
3. Mr. Seamus Henry
4. Mr. David Krutko
5. Mr. Don Morin
6. Mr. Jake Ootes
7. Mr. James Rabesca

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

Motion 15-13(7): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
2. Mr. David Krutko
3. Mr. James Rabesca

And further, that the following Members be named as alternates to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Roy Erasmus
2. Mr. Don Morin
3. Mr. Jake Ootes

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

Motion 16-13(7): Appointments to the Striking Committee

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. James Rabesca, be appointed to the Striking Committee effective April 1, 1999.

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. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 7-13(7) Expedient Reporting of Bill 15 to the House. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Mr. Speaker, with the concurrence of my seconder, Mr. Steen, I wish to withdraw my motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Steen, do you consent to that withdrawal?

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the seconder, I concur.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Motion 7-13(7) is withdrawn. Motions. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Dent, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 8-13(7): Extended Adjournment

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members.
Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Monday, March 29, 1999, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, April 13, 1999;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to April 13, 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:

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. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Hay River is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mrs. Groenewegen, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 9-13(7): Appointment of Members to the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS there are two vacancies on the Executive Council due to the creation of Nunavut;

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

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that the honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Michael Miltenberger, and the honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Vince Steen, be appointed to the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories.

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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. Motions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to deal with motion 10-13(7) today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 10-13(7): Appointment of Deputy Speaker

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 40(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that a Deputy Speaker shall be elected at its first Session;

AND WHEREAS the position of Deputy Speaker becomes vacant on April 1, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly wishes to appoint a Deputy Speaker;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. David

Krutko, be appointed as Deputy Speaker effective April 1, 1999.

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. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to deal with my motion on the Management and Services Board today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to deal with motion 11-13(7) today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 11-13(7): Appointments to the Management and Services Board

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS this Assembly is required to appoint Members to the Management and Services Board in accordance with Section 35(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

AND WHEREAS there are three vacancies on the Management and Services Board;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be appointed to the Management and Services Board of this Assembly effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Don Morin
2. Mr. Jake Ootes
3. Mr. James Rabesca

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. Motions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to deal with my motion on the Standing Committee on Social Programs today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to deal with motion 12-13(7) today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 12-13(7): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Social Programs

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS it is required by rule 85 that a Standing Committee on Social Programs be appointed;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Roy Erasmus
2. Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
3. Mr. Don Morin

AND FURTHER that the following Members be name alternates to the Standing Committee on Social Programs effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. David Krutko
2. Mr. Jake Ootes
3. Mr. James Rabesca

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. Motions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to deal with my motion on the appointment to the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to deal with motion 13-13(7) today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger

Page 168 you have unanimous consent.

Motion 13-13(7): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS it is required by Rule 85 that a Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure be appointed;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Seamus Henry
2. Mr. David Krutko
3. Mr. Jake Ootes
4. Mr. James Rabesca

AND FURTHER that the following Members be name alternates to the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Roy Erasmus
2. Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
3. Mr. Don Morin

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. Motions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to deal with my motion on the appointment to the Standing Committee on Government Operations today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to deal with motion 14-13(7) today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 14-13(7): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Government Operations

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS it is required by Rule 85(1), which comes into effect on April 1, 1999, to establish the Standing Committee on Government Operations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Government Operations effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Roy Erasmus
2. Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
3. Mr. Seamus Henry
4. Mr. David Krutko
5. Mr. Don Morin
6. Mr. Jake Ootes
7. Mr. James Rabesca

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. Motions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to deal with my motion on the appointment to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to deal with motion 15-13(7) today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 15-13(7): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS it is required by Rule 85 that a Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures be appointed;

AND WHEREAS three vacancies on the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures will exist on April 1, 1999;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
2. Mr. David Krutko
3. Mr. James Rabesca

AND FURTHER that the following Members be named alternates to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures effective April 1, 1999:

1. Mr. Roy Erasmus
2. Mr. Don Morin
3. Mr. Jake Ootes

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. Motions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to deal with my motion on the appointment to the Striking Committee today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to deal with motion 16-13(7) today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger,

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you have unanimous consent.

Motion 16-13(7): Appointments to the Striking Committee

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS with the coming into effect of Rule 85(1) on April 1, 1999, the Assembly shall appoint a Striking Committee of three Members;

AND WHEREAS a vacancy will exist on the Striking Committee on April 1, 1999;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. James Rabesca, be appointed to the Striking Committee effective April 1, 1999.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Item 21, third reading of bills. Before we adjourn for today, I would like to express my thanks, too, for the Members who have sat in this Assembly to the very end. As the Speaker of this Assembly, I appreciate very much, and I am sure I also speak for all Members who will be sitting here after March 31, 1999, I realize that some of the Members have left, but I would like to recognize the

Honourable John Todd, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo and, of course, our Deputy Speaker, Mr. Ningark, and finally, Mr. Mark Evaloarjuk, the Member for Amittuq, who by his presence in this House to the very end proves that you should never measure the man by his volume. Mr. Evaloarjuk.

--Applause

I would like to thank all of the translators and especially the Inuktitut translators who will be leaving us too. Our technical staff, our Pages, our kitchen staff, our legislative staff, our executive staff and finally to you all, the Members of the 13th Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much, Qujannamiik, Merci, Mahsi cho.

--Applause

Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Tuesday, April 13, 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. This House stands adjourned to Tuesday, April 13, 1999, at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT