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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Erasmus, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Morin, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Rabesca, Honourable Floyd Roland, Honourable Vince Steen.

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. Ootes. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 44-13(7): Towards Excellence: A Report on Education in the NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we spend money on education, the goal is to ensure children and adults are better educated, more self-reliant, and ready to take advantage of employment opportunities. We need good information to evaluate the result of our actions. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is increasing the amount of blue chip information available on its programs and services. This information is used for assessing program results, making programming decisions and to account to the public for activities. Given our limited resources, we need to measure the true value to northerners of the services we provide or support.

Later today, Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling Towards Excellence: A Report on Education in the NWT. This handy little document provides a profile of education from kindergarten to grade 12. The report covers a broad range of topics from school achievement indicators to educator information, from high school statistics to enrollment numbers. Information recently requested by Members of this House, such as the increase in student completion rates, can be found in the report.

While this is the second report of its kind, it is the first that provides information from a western NWT perspective. Work is currently underway on gathering the numbers of 1998-99. The department plans to update this information every two years. Mr. Speaker, reliable information is critical to good decision making and to public accountability for dollars spent. Towards Excellence provides the Department of Education, Culture and Employment with baseline information that we will use in our strategic and business planning. Over the next few years, we will revise and refine our information needs to develop a set of indicators which will effectively capture the results of efforts by the department, DEC's, DEAs, schools and culture and heritage communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 125-13(7): Support For Aklavik Plumbing Business

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my statement is regarding an individual, a young man, who is an entrepreneur who is trying to start up his own plumbing service in Aklavik, KLR Plumbing Services of Aklavik. This young individual has worked his way up to receiving his tickets in plumbing and gas fittings and just lately he wrote his exams to become an oil-burner mechanic, that will be recognized interprovincially. Mr. Speaker, this individual has made an attempt to establish a career path for himself and also to supply a service to the community of Aklavik. Mr. Storr has made every attempt to establish a business in Aklavik. The last business in Aklavik that sold plumbing supplies and also the service to help people with their furnaces and their stoves and their plumbing fixtures was Mr. Dennis Pascal who has moved to Tuktoyaktuk and no longer offers that service.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Storr, who has taken on himself to establish his business and has registered through the BIP process, is still having problems selling his business and his services to this government. Mr. Speaker, the service that is presently being provided,

is provided out of Inuvik. This is an extra cost, because the individuals have to fly to Aklavik to do these services on behalf of this government on an as and when needed contract by this government, yet the individual that lives in that community cannot get work with this government. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister a question on the BIP process and why is it that individuals who live in the small communities who establish their businesses are not getting work with this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 126-13(7): Super Soccer Tournament

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention a great event that will take place over this coming weekend in the City of Yellowknife, this of course is the annual Super Soccer Tournament. As we all know this tournament has grown from a few local and regional teams to include teams from all across the two territories. This is a great event that brings many young people together for the purpose of having fun, visiting old friends and making new ones and

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participating in the sport they love.

For the past many years the teams to beat have been the Rae-Edzo teams, and I would suspect that this year will be much the same. Rae-Edzo has a very active indoor soccer organization. The youth start playing at a very early age and continue into adulthood. In fact, during the month of May, a team will travel to Germany to compete in a number of tournaments and hopefully come home victorious. It takes great dedication from the coaches and players to continually provide such a good calibre of players.

The community of Rae-Edzo has very good coaches that are very dedicated. These I would like to thank. Without their support and the support of others across our territory we would not have this type of competition, and our youth would not have these types of opportunities. In closing, I encourage all the parents to make an effort to attend this weekend's

tournament and show support for our children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 127-13(7) Government Contracting Procedures

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak today about government contracting once again and make reference to a letter I received from the Premier on March 16th, in which he stated that the FMBS had assembled a committee of senior management from several departments. This committee was tasked to develop a government-wide directive on negotiated contracts. That task force was to come forward with a report by March 31. In the House I asked the Premier if he would expand the task force, or the committee's mandate, to include requests for proposals and to make the report available to stakeholders for input. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some reference to a number of areas here. Invitations to tender were used by the government for many decades and other governments as well. In recent years we have made more use of requests for proposals. In 1997-98, the report that I have, indicates that RFPs totalled \$20 million and in 1998-99, through half the year, the total was \$55 million.

Invitations to tender, Mr. Speaker, is an easy system. It is awarded on price only and it is opened in public and everybody knows the rules. But that is not so with RFPs. One of the difficulties that may be perceived in this is when small to medium companies bid and they bid unsuccessfully on RFPs after a while they become discouraged, because they do not have the resources to go after this like the larger companies. They may drop out from submitting RFPs. The feedback to proposers is also an issue, Mr. Speaker, the companies receive no feedback and the whole RFP process is based on a criteria sheet, called a rating schedule and it has six criteria, but the cost of the RFP, when awarding it is only 25 percent of the amount. Proposers are not given access to the rating sheets. Price by successful proposals are not revealed. This begs the question, are we turning contractors off because of our system and how do we know we are getting value for our dollars? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 128-13(7): Rejection of General Hunting License Application

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to direct my Member's statement to an issue of a constituent that has been raised to me in Hay River and I have received a copy of a letter. What I would like to do is just read some excerpts of it. I do not want to identify the person that I will be pursuing this on behalf of, but I would just like to read some excerpts of a letter because I was very moved by what I read. This is how it goes.

Because I am native, I was born native. I was raised by elders in the bush. I am a bush man. I can hunt, trap and fish. These skills among others I have been chosen to carry on and pass on to others, but I need a licence to sell fur and hunt. I choose to make my living in the bush of which there is still plenty. I have been trying to attain this licence for the past eight years now. I do not take UI or social assistance. I was taught not to impose on others. I have my own back and I make my own living. I have learned to have a great respect for the land and for all peoples, but I also respect myself and do not allow others to use me as a floor mat. I am old enough and prepared to give it a go. I was taught never to lie or steal. If you people only help me attain my general hunting license I would not feel like such an outlaw of which I am not. I do lots of charity work with children and elders and people in town and in the bush. I have no education to brag about, but I have my Ph.D in the bush. I make my living travelling around now doing odd jobs and playing fiddle music for people, but I am planning on trapping next winter on my own. I have a very low income and I have my income tax receipts to prove it. I am ready for a career and I want to pursue trapping. I know I have the right to live in the bush. I am a native of Cree descent. My grandparents were bush people, Treaties who made their living hunting and trapping. I am a bush man, I am free and I will fight for my rights and the rights of my native brothers whatever the cost may be.

Mr. Speaker, this letter is signed by a young man, a constituent of mine in Hay River. I have not read all

of it, but I was very moved by it because this is a young person who has lived in the north for many years and has a dream and a desire to live on the land and he is right, of which there is plenty. We look at some of the difficulties that young people are running into and I think it would behoove this government to seriously consider when we can help young people pursue an ambition and an aspiration such as this without being caught up in rules and red tape. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Morin.

Member's Statement 129-13(7): Mr. Red McBryan's Eightieth Birthday Party

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MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday evening I had an opportunity to go to Hay River and attend the 80th birthday of Mr. McBryan. Mr. McBryan came to the Northwest Territories in 1937 and they had a celebration in Hay River for him. He has been on the town council since 1962, I believe. He is one of the longest standing, sitting members in the municipal council in the Western Territory sitting on the municipal council, whether it be mayor or councillor for 30 some years, I believe. He is also very involved in flood watch in Hay River. He is very involved in the community, volunteering for many things and I would just like to say a Happy Birthday to Mr. McBryan of Hay River and I hope for many more birthdays. I would like to thank the town of Hay River for the invite down there to help them celebrate Mr. McBryan's 80th birthday and many years of service for the community of Hay River.

We heard many, many good stories that evening in Hay River, funny ones, as well as very serious ones. I always have a lot of respect for elders no matter what culture they come from, we owe them a lot. They have done a lot for the north. Mr. McBryan has done a lot for not only Hay River, but for the Northwest Territories in general and I know that Mrs. McBryan will be watching the Legislative Assembly today and, I hope for her that my tie is acceptable and I am standing as straight as I can and, with that, the best of luck to the both of them. Mahsi. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 130-13(7): Dogrib Treaty 11 Settlement Boundaries

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about land claims within the North Slave region. Mr. Speaker, we have been informed that the Dogrib Treaty 11 people will be signing an agreement-in-principle soon. They are to be congratulated for this. It is a lot of work. I believe it is a new type of claim that is the first of its kind, it not only includes land claims but aspects of self-government as well. Mr. Speaker, there is a problem, however, in that the Dogrib Treaty 11 settlement area boundaries includes a lot of territory of their neighbours. This includes the people from the Deh Cho and from the Akaitcho territory.

In the Yellowknives First Nations instance, their communities of Detah and Ndilo are actually within the settlement boundaries. It also extends to the south shores of Great Slave Lake. Last year the chief from Fort Resolution indicated that when they wanted to do something in the river flowing into Great Slave Lake, the renewable resources people told them they had to consult with the Dogrib Tribal Council first. This was very embarrassing. Mr. Speaker, land claims have such things as management boards, wildlife boards, water boards, land boards and they have a great influence over the policies, laws and programs in these particular areas. That influence extends to all parts of the land and waters within the settlement area. All first nations usually celebrate when a land claim is finalized and even when an agreement-in-principle is signed. In this instance, unless a boundary is established between the Dogrib Treaty 11 people and their neighbours before their agreement-in-principle is signed, the only ones celebrating will be Dogrib Treaty 11. Their neighbours may be preparing a law-suit. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 131-13(7): WCB Lawsuits Against Employees and Employers

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before in this House about the fact that in the past our Workers' Compensation Board was allowed to sue the very employees that it is supposed to protect. This was an antiquated and unique provision of the act that had long been done away with in the rest of the country. It was left in our act in 1977 because there were some outstanding lawsuits that the government at that time wanted to conclude. Yet, over the next 20 years, succeeding governments did nothing. Finally, last year, the act was changed. Not that the government actually did anything about it, but when a private Member's Bill by the Member for Yellowknife North was brought forward to do away with that part of the act, the government realized it could not object.

Mr. Speaker, this was a small change that was so obviously right, yet the government found it too difficult to do the right thing. Well, the government still has an opportunity to do the right thing. The Workers' Compensation Act was amended, but there is still an outstanding issue. The amendments that were passed had no effect on any existing lawsuits that are still outstanding. These lawsuits against employees and employers can still go ahead and are still going ahead. I gather that the WCB believes that the ongoing lawsuits should proceed to their conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, this is the same argument that Northwest Territories employers and employees heard in 1977 and they are getting tired of hearing it. In 1977 the rationale was that the government just wanted to allow the existing lawsuits at that time to be completed. These kinds of lawsuits were wrong in 1977 and they should have been stopped then. They were wrong when all jurisdictions in the country stopped doing them. They were wrong last year when the government realized that it could not object to the amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. They are wrong now and they should be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister, I am sure, recognizes that there is an opportunity for the board to get money from these lawsuits. But this money comes from the backs of employees and employers and fundamentally violates the principles of workers' compensation. How can an organization set up to protect the rights of employees and employers turn around and sue them? Either we have a workers' compensation system or we do not. The board cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? Mr. Henry, you have unanimous consent.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you colleagues.

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Mr. Speaker, let us face it, these lawsuits should never have been allowed to start because the act should have been changed 20 years ago. For the Workers' Compensation Board to continue to spend effort and money pursuing the employees they protect in these lawsuits is asinine. The Legislative Assembly has made a clear decision last year that these lawsuits should not happen in the future and the government agreed. I am calling upon the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board to act now in accordance with the principles of workers' compensation that are accepted throughout Canada and now in the Northwest Territories, to withdraw all outstanding lawsuits against workers and employers covered by the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question 103-13(7): Closure of Southern Outlets of Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Morin on April 22, 1999, with regard to closure of southern outlets of Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. The official name of the company is Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. It is 100 percent wholly owned by the Northwest Territories Development Corporation. The general manager is Clyde Sigurdson who reports to the president of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation.

At one time Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. had five retail outlets in southern Canada. They owned and operated retail outlets in Victoria, B.C.; Calgary, Alberta; White Rock, B.C.; and two in Toronto - one at the Pearson Airport and one at Queens Quay in downtown Toronto. In December, 1998, the management of Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. decided to close the retail outlet in Victoria effective March 31, 1999. Official notice to cancel the lease arrangement was given to the landlord at that time. A closing sale was held in January and February, and the balance of the unsold inventory was shipped back to the Yellowknife warehouse in March, 1999.

On January 31, 1999, the management of Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. decided to close the retail outlet in Calgary and cancel the lease arrangements effective April 30, 1999. Currently, we have a contract with IMI Marketing to manage the wholesale and corporate sales until April 30, 1999. The unsold inventory will be shipped to Yellowknife once the operation closes. On March 26, 1999, Mr. Joseph Handley, the acting president of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, and Mr. Clyde Sigurdson, the general manager of Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd., made a decision to close the retail outlet in White Rock, B.C. An arrangement has been made with a private individual to take over this store and sell our northern products on a consignment basis. All remaining inventory has been consigned to the new owner/manager.

Effective April 1, 1999, the two retail outlets in Toronto are owned by the Nunavut Development Corporation. Arrangements are being negotiated for this transfer. Nunavut Development Corporation has agreed to retail western products through these outlets on a consignment basis. In the interim, Arctic Canada Trading Ltd. is still managing and operating these two retail outlets. Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. is still a subsidiary of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, however, with a reduced operation. Their mandate is to coordinate, develop, and promote and market Northwest Territories art, souvenirs, garments, crafts, fashion accessories and food products. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 117-13(7): Small Business Access to Government Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Business Incentive Policy. Mr. Speaker, in regard to my Member's statement, I made reference to an entrepreneur in Aklavik, KLR Plumbing Services of Aklavik, which is owned and operated by Richard Storr. Mr. Speaker, this individual has gone out, received his journeyman ticket for plumbing and gas fitting and he has made an attempt to establish a business in Aklavik to supply plumbing and heating supplies and also a business to serve the people of Aklavik. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is why is it that this individual is having such a tough time getting contracts with this government yet, he should have an advantage through the Business Incentive Policy. I would like to ask the Minister in regard to the Business Incentive Policy, what does it take for an individual like Mr. Storr to be recognized through the Business Incentive Policy?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development,

Return To Question 117-13(7): Small Business Access to Government Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the requirements to benefit from the Business Incentive Policy is to register your business with the government so that you would be recognized as a company which should benefit from the Business Incentive Policy. That is probably the first step. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 117-13(7): Small Business Access to Government Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Storr has been registered since the fall of 1996. That is over three years ago. I would like to ask the Minister, if this individual is registered, why is it that he is getting

such a tough time to get a job in this government, especially to serve government in Aklavik regarding goods and services?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question 117-13(7): Small Business Access to Government Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no information about this individual and his business and I am not certain that it is proper to discuss it so openly, but I would be prepared to sit down with the Member and look at the information that the Member may have and see what could be done to address whatever difficulties this person is having with regard to getting contracts or employment or conducting business with this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 117-13(7): Small Business Access to Government Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is probably not the only individual who is having this problem. I believe there have been a lot of questions asked about the Business Incentive Policy in this government. Could the Minister ensure that there is a review done to see about the number of complaints that are received in regard to this policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 117-13(7): Small Business Access to Government Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be prepared to ask the department to brief me on how many complaints there have been regarding the Business Incentive Policy and its application with the government to see if there are some areas that need to be addressed or,

whether we are in fact, applying it as consistently and as fairly as we should be. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 117-13(7): Small Business Access to Government Contracts

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the problem lies within the smaller communities. In regard to Mr. Storr, I would like the Minister to see why is it that Mr. Storr, who is based in Aklavik, is having such a hard time getting jobs with this government, yet businesses in the regional centres such as Inuvik seem to be getting all the work in a lot of these smaller communities, yet the local entrepreneur is not able to receive any work from this government. Can the Minister check into that allegation also? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 117-13(7): Small Business Access to Government Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will have a look at the situation of this individual. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 118-13(7): Report on Government Contracting Procedures

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I spoke about the committee that has been assembled by FMBS of senior managers to look at the negotiated contract system the government uses and my question will be, I believe, for the Premier, but it may have to be the Minister of FMBS. The question I have is, we were told that the committee would present its findings and report on March 31st; I wonder if the committee has done so?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 118-13(7): Report on Government Contracting Procedures

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is work being done on it. The report is not ready yet. It has been delayed, but it is expected fairly soon, maybe within a week or so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 118-13(7): Report on Government Contracting Procedures

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had asked if we could also include the request for proposal system that we use. Could the Premier tell us if that may have been considered or will be included?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 118-13(7): Report on Government Contracting Procedures

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the request for proposal asked by the honourable Member previously would be part of the process. It will not be in this report but it will be part of the next report on which we are also working on. It is a three part process and we have the first part just about ready. Since the work was already in progress when he asked the last time, we are putting it in as a second part of this process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 118-13(7): Report on Government Contracting Procedures

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier tell me what will happen to the report that the senior

managers are preparing, what will be the process of that report and what action will be taken?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 118-13(7): Report on Government Contracting Procedures

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the report is for the government on this side, the Cabinet. We will receive the report, we will look at it and we will decide what

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to do with it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question 119-13(7): Closure of White Rock, BC Outlet of Arctic Canada Trading Company

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard with some interest the Minister's response, return to oral question on the closure of southern outlets of Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. The Minister stated in his response, Mr. Speaker, on the second page:

On March 26, 1999, Mr. Joseph Handley, the acting President of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, and Mr. Clyde Sigurdson, the general manager of Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. made a decision to close the retail outlet in White Rock, B.C. An arrangement has been made with a private individual to take over this store and sell our northern products on a consignment basis. All remaining inventory has been consigned to the new owner/manager.

Can the Minister please inform this House who the new owner/manager is? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 119-13(7): Closure of White Rock, BC Outlet of Arctic Canada Trading Company

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I would have to take the question as notice. I am not familiar with the day-to-day detailed operations of the subsidiaries. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 120-13(7): WCB Lawsuits Against Employees and Employers

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today I spoke about the fact that although the Workers' Compensation Act was amended last year, ongoing lawsuits against employers and employees are still proceeding, even though that act has been changed and the circumstance could not happen in the future. My question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Miltenberger, is will the Minister confirm that although the Workers' Compensation Act was amended, there are still ongoing lawsuits in which the Workers' Compensation Board is suing employers and employees covered by the act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 120-13(7): WCB Lawsuits Against Employees and Employers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can confirm that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 120-13(7): WCB Lawsuits Against Employees and Employers

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that very concise answer. My second question, Mr. Speaker, is how long have these lawsuits been going on for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 120-13(7): WCB Lawsuits Against Employees and Employers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My information is back to 1994, I believe, is when the initial counsel was retained.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 120-13(7): WCB Lawsuits Against Employees and Employers

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell me how long they anticipate these lawsuits going on for? He has told me they started in 1994. Is there an indication of when these lawsuits will be dealt with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 120-13(7): WCB Lawsuits Against Employees and Employers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give the Member a definitive answer. I do know that examination for discoveries continue as we speak. I would suggest some time, but I cannot give the Member a definitive answer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 120-13(7): WCB Lawsuits Against Employees and Employers

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister aware that the concept of the Workers' Compensation Board suing employers and employees covered by the Workers' Compensation Act violates the fundamental

principles of the Workers' Compensation throughout Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 120-13(7): WCB Lawsuits Against Employees and Employers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that it is an issue with the Member for Yellowknife South and I am listening closely to his concerns. I am doing another briefing with the President of WCB tomorrow on a

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number of issues arising out of changes to legislation and a result of legislation. This is on the agenda as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 121-13(7): Closure of Calgary Outlet of Arctic Canada Trading Company

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It is in relation to his reply earlier today to the Member for Tu Nedhe and his oral question from April 22nd. The Minister has indicated that:

On January 31, 1999, the management of Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. decided to close the retail outlet in Calgary and cancel the lease arrangements effective April 30, 1999. Currently, we have a contract with IMI Marketing to manage the wholesale and corporate sales until April 30, 1999. The unsold inventory will be shipped to Yellowknife once the operation closes.

Could the Minister indicate who this IMI Marketing actually is?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 121-13(7): Closure of Calgary Outlet of Arctic Canada Trading Company

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as with the previous question, I am not privy to the details of who IMI is, but I would be happy to find out for the Member. So I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 122-13(7): Amalgamation of Medical Travel Agent Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, recently a request for proposals appeared in the newspaper and it was for travel agency services. It would appear that travel agency services are now provided out of Stanton Regional Hospital for the former Mackenzie region including Yellowknife and Hay River. Mr. Speaker, I have written to the Minister and I have registered my concern about this. In the past, the way the system was worked out, we have two travel agents in Hay River, two travel agencies, and we also have a medical travel position. In the past what would happen is the doctor would make a referral, the patient would get their medical travel authorization from that person, take it down to the local travel agent, get their tickets and get an itinerary, and so on.

Now this is all being done out of Yellowknife, so I have a number of concerns about this. For one thing, it takes much needed business away from the travel agents in Hay River, also for people like senior citizens it is very inconvenient. They are not provided with an itinerary and they do not have the contact with the local travel agent as a convenience associated with this service, so my question is to the Minister. I would like to know what the purpose is behind amalgamating these travel agency services in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 122-13(7): Amalgamation of Medical Travel Agent Services

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was informed by the department that indeed, there was a grouping, an amalgamation in a sense, of the travel agency services. The reason this was done is we are trying to conserve our resources and use them a little more wisely in the area of some of the programs we deliver. Medical travel is one of the larger cost drivers that affect this department, and trying to pool our resources and deliver the services out of one area is a decision the health boards were involved with. I believe there is still an individual in the community that would work with those who are seeking medical travel. It would work through this individual who would contact Yellowknife office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 122-13(7): Amalgamation of Medical Travel Agent Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister please provide the House with some kind of an estimate of cost savings that would be realized by paying this fee to a Yellowknife travel agency verses a Hay River travel agency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 122-13(7): Amalgamation of Medical Travel Agent Services

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get back to my department to get more information on this. As I stated earlier, I just received information on this, I do not believe I have seen the letter from the Member she mentioned she sent to me, but once I receive that I will also forward that on to the department to get further responses for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 122-13(7):
Amalgamation of Medical Travel Agent Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If indeed the provision of these services out of Stanton Hospital is a cost saving to the government, besides wanting to know how much it is saving, I also want to know a comparison of the service provided, from this regional service as opposed to what they would get if they were being served by a travel agency in Hay River. I do not think it is fair to compare price alone because I

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do believe they were getting services as well, like I said, the convenience of picking up their ticket as opposed to a virtual ticket, and also a hard copy of an itinerary, so they could refer to it and refresh their memory of what time they have to be certain places. Could the Minister confirm that there was actually a reduction in service to the travelling patient with this new method of delivering the service?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 122-13(7): Amalgamation of Medical Travel Agent Services

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe the intent of the changes is to reduce the quality of service to the clients. I will look into, as I stated earlier, the impacts of the changes and the possible savings that we would see and also request that information to see what services are provided to see what level they are at or if there are any changes to the services that are provided at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 122-13(7):
Amalgamation of Medical Travel Agent Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister knows, Hay River is a much smaller community than Yellowknife and we endeavour to

support two travel agencies within the community. If the Minister finds out there is no substantial cost savings to it being delivered through Stanton Regional, would he consider reinstating the service being provided on a local level by businesses in Hay River? This business forms a core part of the business that they have in Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 122-13(7): Amalgamation of Medical Travel Agent Services

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look at, as I stated earlier, the factors involved in making this decision to see what was done. We will look at what possible avenues are out there once I have more information. I am not sure what level of savings there is hopefully to be achieved in this, but as I stated earlier I will get that information and upon reviewing it will look at what avenues are open to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 123-13(7): School Enrollment Trends

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education. It is concerning the problems we seem to have in our schools, large enrolment numbers, shortages of teachers and also the problem we have in our communities which is having enough supplies of books and whatnot for the higher grades. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, do they have a breakdown at this time of what the increases are in regard to enrolment in our classes?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Education, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 123-13(7): School Enrollment Trends

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the anticipated enrolments across the territory are

estimated for the coming year to be less than 1 percent. I do not have the specific breakdown by region available, but I can get that information for the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 123-13(7): School Enrollment Trends

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I really have a concern, especially in regard to the education that is presently being provided by this government in a lot of the smaller communities. Mr. Speaker, the concern I have is that there was supposed to be increases in my riding for teachers in Aklavik and I believe Fort McPherson. Yet those numbers were as of October, I believe, 1998, and which would not be implemented until the following year. Can the Minister assure me those positions will be implemented this fall?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 123-13(7): School Enrollment Trends

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to get that information for the Member and report back, hopefully by tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 123-13(7): School Enrollment Trends

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me how seriously is his department taking this problem in our classrooms, especially with the shortages of teachers and now we are finding an increase in enrolment. Exactly how serious is this problem and what is the department doing to clear it up?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 123-13(7): School Enrollment Trends

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are not anticipating a shortage of teachers per se based on our pupil/teacher ratio, but we are very concerned about the state of education as I have indicated in this House over the last week or so in regard to trying to respond to the Minister's forum's recommendations. We have a strategic planning process in place to put forward a document by June that will lay out the longer-term plans. I am meeting with the board chairs of the DEAs and the DEC's here next month to discuss this issue. The ministerial forum members, as well, have been brought back into the loop to see how we can move ahead on the short-term recommendations, so we are very

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concerned. We are listening very closely to the feedback we are getting, and we are doing everything in our power within existing budgets to try and address the needs that have been identified. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 123-13(7): School Enrollment Trends

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the education forum and the recommendations that were made, they also identified the increase in our classrooms as a major problem. The statement from the education forum, concerns from the different ridings and from this House, can the Minister ensure there will be more money considered to ensure we do have the teachers in our classrooms next fall and not have these shortages that we have had in the past?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 123-13(7): School Enrollment Trends

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is well aware, we are currently in the budget process. The money in the budget for education is approximately \$168 million with \$2 million being proposed by way of motion when our department comes up to add to that. That is the money I can commit to at this point, unfortunately I cannot commit to any further sums. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question 124-13(7): Ministers Involvement in Decisions to Close Retail Outlets

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Oral question to Mr. Kakfwi, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Minister, on your return to my oral question, you leave the impression in your return that Mr. Handley and Mr. Sigurdson, the general manager of the Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd., made these decisions in isolation of yourself, so my question is, did you have any involvement at all in briefing or in consultation with your deputy minister, Mr. Handley, the acting president of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, in any of these decisions on the closure or the giving away of stores to the Arctic Canada Trading Ltd.'s southern outlets? Did you have any involvement at all? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 124-13(7): Ministers Involvement in Decisions to Close Retail Outlets

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were a number of decisions that were made going back to the time when Mr. Soloy was still president of the Development Corporation. It would not be possible for me to say categorically that I was not involved in any discussions. I may have been informed by Mr. Soloy, I may have been informed by Mr. Handley that they intended, as acting managers or as the principle executives in charge of these operations, to carry out these actions. Unless I know what the Member means by being involved it is not possible to say

categorically, but I will check with my staff to see if, in fact, we were informed, if there were any meetings that we had where these decisions were brought to my attention, and if I actually had anything to say about them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 124-13(7): Ministers Involvement in Decisions to Close Retail Outlets

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It may not have the glitter and everything else that goes along with diamonds, but the NWT Development Corporation is an very important development corporation for our small communities, Mr. Speaker, and I advise the Minister that he should attempt to pay a little bit of attention to it. Also, just to go back, Mr. Speaker, on whether he wanted to pay any attention or if he was willing to or not, I do not know, but the Northwest Territories Development Corporation has an act that ultimately the Minister is responsible for. Under the act, Mr. Speaker, the board should develop guidelines for the sale of subsidies or a portion of the shares it owns as a subsidy and the shares or any other interest the Corporation owns in a business enterprise. The guidelines are subject to approval of the Financial Management Board.

This is a fairly straightforward question, I am sure he can kick his memory into gear because he would have to sign a Financial Management Board paper off, and he would have to pay attention because it is not that detailed of an issue. Did he take the change of the Arctic Canada Trading Company Ltd. to the Financial Management Board as required under the act, as required under the act that gives him the right, as a Minister, to ultimately be responsible to the NWT Development Corporation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 124-13(7): Ministers Involvement in Decisions to Close Retail Outlets

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is true that as a Minister I am responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, and

also the NWT Development Corporation. I have always taken these responsibilities very seriously, but it is not possible to micro-manage the operation of the department at every level. As a Minister, I have a deputy minister and the president of the Development Corporation, that are in charge and responsible and well paid to manage the day-to-day operations and the staff in the departments and the Development Corporation. That is the way the government works and the Member, as a former Minister and Premier knows that better than anybody else. The details that he wants are not available to me. I will take the question as notice and again, I will be prepared to give him a full written response. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Can I ask all the Ministers in responding to the Members' questions, if they are going to take it as notice then the Minister does have an option of taking it as notice, answering or declining to answer it, but not a mixture of

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all three. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 125-13(7): Vacancies on NWT Development Corporation Board of Directors

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Perhaps if he is going to take it on notice he should do so before he rambles on for five minutes. Mr. Speaker...

MR. SPEAKER:

I have already reminded the Ministers about how they answer their questions. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister alone, I understand, is responsible for appointing board members to the NWT Development Corporation. The Minister had taken questions as notice as to when was the last time that there were seven board members on that board. What I would like to know today, Mr. Speaker, is within the last 18 months, did any staff member whether from RWED or from the Development Corporation inform the Minister that perhaps he should add more board members and

that information could have been supplied either in letter form or orally. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Again, to remind the Members regarding questions that have been asked before and answered that they cannot ask the same questions again. I believe this question was asked on Friday and it was responded to by the Minister. Mr. Kakfwi, do you wish to respond?

Return To Question 125-13(7): Vacancies on NWT Development Corporation Board of Directors

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the difficulties that we have had is in planning for the appointment of new boards as the Members know, one of the board members has been recently appointed as the new Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Dan Marion. Another board member recently left, we had a change in the president of the development corporation as well. It is my information that the auditor general and our staff understand a quorum to be not of a particular number, but a quorum would be defined as being a majority of the members appointed, according to the act, at the time a meeting may be called. Although we have not had seven members appointed to the board since something like 1996, we have had duly constituted quorums for board meetings since that time. I think we have consistently had five members on the board and we have been able to legally meet the definition of what a quorum is to conduct our business since that time. Of course, the idea of filling vacancies and seats on boards is an ongoing discussion and responsibility of staff so, of course, it has come up a number of times over the years and it will continue to do so. We hope to appoint additional members to the board sometime this week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 125-13(7): Vacancies on NWT Development Corporation Board of Directors

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, even though the act says it is supposed to be a minimum of seven board members, the Minister has indicated there has not been a minimum of seven board members for at least

three years. He also indicated that he was reminded several times that he should appoint more board members. He also indicated the auditor general seemed to be in agreement that it was okay to not add more board members. Could I ask the Minister if the auditor general at any time indicated since this date of 1996 that he has mentioned, if the auditor general's office indicated that more board members should be appointed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 125-13(7): Vacancies on NWT Development Corporation Board of Directors

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not certain what the auditor general may have said about the number of board members appointed and I would be interested in finding that out and sharing that with the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 125-13(7): Vacancies on NWT Development Corporation Board of Directors

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had indicated that since approximately 1996 there have been only five board members on the Development Corporation. Could the minister indicate since that time, since the last time there was a minimum of seven board members, how many times has he sent out a letter to the MLAs asking them for suggestions for board members? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 125-13(7): Vacancies on NWT Development Corporation Board of Directors

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I would consult with everyone that is involved with discussions of that issue and ask them to go back to their notes and again share that with the

Member. If he is interested in knowing the details of it we shall provide it to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 125-13(7): Vacancies on NWT Development Corporation Board of Directors

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his cooperation. Would he provide that information in this House, or through letter form? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 125-13(7): Vacancies on NWT Development Corporation Board of Directors

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, if we are able to put the information together that the Member seeks and asked for this week while the House is sitting he shall receive it then, otherwise it would be after session and he can get it by letter or

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whatever form that he would like, but it will be in written form. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 126-13(7): Ability of WCB to Sue Employees and Employers

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Miltenberger. I am following up on my Member's statement today and questions I asked earlier in the House. Simple question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister responsible for the Board, as the Workers' Compensation Act of the NWT presently stands today can the Workers' Compensation Board sue employees or employers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Miltenberger. I believe the question was asked and answered already.

Return To Question 126-13(7): Ability of WCB to Sue Employees and Employers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure whether the question was the same, but in this particular case, the Member is asking a very specific question with legal implications both to this legislation and recent changes to legislation so, in order to give a correct answer, I reluctantly will take the question as notice and I will give the Member a very clear response. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 127-13(7): Hay River and West Channel Electoral Boundaries

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I received a petition from the West Point First Nation. This is a group of families within the town of Hay River and they live in the west channel on land set aside for Indian use under the Indian Act. The chief and band currently participate in leadership meetings with the Deh Cho. However, geographically and logistically the West Point First Nation is a part of Hay River and a part of my present riding. Mr. Speaker, my question is, what is the process and indeed is it possible that the electoral boundaries can be modified in such a way as to move a section or a pocket of people, electors, out of one riding and transplant into another? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 127-13(7): Hay River and West Channel Electoral Boundaries

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly here, this House, has the ultimate authority in deciding where the electoral boundaries and what the arrangements for the electoral boundaries are.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 127-13(7): Hay River and West Channel Electoral Boundaries

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is the process or how would we initiate support for this? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 127-13(7): Hay River and West Channel Electoral Boundaries

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ideally, the Electoral Boundaries Commission would take the request and make recommendations to us here. We have gone through a process such as that in the last few months. We are still going through a process as a result of that in this Legislative Assembly. Bill 15, which amends the executive council Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act which would have gone to second reading, and it has gone to the Standing Committee on Government Operations that Ordinary Members sit on. I think this would be the appropriate place at this point in time and the debate to raise this issue. I would assume that. I think based on that, if that is thrown into the debate that is going on, it should be considered at that time. Once a decision is made through the standing committee, it will come back to this House, and then we would debate it during the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is all the questions I have on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 128-13(7): Motion of Support for Roberta Vaneltsi

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. It is in regard to a motion that was passed in this House by myself, seconded by Mrs. Groenewegen, to support Ms. Roberta Vaneltsi to obtain her children. I would like to ask the Premier, to date what has been done with that motion that was passed in this House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier.

Return To Question 128-13(7): Motion of Support for Roberta Vaneltsi

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that motion was just passed in this House last week, the latter part of last week. The normal process is that it goes to us and the Executive. The staff within the Executive will take the motion and will formulate some strategies on how to pursue it. At this point in time, this is where it is at. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

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Supplementary To Question 128-13(7): Motion of Support for Roberta Vaneltsi

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Premier tell me how soon can be get back to myself or the House in regard to what progress is being made concerning this particular motion?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 128-13(7): Motion of Support for Roberta Vaneltsi

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will try to get back to the honourable Member with some plan of

action within a week. If not, it will be within the next couple of weeks, but we would like to say within a week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 128-13(7): Motion of Support for Roberta Vaneltsi

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe this motion was giving direction to the Premier and the Cabinet to work along with his colleagues and also the federal government to find a speedy resolution to this problem. I think time is an element, we have to realize, but I believe there is also an urgency to have this matter resolved. I would like to ask the Premier if he can possibly get back sooner than the matter of a couple of weeks?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 128-13(7): Motion of Support for Roberta Vaneltsi

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are developing a strategy on how to follow through with the motion. As you will recall, the motion calls for a number of different things that could be options on how to pursue this. We will look at this particular case. The case has been going on for some time, so we would like to review it as a government and see what has been done and who has been contacted, let us say, within the federal government, who has been handling this on our behalf. So it will take some time, but we will try to get back to the honourable Member within a week on the possible course of action and how to act on this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 128-13(7): Motion of Support for Roberta Vaneltsi

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Premier tell me if they have made contact with the federal government to make them aware that this motion does exist and they are asking for their support from this government to work along with them?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 128-13(7): Motion of Support for Roberta Vanelsi

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I said, the motion was just done last week. We have not done that yet. We would like to develop a strategy on how to approach it before we take any action. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question 129-13(7): Ministerial Knowledge of Governing Legislation

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Premier. Mr. Premier, there are certain acts that are developed through this Legislative Assembly to govern a way that the government governs day to day. While I fully understand that Ministers cannot be expected to know every detail within their department, I would expect that Ministers are in general knowledge of the acts that guide their governments and any department. Do you require the Ministers at all to read the acts that are a part of their department? Should they make themselves aware of those acts or not? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier.

Return To Question 129-13(7): Ministerial Knowledge of Governing Legislation

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are many, many acts and regulations and directives within this government. Surely, Ministers should be familiar with all of them. However, I do not know whether any

Ministers have read all the acts that they are responsible for, but certainly they have to be familiar with the acts that they are responsible for. I would say that yes, it would be good if all the Ministers read all the acts in all their portfolios, however, some of the acts are very long and very technical, but there are key parts within each act that the Minister should be familiar with. If not, the deputy ministers or the presidents of their different corporations that we have hired are in place, there are staff in place, policy people in place within each department and agencies that are familiar with these acts, and their responsibility is to carry it out.

The responsibilities of the Ministers are political. We give political directions to our departments and our development corporations, our agencies. The responsibility of the deputy ministers and the president is to be familiar with the actual technical aspects of all the acts and all the regulations that run their respective departments. Yes, certainly the Ministers should be familiar with the acts that they are responsible for. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 129-13(7): Ministerial Knowledge of Governing Legislation

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have had an opportunity to review the Northwest Territories Development Corporation Act over the past few days. Also, Mr. Speaker, I was checking back in the files and checking on questions that were in the House on tabled documents. Also, Mr. Speaker, there were the ministerial guidelines that were tabled in the previous sessions.

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As well, Mr. Speaker, I had asked the written question in this House to the Premier on what guidelines or what programs and policies the Minister of RWED used to direct the purchase of a \$17,500 handicraft in his home riding, in his riding. In response, Mr. Premier, I received from the Premier a letter saying that the proper policies and programs were followed, but I looked all over the place and I could not find a policy. I could not find a program that enabled the Minister of RWED to have a slush fund or an amount of money at his fingertips that he can spend in his

riding. Do all Ministers have this? Did I miss something out, or did I miss out on something there? Do they have to follow the exact programs and policies of the government? Are there funds available for Ministers to purchase handicrafts in their riding and, if so, is there a cap to it? Is it at all available to any other Ordinary Members? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I am sorry, the question is out of order. It is a new question. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 130-13(7): Contraventions of Governing Legislation

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, in reply to the last question that was asked to the Premier, he had indicated that acts are complicated and a Ministers may not be aware of everything in them but that deputy ministers and presidents are there to tell them if they are in contravention of the act. What I would like to ask the Premier, if a Minister is told that he is in contravention, that he or she is in contravention of an act, does he expect that Minister to rectify the problem so he is no longer in contravention of the act? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Premier.

Return To Question 130-13(7): Contraventions of Governing Legislation

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 130-13(7): Contraventions of Governing Legislation

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you. I would like to thank the Premier for not beating around the bush. How long does he expect his Ministers to take to rectify contraventions of the act? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 130-13(7): Contraventions of Governing Legislation

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would expect, Mr. Speaker, that if any act is not being followed according to the way they are set out, they should be rectified as soon as possible. It is really up to the Ministers responsible to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 130-13(7): Contraventions of Governing Legislation

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this instance, the Minister of Renewable Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has indicated that the board and the NWT Development Corporation did not have a minimum amount of board members as required in the act. Acts are not there just for fluff. They are there to be followed. Things are in there for safeguards. Also, in this instance, it would have been very easy to comply since the Minister has indicated that it came up several times that he was in contravention of the act. How long would the Premier expect, in this instance, that the Minister should have taken to comply with the act? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 130-13(7): Contraventions of Governing Legislation

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to know what contravention of the act mean. Does it mean going against the act or not complying with it or what? But I think that the honourable Minister of RWED, in regard to the number of board members on the NWT Development Corporation was the question in play, if it is the same line of questioning as previous in this question period, is that I think the honourable Member had indicated that he had checked with his NWT Development

Corporation and that the minimum of seven, he could have gone with less than that as a board. This is my understanding about at this point in time. I would like to maybe find out more about the details of exactly what happened. I would like to know what contravention of the act really means here. Once I get familiar with this situation, I will get back to the Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Morin

Question 131-13(7): Ministerial Authority to Purchase Arts and Crafts

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had asked a written question of the Premier previously. He did respond in writing to me through letter form basically stating that the Minister of RWED, Mr. Kakfwi, did follow all government procedures and polities of the government in purchasing of handicrafts in his riding. He directed his staff to purchase handicrafts in his riding. I am just wondering, because I have not seen it in the ministerial manual or the guidelines or this act, what gives the Minister the authority to direct to purchase handicraft in his riding and whether or not all Ministers have the same amount of authority to purchase handicraft in their ridings. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Question period is over the. To the Premier. Mr. Antoine, two questions.

Return To Question 131-13(7): Ministerial Authority to Purchase Arts and Crafts

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you. I am going to have to take the question as notice because I think we are talking about the NWT Development Corporation or the Minister of RWED. I think there are two different things I have to get more details on which I am not too familiar with at this time. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 2-13(7): Delivery of Capital Projects

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services.

Delivery of Capital Projects

1. Could the Minister of Public Works and Services please provide us with a breakdown of capital projects delivered by communities, bands and other departments on behalf of Public Works and Services that were previously delivered by Public Works and Services?

2. Who is responsible for the implementation of GNWT directives and policies with respect to the procurement of goods and services for the delivery of these capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Written questions. Mr. Henry.

Written Question 3-13(7): Legal Actions Against Employees and Employers

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three questions, and they are all to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Miltenberger.

Legal Actions Against Employees and Employers

1. Can the Minister advise this House how much money the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has spent since 1994 suing employees that it was designed to protect?

2. The Minister indicated today in the House that he is meeting with the WCB sometime this week. Will the Minister give direction to the board to withdraw all outstanding claims against employees and employers that are in the categories that have become prohibited under recent changes to the WCB of the Northwest Territories?

3. Two of the parties that the WCB is suing are Royal Oak Mines Inc. and Margaret Witte, among others. Now that Royal Oak Mines Inc. is in receivership, what impact will that have on the legal cases Royal

Oak Mines Inc. is involved in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to Budget Address. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 10: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

Budget Reply 3-13(7)

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the budget, one of the things I see, just looking at it, I believe that we do have to spend more money in the area of health and social services and education. I believe that we do have to make sure that we do have a healthy and unique economy, but in order to do that, we have to have educated people, we have to have an educated workforce, and we also have to have the ability for those people to find jobs. Mr. Speaker, that is one thing that I seem to see very much lacking is how are we going to improve the education and health care system in the Northwest Territories to the residents we serve? Yet, Mr. Speaker, in the budget, I see a lot in regard to diamonds, in which it seems the diamond industry has caught the eye of this government. It seems like that is the focus this government.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, I think we have to look at where we are going to be in 20 to 30 years when our students go through our school system from kindergarten to grade 12. One person takes in the area of 15 years to strive for a bachelor of education, or whatnot. Yet, Mr. Speaker, in that area in the last four years, we have seen the increases that we have had to take by way of larger classroom size, shortages of teachers and nurses in our communities. Mr. Speaker, we continue to see this system that we implement or deliver in our communities still continue to be undermined by the shortage of revenues and also the problems continue that basically stack themselves on top each other.

Mr. Speaker, I see in the budget where we are looking at increasing our jail facilities because we have 40 percent, I believe, above the maximum capacity that the correction facilities can take. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we do not look at exactly why are so many people being incarcerated in the Northwest Territories and why is it that so many of those people are aboriginal people who come from our smaller communities? Is it

because they are undereducated? Is it because they cannot find a job? Or is it the social conditions that they are living in, in our communities? I think we have to deal with the problems that are in our communities now. We have to invest in those problems that exist today. But, Mr. Speaker, our crime rates are higher than basically anywhere in the country. The size of our classrooms are almost the highest in Canada. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we have to also look at expanding the economy of the Northwest Territories. I believe we have to start considering the economy as a whole, where we do not just put all our efforts and energy into one sector of the economy and not consider the other sectors that are out there.

Myself, coming from the Mackenzie Delta, I know for a fact there is oil and gas potential in my riding. Yet, Mr. Speaker, in the last four years since I have been here, very little has been done by this government to entice the oil industry to come back to the Northwest Territories or, for that matter, assist the oil industry like we are assisting the diamond industry. I believe that this government has to take more responsibility in enticing all sectors of the economy, not just one, not just the diamond industry because everybody has diamonds on the brain, but I believe we have to find ways of enticing the economy in regard to our oil and gas sector, the mining sector, forestry sector, and our renewable resource sector to be able to take advantage of the opportunities that lie within the Northwest Territories as a whole, not just one geographical area which is basically around Yellowknife.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I for one, feel in regard to the budget, there is very little in terms of stimulating our infrastructure in the Northwest Territories. Yes, there is a lot of money for

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transportation in and around Yellowknife where you are looking at some \$14 million in regard to the road between Rae and Yellowknife. Also, there is talk about putting some \$15 million in to Highway 4, which is the Ingraham Trail, which basically only serves the mining companies, yet this government is going to spend in the area of \$15 million to help the mining industry take advantage of moving their goods and services at a cost to the taxpayers in the Northwest Territories. I would like to know exactly why is that we are not spending the money to upgrade the road systems that serve the residents in the Northwest Territories, not the mining sector. In order to improve the economic base of the Northwest Territories, we do

have to expand our transportation system to all the communities in the Western Territories. Mr. Speaker, in my riding, regarding Aklavik, I had a commitment from the Minister of Transportation, who is now the Premier, to look at the possibility of a long-term economic strategy to see what is the possibility of a constructed road from Aklavik to the Dempster Highway so they have year-round access of goods and services into Aklavik and being isolated at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, I also feel that we have to find new ways of generating revenues. Yes, we may be the lowest area in the country when it comes to taxes, corporate taxes, personal income taxes and whatnot. Mr. Speaker, we do not have any sales tax in the Northwest Territories, but there are a lot of advantages to the multimillion dollar corporations and companies who are presently in the Territories. I talk specifically about the diamond industry which, as we know for a fact, are going to be taking if not millions, billions of dollars out of the Northwest Territories in the next 25 years just with one mine. Yet those revenues are flowing out of the Northwest Territories, flowing to basically Antwerp, London and where all these major diamond companies are from. I think it is time that this government considers looking at some sort of tax on or around the, renewable resource industry in which these diamonds are leaving the Northwest Territories but we are not getting a big enough return on those investments.

Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot in this House in regard to gaining control over our resources. I, for one, know for a fact there is a process in place to deal with that particular matter. Mr. Speaker, in the last three and a half years, we have always seen it as a priority item of this government, yet no movement has been made in that area. In regard to looking at the residents of the Yukon, our next door neighbours, where the Yukon does have a Northern Accord which was signed between the Yukon Government, the aboriginal groups, and the federal government, I do not see what makes them any different than we are. They have land claims in the Yukon, they have aboriginal people, they have a territorial government. They were able to accomplish a Northern Accord in the Yukon, yet in the Northwest Territories, it seems like it is an impossible task or no one seems to take it seriously enough to put money at the front end, complete these negotiations and see how many of these resources will stay in the Northwest Territories.

The estimated statement in the budget is that over the next 25 years, there will be possibly two diamond

mines from which the federal government will receive up to \$7 billion in revenues. Seven billion dollars. We could run this government for seven years basically on one year of what the federal government is getting for their revenues, yet the Government of the Northwest Territories is still not moving on this particular item which is the Northern Accord to conclude those negotiations with the aboriginal groups in the Northwest Territories and try to find a process to resolve those.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I feel it is critical that we do seriously realize the implications that are in our small communities in regard to the social problems, the economic problems, and the problems that we see in regard to the school and the graduation rates that we see in our classrooms. I have gone to a number of graduations in my riding in the last couple of years. McPherson, which last year was the first time we had three graduates. In regard to Aklavik, there was one. And yet, we have, in the lower grades, almost 24 to 30 students in which, at the end of the day, we are only having one or two graduates coming out of our high school systems. Mr. Speaker, I feel a lot of that has to do with the frustration of not only the teachers but the students because of the lack of attention they are getting, trying to strive for their higher grades, and also having the materials to carry out their studies in a more reasonable and equitable manner like it is in the high schools in the larger centres where they have the ability to take on more courses, more programs, and be able to have access to credits and doing other things which are not available in our smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the social conditions that we find ourselves in the Government of the Northwest Territories, unless we do something to improve the quality of education and the social conditions of a lot of our small communities, there will always be a large portion of the budget being spent in that area because of the conditions that we find ourselves in a lot of our smaller communities. I believe for one, that we have to improve those particular sectors and find new ways and new avenues to stimulate the economy by jobs. We have to look at what we have in our regions, our ridings and also in our communities and see exactly how we can expand on what is already there without having to spend large amounts of money to develop new industries or new economies.

I am talking, Mr. Speaker, in areas such as Fort McPherson where we have the tent and canvas shop. In Aklavik we have the fur shop, but yet there are opportunities and the ability to expand on the number

of people working in those facilities and training more people to take on these jobs and be able to consider developing the economy in those two industries. We have in the Mackenzie Delta, the renewable resources industry regarding the caribou, the reindeer, in some cases muskox, and also a possibility of commercial fisheries in that area. We have to seriously look and see exactly how we can expand the renewable resources economy and also be able to put people to work and find the economic opportunity in that economy.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we also have to look at the whole question of the political environment that we find ourselves with land claim agreements, self-government agreements and also changes to the new Western Territories for what we knew as the old Western Territories, where I strongly feel that because of the change in balance of power in the new Western Territory, someone comes from a small riding like myself, that the shift of power in which does not give the smaller regions or ridings an opportunity to strongly make changes regarding how this government does business. I mean, Mr. Speaker, look at the capital expenditures of this government and this budget, there is

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no real major capital projects in the smaller ridings when it comes to stimulating community economies. Yet there are large projects in the larger centres when it comes to multi-million dollar projects. I feel, Mr. Speaker, there has to be more effort made to realistically and seriously look at the economies of the different regions, different sectors and finding ways to resolve those economic differences, finding jobs and putting people to work in the smaller sectors.

Mr. Speaker, regarding programs that are presently being delivered by this government. We have different programs, such as the Community Access Program and in housing, the Down Payment Assistant Program. Mr. Speaker, a lot of these programs are more structured in relation to large centres, for large portions of those dollars go to the larger centres. Regarding the question about the Down Payment Assistant Program, where we estimated through that, it generated over \$45 million in housing sales and assisted 350 families. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know out of those numbers, exactly how much of those have gone into the smaller ridings verses a majority of those being spend in the large centres, such as Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, the programs and services this government delivers have to reflect the

people as a whole. It cannot be catered or structured only to one particular geographical area. It has to be structured in a way that it serves everybody in the Northwest Territories and it is an advantage for everybody in the Northwest Territories, not just one geographical area.

Mr. Speaker, there has to be more emphasis put into improving the education, health and social services of the people of the Northwest Territories. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to touch on my opening remarks. We have to deal with this problem that is at hand now. Yes, it may cost us a little more to deal with it now, but I believe, if we do not deal with it now we will have to pay for it later. Without having students or children in our communities that are educated who have an opportunity to go to kindergarten through grade 12 in our communities, but at the end of the day if they are not able to move on to post-secondary education or university because their grades are not good enough, what is the intention of education to begin with? I would like to ensure that we have the quality of education in all of our schools in the Northwest Territories which allows a student that graduates from any high school in the Northwest Territories to be able to step right into university or post-secondary education to get their bachelor degrees and also to be able to find a job at the end of the day. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have to deal with these problems now because I strongly believe that these problems are getting worse in the Northwest Territories and we will have to deal with it sooner or later. Hopefully it is sooner but if we deal with it later, Mr. Speaker, regarding the budget breakdown of the Finance Minister's statement, that after this year we may have a small \$34 million surplus, but next year and the following years after we will not possibly have a surplus and we may be back into a deficit situation. Mr. Speaker, we have to have the ability to restructure the Northwest Territories and ensure that we are getting the most from the dollars we spend in this government.

I, for one, Mr. Speaker, strongly will not recommend but will consider looking at what they are doing in the Eastern Arctic. They are talking about restructuring their health boards and education boards with a possible savings of \$4 million. I believe that if it works there, why would it not work over here? Why are we not looking at that in the new Western Territory? We have to find new ways and new initiatives of improving on what we have, but also consider that we may have to change what we are used to.

I, for one, Mr. Speaker, strongly feel that there may have to be a revision on how we deliver programs and services in the new Western Territories and also how we serve all the people in the Northwest Territories in conjunction of not who you are or where you are and exactly where your riding is. We all have to be treated in the same manner in allowing ourselves accessibility to programs and services that are delivered in the Northwest Territories as a whole. Not having the ability or access to a program because you know someone who may be heading up the program at headquarter level or having access to an individual who may be a friend of a friend of a friend who knows the Minister or a deputy minister. Those days should be behind us and we should have an open government that everybody has the same treatment and also has the same accessibility to programs and services in this government. With that, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 32-13(7): Towards Excellence: A Report on Education in the NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled, Towards Excellence : A Report on Education in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to go back to petitions on the order paper. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Hay River is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 11. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mrs. Groenewegen you have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 11: PETITIONS

Petition 3-13(7): Constituency Representation of People from Hay River

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of constituency representation of people from Hay River. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 21 signatures of residents of Hay River. Mr. Speaker, the petition requests that members of the West Point First Nation wish to be involved with the Deh Cho constituency and be represented by the Member for Deh Cho in the next Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Petitions. Just to remind the Members you have only one more day left to reply to the Budget Address. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Erasmus.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 19-13(7): Tabled Document 31-13(7) to Committee of the Whole

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday April 28, 1999, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that tabled document 31-13(7) entitled, Report to the Minister of Public Works and Services, April 15, 1999, regarding issues raised in the report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner be moved into committee of the whole for consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 17, Appropriation Act, 1999-2000, and Committee Report 1-13(7) with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. I call committee of the whole to order. We have before us Bill 17, Appropriation Act, 1999-2000, and Committee Report 1-13(7). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, we can continue to consider the budget and continue with the Housing Corporation and then the Department of Justice, if we have time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. We will resume with the NWT Housing Corporation after a short break. Thank you.

--Break

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I am going to call the committee of the whole back to order. We are considering the NWT Housing Corporation. We are on page 8-9, and I believe that there are motions. Mr. Ootes.

Committee Motion 6-13(7): Social Envelope Cooperation in Developing Programs and Policies (NWTHC)

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, I have several motions. The first is that I move that this committee recommends that the deputy ministers responsible for the departments in the social envelope work together in greater cooperation in developing programming and policies that meet the needs of northerners and accomplish the government stated goals.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

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. Mr. Ootes.

Committee Motion 7-13(7): Cooperation with Jurisdictions Adversely Affected by Withdrawal of Public Housing Funding (NWTHC)

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My second motion is, I move that this committee strongly recommends the Minister's continued cooperation with the other Canadian jurisdictions that were also adversely affected by the federal government's withdrawal from the provision of funding for public housing .

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Madam Chairperson, I will refer this motion to Mr. Erasmus.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

Committee Motion 8-13(7): Housing Funding Targeted For Aboriginal Housing (NWTHC)

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister continue to lobby his federal counterparts to ensure that the Northwest Territories receives a fair share of housing funding that targets aboriginal housing.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Roland, would you like to bring your witnesses in at this time?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Yes, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Mr. Roland bring his witnesses in now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please bring in the witnesses for the NWT Housing Corporation? Mr. Roland, could you please introduce your witnesses for the record?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On my left, the President, Dave Murray, and on my right, chief financial officer, Jeff Anderson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. We are on general comments. Mr. Krutko.

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MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can the Minister tell me exactly how many individuals in the smaller communities like the Mackenzie Delta that I represent have been able to access the Down Payment Assistance Program and where has the large portion of those funds been spent?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Madam Chairperson. I can get further clarification, there are two programs that are available for down payment assistance. It is the MDAP, as we call it, and the EDAP. Which one is the Member referring to? It is MDAP?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Krutko, could you clarify which program you are referring to?

MR. KRUTKO:

Madam Chairperson, it is in the budget. It is in regard to the Down Payment Assistance Program. It is the Minimum Down Payment Assistance Program which is presently being delivered by the Housing Corporation. I will just elaborate a little more. It says it gives many northerners the opportunity to own their own home. To date, the program has generated over \$45 million in housing sales and assisted 350 families who own their own homes. Could the Minister give me an idea where the \$45 million of housing sales has taken place and where are the majority of the 350 families located?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The MDAP has been very successful in the larger communities, being Yellowknife, Hay River, and to some degree, in Inuvik. A number of the smaller communities that have accessed the MDAP are places like Tuktoyaktuk, Tulita, Deline, Norman Wells, Rae-Edzo, Fort Resolution and Fort Simpson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe that this is possibly a good program but one thing we have to realize is that we do not have a real estate market in a lot of our northern isolated communities. I think that because of that we are not getting the maximum benefit to all residents of the Northwest Territories. It serves the majority of the people in the larger regional centres and the larger centres like Yellowknife. I think because of not having a real estate market in a lot of our smaller communities that a lot of people are not able to access this program. I think one thing we have to realize is there is still a shortage of a lot of housing in a lot of our smaller communities and that we have to find ways to assist those smaller communities so that there is some program there that sort of suits those communities. I would like to ask the Minister, what is he doing to ensure that for those communities who did not take advantage of this program that there is also going to be something there in the future to assist them where there may not be a real estate market for them to be able to access this program?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the area of MDAP, it has been extended to the end of June. The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance Plan has been extended to the end of June. For the smaller communities, one of the things with MDAP is that there needs to be sellers, as well as buyers, and in most small communities we find that there are not a lot of houses for sale. To address those issues the Housing Corporation still has its ongoing programs. For example, the expanded Down Payment Assistance Program that would work in the smaller communities. There are still other programs that would fit into the smaller communities like the Independent Housing Program.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, one of the concerns I hear a lot of, especially from either clients of the Housing Corporation or clients who were within the Housing Corporation but find themselves now either in arrears with the Government of the Northwest Territories who may have been in social housing but, because of the 24 percent economic rate that is attached to your rent if you go get a job, a lot of people are coming to me now, writing letters and whatnot saying that there is no real appeal process in place that allows them to appeal, saying that the Housing Authority amount may be not what they agree with, that they want to challenge the statement by the Housing Authority. Is there an appeal process in place for an individual in the smaller communities to appeal a decision or an arrears amount from the Housing Authority to an appeal board? Is there such a thing?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the area of rent arrears and appeals process, there are a number of avenues that people in public housing could access. One of the areas is the Residential Tenancy Act, that

they would apply to a rental officer if there is a disagreement. That has happened in a number of cases, as well as I am being informed, we are, as the Housing Corporation, looking at what we can do to address the other concerns.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. What is your department doing to make clients aware, who are tenants, within the housing association or in our small communities, that there is this appeal process out there that they have? Have you basically sent out flyers? Are you going to put something in the paper making them aware that there is an appeal process that they can go to, to try to resolve a misunderstanding between themselves and the housing authority which they both may not agree at a certain number? Has your department taken steps to educate the public on this appeal process?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Roland.

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HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just a little further on the other area, the department is looking at, I should be more specific, an appeal process. We are looking at addressing that. In the area of communications with communities, we do provide counselling to residents that go through the Housing Corporation office. As well, there is knowledge being passed on through the LHOs, but the department as a whole has not done, for example, the Member used an example of flyers, we have not gone that process today. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In regard the rates that were used, you used the number, I believe, \$10,000 for the Minimum Down Payment Assistance Program, but in the eastern Arctic they used \$15,000. I think their argument was because of the isolation

and what not. Is there any possible consideration by the department to consider that we do have sub-arctic and arctic communities which fall within the same criteria as the eastern communities where they are isolated, where they are above the treeline, where there are different types of living conditions these people have? In the future, can the department take into consideration that in the west there is still sub-arctic versus an arctic layout of the land in which all communities are not in the same accessibility? In most communities, we do not have road access, we do have isolated communities and we do also have communities which are above the treeline, so that when you deliver programs you do allow for that increase in amounts for those communities similar to those being delivered in the eastern Arctic?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the area of the MDAPP, the department did recognize that there were more remote communities in the west as well and have adjusted the Minimum Down Payment Assistance Plan to reflect that and those would be the communities of Holman Island, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Tuktoyaktuk.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Just further, that the MDAPP program is due to expire at the end of June this year.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Roland. General comments. Any further general comments? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, for the past several years there had been, I believe it was 16 units being built for seniors. For a couple of years, all of those units were being put into the east so that the percentage of senior citizens that were able to live in units could catch up to that in the west. Finally, it was last year where the east had caught up. Half of the units were then allocated to the west and half to the east. Judging

from the requests that have been made in the last little while and even last year, it appears as though we still require units for senior citizens. Not necessarily detached housing, but more along the lines of senior citizens homes where people can have good care and perhaps not total, I cannot remember the exact name of those facilities, but some of them have all kinds of care, like nursing and meals cooked and the whole works. Others do not have that, they just might have a little bit of assistance, perhaps meals cooked and that type of thing. There are various ways it is done. What I am wondering is whether the Minister could indicate if there have been any changes in the plans for senior housing now that there have been two territories created and now that we no longer have to try to make a program that fits both the east and the west? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the area of seniors independent housing, the Housing Corporation will be continuing with the program. There have not been any proposed changes. As one territory, when the Northwest Territories included Nunavut, we provided 16 units for seniors independent housing and the Northwest Territories as we know it today will be providing eight units per year. For example, last year there were the communities of Fort Liard and Lutselk'e that received programs under the senior independent housing. Wha Ti and Rae Lakes were also included. This year, Wha Ti and Rae Lakes will be finished off. We are waiting for the allocation for the other unit, which is my other responsibility and I have not done that as of yet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has indicated that they do not really foresee any change in the program. Could he indicate if there has been a decision made as to where the units will be allocated this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As for this year, I am unable to provide that information to the Member. The decision has not been made to date. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate if there are any plans for senior facilities other than independent housing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only program we have under the Housing Corporation is a Seniors Independent Housing Program. If there are other levels, as mentioned earlier by the Member, I believe a Level II and III care are provided, no facility, that would be done through, I believe, the Department of Health and Social Services. The only program that we have in the Housing Corporation is under the Seniors' Independent Housing Program. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate what he means by Level II and Level III care facilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Level I would be what we consider through the Housing Corporation independent senior housing. Level II would be where there would be some need for some attention, be it medical attention. Level III would be when the individuals are in full care of the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister clarify what he had indicated as to Level II and Level III care facilities? Is he saying that the corporation is not involved in this type of housing or facilities whatsoever?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past, before programs changed with CMHC, at one time we did provide support. For example, at Aven Manor, the facility at that time, which included a large amount of support from the CMHC program. Right now as it exists, the programs we carry, we do not carry support beyond the Level I, as we call it, the Independent Seniors' Housing Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister or his staff have an idea of what the need is for Level II or Level III care facilities beyond what we have to date?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Housing Corporation there has not been any information gathered on the need that would be required for Level II and Level III care or facilities. That would be done through the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a community feels that they have the need for a Level II or Level III care facility, how should they proceed and would the Housing Corporation be there for assistance? Would the corporation be involved at all?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only process that is available right now would be to work through the health boards and put a request in to the Department of Health and Social Services through the health boards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have several questions. I read an article in Nunatsiaq News last week and they had indicated that they would be looking to build or they had a need of 3,000 housing units in Nunavut. Has there been any progress in your communications with Nunavut on how we are going to be involved, if at all, in program or housing delivery in Nunavut in the next few years until they get their own Housing Corporation set up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of communications with the Nunavut government under housing, to date, the department has not made contacts with them on the ability to secure any of the contracts. I am aware that Public Works out of Nunavut is handling the construction process for those housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What involvement, if any then, is the NWT Housing Corporation going to have with respect to the delivery of housing in Nunavut?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As stated earlier when questioned by the Member in the House, that we would be looking at what we can do as a Housing Corporation to see if the Nunavut government would be dealing with us, but a lot of it hinges on the Nunavut government itself and how it intends to procure its contracts. A number of areas we are entering into are more in the area of financial services such as the design and maintenance end of things. That is the type of service contracts that we have entered into in the area of contracts with the Nunavut government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything to add?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to add, we are also waiting for the Nunavut government to sign off on a contract with us for as and when services, but they have not signed off on that to date. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has

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been a motion passed with respect to the rent scale. Over the last couple of years there has been some discussion about the difference between what seniors living in their own homes versus seniors living in public housing pay for their accommodations. It comes up under areas of taxation and tax rebate for seniors, different programs. At some point there had been discussion about not necessary applying a means test to seniors in public housing but perhaps to revert to the program that was in place prior to the change in the rent scale which was, I believe seniors over 60 years of age were paying \$100 per month. It

was raised by Nunavut Members at the time, I believe, it would impose hardship on seniors in Nunavut, but being as there is no means test when seniors apply for public housing, and some of them have in the past been capable of and have been desirous of paying something, has the corporation given any consideration to the issue of reinstating some small amount of rent for seniors in public housing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the rent scale review that is ongoing to date and actually goes quite well with the committee's motion, a number of areas are being looked at but, to date, there has been no decision or decision paper brought forward regarding changes to the rent scales. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

So I take it the Minister's answer is that there is no consideration being given to seniors' rents specifically? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of seniors' rent it is part of the process that is ongoing with the review and we will take note of what is mentioned here. As well there has been some discussion in the past with the NWT Seniors Society and they have noted, as well, their concerns with the changes that happened in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Erasmus raised the issue of seniors' housing units. A number of years ago the NWT Housing Corporation had come out with a prototype and ideas for

incorporating seniors' housing on the same property with extended family and I believe there were even models of that type of housing that were built at the time where it would be an add-on to existing housing so that, in fact, elders could live in close proximity but have privacy. I wonder whatever became of that program or were any of those ever implemented and did they work? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program the Member is talking about was not incorporated into any of the plans of the Housing Corporation and has not been the subject of discussion or planning with the corporation for some time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I remember there was a lot of talk about it at the time. Was it not well received by the communities? Is that why it was not implemented? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is an area that we are unfamiliar with at the present time and we would have to do some research to see when it was brought up and what was discussed and what became of it. To date we are unfamiliar with the issue the Member is raising. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the policies of the NWT Housing Corporation with respect to public housing, I have had a number of incidents in my constituency where people have decided to try living some place else. They have perhaps been in public housing and they are good candidates for public

housing and things have been going along smoothly and they decide to try moving to another province or another community and, when things do not work out or if they have not worked out, they come back and they, even though they have been long-term northern residents, are not given any access to public housing until they have been residents of the community again for six months and that, along with the issue of emergency housing, where you have a family in need in a community and there is nothing else available but maybe empty housing units. How could the policies of the Housing Corporation be amended to be more practical in their application in instances where there is obviously an emergency need and there is housing available but it does not comply with those policies? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of allocation of units in each community, I believe the standard that is set out is the six month waiting period when you first arrive in a community and there is a number of reasons for that. One of them is the supply of units and being able to meet the demands out there. As well, in the a case of emergency the LHOs do have some ability and flexibility to deal with the situation that comes up before them. That goes in tune with the idea of more community controls in that area. So we do have policies for the LHOs and they do follow them but they do also have some flexibility in how they implement them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, what the Minister is saying is then that the Local Housing Authority in a community like Hay River, for example, could designate housing for emergency applications and could allow students even, for example, who go away to upgrade themselves and get more education can be gone for the school year and come back, and if there are empty housing units, they cannot even access for them for the summer months and it is quite often families that are involved. So, I just wanted to get confirmation then the Minister is saying, there is

latitude to implement those kinds of policies at the community level? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A little more clarification in the area of that six month waiting list. I am told that in fact the LHOs for each community can lay down the terms of the waiting period. In the area of students, I believe the practice is, and I am speaking more from experience dealing with the LHO out of Inuvik, is that if you were in public housing and went out for education your name would still remain on a list on priority, I believe, and you would still be able to get back into the unit as long as you made arrangements with the LHO of the day. So there is flexibility for the LHOs in a number of areas so they would be able to address those concerns pretty well right at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Henry and Mr. Morin. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comments and questions are surrounding statements made by the Minister in his opening remarks on Friday. It is to do with the statement that the Minister made that the department was working hard to find new markets for northern manufactured homes. The Minister went on to inform the Members that they were producing or shipping homes to Barrow, Alaska. Could the Minister maybe advise me if he is working at all, or the Housing Corporation, is working at all with economic development and tourism because it sounds more of an economic development initiative or that the Minister of economic development at issue should be involved with. If the Minister could elaborate a little further on what work he may be doing with that department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been working with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in this area to keep them in touch. The corporation does work quite closely with that department in our initiatives and we hope to be successful to the point of growing in the area of exporting our expertise and our units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would thank the Minister for that. Could the Minister elaborate on the home packages that are being shipped to Barrow, Alaska. It looks to me, at least from the Minister's comments, it looks like it is a pilot project. I am wondering if in fact that is what it is, if there is a cost to the residents of Barrow for these units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of Barrow, Alaska, the community was involved with us and all units that are being built have been purchased so we are making money on this in the sense that we are selling our packages with the northern manufactured products included and, once shipped to the location, the owner or, at this point initially it was the Development Corporation of Barrow, Alaska, would build those with their contractors. I believe we would have, we were discussing at one point, to have one of our people go in there to supervise the initial building of the units. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This sounds like an extremely good news package. The Minister is telling us that in fact we are able to design and produce manufactured goods here in the territories and sell it cheaper to Alaska than they can purchase it themselves. I believe the Minister told me that the corporation is making a profit in this. Does he have any numbers that we could get excited by? I mean, I

am impressed that there is a profit in it. We have always been told about how high the cost of manufacturing and how much was subsidized here in the territories. If the Minister could elaborate a little bit on that profit component, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister, do you have any numbers that we can get excited about?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe we could share something, but not in this forum. We would not want to give away our trade secrets. In this area, we have been dealing with them. One of the things that makes it profitable to deal in the U.S., especially Alaska, is the Canadian dollar has a significant amount of play in how we are managing to be profitable. Offhand, I could not give the Member an accurate figure to go by. We do know that it is not costing the corporation any money. There has been interest from other communities in the northern part of Alaska who are interested in our packages. We are going to see how these initial units work out. I believe this summer the packages should be sent up via the Mackenzie River. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a final question. I certainly agree with the Minister that the payment for these units would probably be a lot easier to obtain from Alaska than it would be some of the ventures that the government has participated and supported, northern contractors in Russia and China. Could the Minister advise us if there are any outstanding funds that the department was involved with northern contractors, in particular in Russia? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

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HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Housing Corporation itself does not have any outstanding amounts dealing with, for example, the work that went on in northern Russia. Those concerns raised were from the private companies that were involved in the deals that went on there, so that the corporation itself does not have outstanding balances. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did indicate that was my last question, but it prompted another one. Regarding the Russia situation, has the Housing Corporation been approached by private businesses for some assistance in obtaining outstanding monies owing to them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been contacted by the private companies with their concerns. I know that, for example, before I took on this portfolio I travelled with the previous Minister and we did raise the concerns at a number of the tables there of the outstanding amounts, but the governments involved have not come forward with any funds. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments? Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the rent scale, I guess the Minister would be quite knowledgeable on the rent scale and know that it has taken, in the past, millions of dollars and years of work to develop a rent scale for the whole Northwest Territories. What drove that was the ability for the Housing Corporation to shift its program. In the past, the Housing Corporation had pretty well 90 percent of its program as rental housing, ten percent of this program was home ownership. Now 100 percent of this program is home ownership with very little, if any, capital going into rental. The reason for that shift was a cost to government and people wanting to become more independent. Also, what was discovered at that time

was that a lot of times elders are being abused by people and were getting stuck holding the bill. At that time, the government of the day made the decision that elders would not pay rent in public housing units. Any people living with the elders that were wage earners would pay rent directly to the Housing Authority, but not through the elder, so you did not put that hardship on them. Will the Minister assure me that this government and your department or your Housing Corporation is not looking at again charging rent to our elders and that you will leave that program in place?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member raises a number of issues and concerns in the area of rental or social housing units, as we call them. One of the driving factors, as well as getting out of that area, was the federal government had stopped funding the area of social housing units. Further to the rent scale process, the department has been working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment at the request of the committee to look at harmonizing our programs and, in that, we are looking at all avenues that LHC's are involved with when it comes to rental programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope harmonizing does not mean increased rent for elders. Will the Minister assure me that there will not be an increase in rent for the elders?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, there has been some work ongoing between the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Housing Corporation. There is, hopefully in the near future, a decision paper that will be going forward, but all Members will be informed of any changes that would be coming up and the review

does not preclude looking at all avenues of programs this government is involved in when it comes to social housing or housing programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All Members will be informed of changes. Will there be consultation or will we just be informed that this is happening?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The decision paper will be brought forward for review before any changes would occur, so there would be consultation with Members, as has been the practice of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN:

Thank you. Yes, it is so important, and I know the Minister does understand, and the president does as well, that there is a drastic difference in places like Hay River, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, and major communities. There is a big difference compared to communities like Fort Resolution, Lutselk'e, especially Lutselk'e being off the highway and the cost of living is so expensive. I have confidence in the Minister's ability, as well as the president, to look at those costs to ensure that they are taken into consideration. Anything that is done should be done slowly, the same way that it was implemented, It should be done slowly.

I just want to switch to the manufacturing and the selling of houses that they do. I know that people have phoned manufacturing companies in the west where they would expect to supply and manufacture goods from the west on Nunavut buildings and they are instructed to, through the contractor, get it with instructions to buy out of Winnipeg or buy out of

southern Canada before you buy off the Western Territory. It is that old thing, I guess, that happens all the time, but how much longer is it going to be before you come up with a manufacturing policy that we do have the Business Incentive Policy to manufacture? It stipulates, I believe, 25 percent. If you manufacture in the

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north, you bid on the Northwest Territories contract, you use a Northwest Territories product, you allow 25 percent over and above, I believe it is, southern Canada. That only assists businesses that are doing business with the government, but nothing assists business that are doing business with the federal government or with private sector or with the Nunavut Government, Yukon or any place, including Alaska or anything because there is no incentive to, for our manufactured product, to be supplied because they do not get that benefit.

Will the Minister look at actually giving or developing with his counterparts, I know it has to be done with other Ministers, a manufacturing policy that would put our manufacturers on equal footing to southern Canada? You could do that by a direct policy that would give a manufacturer a subsidy instead of doing it through BIP or whatever, where if you manufacture a fibreglass tank and it costs you one dollar to manufacture it, then you will receive, from this government with proven receipts that you manufacture in the north, you will receive 25 cents for every dollar you spent type thing, then they can go out and market their own.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the area of the manufacturer's policy, the Member is correct. We are well aware of the situation there, the 25 percent premium we, as a government, pay on behalf of people who use our products or access through the Housing Corporation to build a home. We have not, to date, gone any further than the existing program that is out there which, as the Member is correct, it only deals with the GNWT portion of dollars or capital that is worked on. We would have to relook at that manufacturing policy and that is something that we could do and look into to see what is available. The same goes in this area, as the Member raised earlier,

are the cost implications to the government as well as any changes that we would look at, we would have to see what implications would be put on, for example, seniors as well as private sector or the GNWT as a whole. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I did not have any more questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to the questions I had asked earlier about senior citizens' care facilities and independent housing, the Minister had indicated that the independent housing for this year has not been allocated yet. What I was wondering was, is it possible for a community that has allocated the independent housing to use that money that has been indicated for the independent housing instead for Level II or Level III facilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have one unit left, a four-plex, for the Western Territory and there are a number of communities that have written in requesting that they receive a seniors' housing unit. For example, Tuktoyaktuk, Holman Island, Paulatuk, Inuvik, Fort McPherson and N'dilo as well have asked for that unit. Right now, the program is to build seniors independent housing and it would be in a four-plex. It would not have the necessary equipment or facilities, I guess, for a Level II or III care facility. That would have to be looked into because there would be extra costs involved. Right now, as the program exists, it is for independent seniors' housing and design of a four-plex. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Often a community may have a certain amount of funding or access to funding and may just need a little bit more. In this case, what I am wondering is, if a community was willing to take on the added cost for the Level II or Level III care facility, would they be able to use money that had been allocated for the independent housing four-plex facility. Would they be able to use that for the Level II or Level III care facility if they were willing to take on the rest of the costs? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The added costs as I mentioned earlier, are not only in the area of construction, but also ongoing costs because of the level of care that would be provided and discussions would have to be included with the Department of Health and Social Services in the area of the added costs and how they would be managed. If the community was looking at providing the extra cost above and beyond the seniors' independent housing, discussions could probably be undertaken between the departments and a successful community at that point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is good to hear, because probably some of the seniors that would be in the Level II or Level III care facility might be in other housing now and if they were able to move into such a facility it would free up the other housing so that other seniors, perhaps, could move into the housing that has been freed up. The other area that I want to find out about is the social housing policy and the flexibility that the housing authorities have which the Minister had indicated in answers to Mrs. Groenewegen a little earlier. Sometimes people are currently living in public housing in one community and they may wish to move to another community but they are not eligible for public housing in the community they want to move to for six months. Recently there was a lady who wanted to move to Yellowknife and she had about four children, four or five, and she was in public housing in another

community and wanted to move to Yellowknife. She was told she would have to wait six months. She would have to move here and find some place to live while her kids are going to school, perhaps the womens' shelter or wherever. She would have to wait for six months before she was eligible for public housing.

It seems to me that if someone is living in public housing in one

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community they should be able to make a deal with another community and say look, this lady wants to move here and in this instance she wanted to move because of her health, much better health facilities, more doctors, all the rest of that kind of stuff. It seems to me that when you are already living in public housing you should be able to cut some kind of a deal with the other housing authority in the other community that you wish to move to. So what I am wondering is, the flexibility the Minister had indicated earlier, would that flexibility allow this type of cooperation between local housing authorities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing authorities have the ability to set their periods of waiting in the communities and can deal with each case on a case by case basis. They do take in a lot of concerns as to, for example, if there was no waiting list, or a very short one, the transient nature of some tenants can prove to be very costly to an LHO when it comes to repairs, if somebody has been in the community for a short time. So there are those concerns that they have to address, but I believe they have the ability at the LHO level to look at things at a case by case scenario and deal with the issues that would go before them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So what the Minister is saying is that it is totally up to the housing authority where the person would want to go? Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there was a person in a social housing unit in one community and they wanted to move to another, potentially the LHOs could work out an arrangement, but that would be up to the community that they would be moving to. The control is in their court so to speak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there was to be some type of an arrangement that was worked out, would the best course of action for the tenant to work through the local housing authority they are currently renting from to work with them, to contact the community they want to move to and set up an arrangement? This has happened more than once that I know of and really those people have been left to try and fend for themselves rather than being able to work through the local housing authority which they are renting from at the time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, the waiting period is developed by the local housing authority board and they have the ability to deal with these situations on a case by case scenario, but it would all depend on the individual or family that wants to deal with this. If they approach their existing board in the community they live in to support them in this initiative to make the contact with them, but it would be up to that board then to deal with that request if there was a request for their support in setting this up. As stated earlier, in the move to bring more control and responsibility to the communities we have given the local housing authority boards that responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, do the local housing authorities ever get together in order to discuss situations like this so that they might be able to establish global policies rather than the housing authorities just passing their policies in isolation from each other? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that the local housing authorities organizations do from time to time have workshops where they get together and discuss their concerns in areas of common concerns and responsibilities so they do get together from time to time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Housing Corporation involved in these workshops?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are times when the Housing Corporation is involved with information and at times suggestions, but again the authority lies with the LHOs for how they see it structured and I am aware in a number of areas where they do work together in the different regions. There is already that sharing of information, so they do that, as stated earlier, in a number of different ways and one of them is when they get together for workshops. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the Minister if perhaps the corporation staff may be able to bring up this issue the next time there is such a workshop or conference or whatever it is called so there can be some sort of a policy established so that when this type of thing occurs there is a method for the tenants to work through because right now there doesn't seem to be any policy in place for these type of people?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

MR. ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will commit to having the staff of the corporation in discussions with the LHOs to raise this concern with them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. General

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comments. What is the direction of the committee? Detail? We are dealing with the NWT Housing Corporation activity summary. Budget summary on page 8-9. Mr. Erasmus?

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, what page are we on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

You are on page 8-9, Housing Corporation, activity summary, budget summary. Operations and maintenance, \$21.634 million. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if this is the appropriate time, but, Mr. Chairman, I would like to advise Members, a business which is controlled by me, Greenway Holdings Ltd., leases office space to the Hay River Housing Authority and is an organization which is accountable to the NWT Housing Corporation. As such, I am in a conflict in consideration of this page and would like to declare this conflict and refrain from debating this matter and withdraw from the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. For the record. Operations and maintenance, \$21.634 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Page 8-10, NWT Housing Corporation, details of capital. Total headquarters, \$2.157 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Fort Smith region. Total Fort Smith region, \$13.334 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Inuvik region. Total Inuvik region, \$6.151 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total capital, \$21.642 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Information item, corporate summary, page 8-13. Any questions? Another information item, page 8-15, Executive. Any questions? Another information item, policy, page 8-17. Any questions? Finance, page 8-19, another information item. Any questions? Another information item, finance, grants and contributions, page 8-20. Any questions? Information item, page 8-23, amortization. Any questions? Page 8-25, human resources and administration, information item. Any questions? Moving on to page 8-27, operations, another information item. Any questions? Moving on to 8-28, operations, grants and

contributions. Any questions? Page 8-29, operations, details of capital. Any questions? No questions. Information item, page 8-31, district operations. Any questions? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if this is the appropriate place to ask this, but there was some previous questioning in relation to senior citizens. I know that the Housing Corporation provides benefits or programs and services, whatever you want to call it, to senior citizens and so do other social envelope departments such as the Department of Education. There is also a fuel subsidy. What I would like to know is, do the departments all use the same age for classifying someone as a senior citizen?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In comparison with the parameters of how one qualifies for an Education, Culture and Employment program or Housing Corporation program, there are different sets of criteria. That is one of the areas we are working with the Education, Culture and Employment department to harmonize the way we look at individuals who access our programs. That is one of the things that is included in the ongoing work between ECE and ourselves.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister saying that the ages for classifying someone as a senior citizen are currently different ages for Housing Corporation and the Department of Education?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe in this area, to qualify as a senior, I am being told that for Housing Corporation programs it is sixty years of age to qualify. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Minister said they are trying to harmonize this with the Department of Education, is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of income support and public housing, we are trying to harmonize our information in how we deal with all individuals who access the program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. District operations, an information item. Any questions? District operations, grants and contribution, information item. Any questions? Page 8-33, district operations, details of capital, information item. Any questions? Page 8-35, information item, contributions to local housing organizations. Any questions? Page 8-36, contribution to local housing organizations, grants and contributions. Any questions? Information item, active positions, page 8-37. Any questions? Mr. Erasmus.

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MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometime back, I am not exactly sure how long ago, we were informed that the corporation was incorporating some training positions for people with affirmative action status. Could the Minister indicate how this project, I suppose you could call it, how is it coming along?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there are three positions that were taken in the area of affirmative action and training. That program has been working satisfactorily. We have two positions in Inuvik, a

program advisor and manager trainee, and one in Hay River in the program advisor trainee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any plans of having a trainee in Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the considerations to deal with the Yellowknife headquarters function is, with division the department or the corporation is trying to deal with a number of employees who are being carried over because of the no layoff policy and positions that do come open, we are trying to accommodate those people who would otherwise have been laid off.

There are areas that need to be worked on. The actual affirmative action numbers for the corporation are quite good overall. For example, as of December 31, 1998, 42.5 percent of all corporation staff held affirmative action status. It is including 50 percent of the middle and senior management group. We are doing fairly well in that area. As I stated earlier, one of the concerns with the Government of Nunavut being created was that we had a number of employees in headquarters that dealt with specific programming for Nunavut and we are working to involve them in vacancies that do come up at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister saying that we have people working in headquarters whose workload is no longer in existence because it has been transferred to the east, or something like that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, that is not the case. It would be if we did not have them reassigned duties. All cases, they have been reassigned duties. As the positions do come up or people transfer or retire, we do not fill those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Active positions. Any questions? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any positions, I am not sure if active positions means that they are filled or not. Are there positions, for instance, in headquarters that are not currently filled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are, at this point in time, 11 vacancies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know what the reasoning would be for those vacancies. I am sure there must be a reason. Are those positions going to be filled sometime soon?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we see here is when a document is produced and the time between the numbers initially put in and how they are quantified does not allow for us to change or I guess, get rid of positions in a sense of when they become vacant. You will probably see a change in the next business plan where there will be a drop in numbers. Right now the Housing Corporation is trying to deal with coming to the projected numbers that would be for the Northwest Territories as we know it now and that is in the area of 35 staff. As I said earlier, as positions become vacant, we will not

be filling them and when there is an adjustment to those, it will be reflected and remain. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Information item, active positions. Any questions? If there are no questions, we can go back to page 8-7, NWT Housing Corporation program summary. Operation and maintenance, \$21.634 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Capital, \$21.642 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total expenditures, \$43.276 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

That concludes the NWT Housing Corporation. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. The Sergeant-at-Arms can escort out the witnesses. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman, we had agreed to Department

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of Justice and we should proceed accordingly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Could I ask the Minister of Justice if he has any opening comments? Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we begin a line for line examination of the Department of Justice, 1999-2000, I would like to provide a brief overview of the Department of Justice, its activities and the key programs and legislative initiatives planned for the upcoming year.

The Department of Justice is responsible for the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories. Our chief objective is in partnership with the RCMP and the Crown to ensure the safety and security of communities. This objective remains challenging as the factors which lead to a high rate of crime, such as substance and alcohol abuse, continue to be problems with many of our communities.

In this budget the Department of Justice has identified additional resources in the areas of corrections, community justice and policing in order to fulfil our ongoing role with respect to the safety of communities. These investments, which I will describe in greater detail shortly, will directly enhance the security of the people in the communities of the Northwest Territories.

We have also identified additional resources in the areas of legal aid and legal registries. Again, these investments will be of benefit to northern residents and will help the legal framework required for business and community development. We will also be proceeding with a number of legislative initiatives, many of which have had to be delayed because of the crowded pre-division legislative agenda. Some of these legislative initiatives were first proposed by this Assembly, by ordinary Members and we will now have the opportunity to begin work on them.

Corrections. This budget will mark the initiation of the much needed expansion of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. This expansion is necessary to address the serious overcrowding and safety issues we now face. These capital improvements will be the first step in improved facilities and programming to support offender healing and rehabilitation. In 1999-2000 the creation of a stand alone probation service will also be a significant improvement in support for offenders and their healing and for communities in assuming a greater role in dealing with members who

break the law. The creation of a stand alone probation service will mean more offenders will have the opportunity to safely serve their sentence in the community. An effective probation service will also play an important role in providing program referrals and support to offenders. The expansion of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and a stand alone probation service are important initiatives which I feel will make a significant difference in reintegrating offenders into community life and reducing the chance that they will re-offend.

This budget also reflects an ongoing commitment to wilderness camps. These camps offer an important programming option for those offenders who choose to take advantage of them.

Finally, the department's Corrections Division will continue to offer training programs to ensure that the maximum number of local people can assume positions within territorial correctional facilities. Currently the percentage of aboriginal employees within every community facility exceeds the percentage of the aboriginal population within those communities.

Community Justice. This budget reflects an increase in the amount of funding available to community justice committees. These committees were first established with a mandate to handle the division of youth under the former Young Offenders Act. Now, most committees deal with adults as well as youth. Increasingly, they are also being asked to assume a greater role by other justice and community groups. The increase in the amounts paid to communities will help committees respond to this increased demand by allowing them to increase their honoraria, meet more frequently, hire part-time coordinators or fund activities like sending young offenders out with elders on the land. A review of the community justice initiative, which will be complete in the coming months, will identify other ways in which the department can best support communities in their efforts around community justice.

Policing. Through internal reallocation, the department has also ensured that there will be a full staff complement of RCMP officers in the Western Territory. We are also continuing to work with the RCMP to ensure that programs such as the Community Constable Program and the Auxiliary Constable Program remain an important part of community policing. Currently the RCMP "G" Division is supported by 27 RCMP auxiliary constables and 15 community constables. This number is expected to

increase with another community constable training course planned for May. There are currently 15 aboriginal RCMP members within "G" Division. The RCMP has also implemented an Aboriginal Developmental Policy, which will ensure that more of "G" Division's operational and administrative positions are staffed by aboriginal officers. We are seeing a positive trend in the RCMP becoming more representative of the communities they serve. The department will continue to play an important role in ensuring this trend continues.

In conclusion, I would like to say that this budget reflects an emphasis on those areas most important to communities. The investment we are making in this budget should produce tangible benefits to communities in terms of improved safety and security. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the chairman of the committee have comments? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs met on November 19, 1998, to consider the business plan for the Department of Justice and again on March 18, 1999, to consider the draft 1999-2000 Main Estimates for the Department of Justice. Committee Members were impressed with certain aspects of the Department of Justice's business plan, such as the informatics plan and the Affirmative Action Plan. However, Members were disappointed with the lack of detail in setting reference points and benchmarks for attaining the department's stated goals. The department has committed to providing last year's financial figures in future business plans so that committee Members can

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conduct their review with full knowledge of the facts and departmental trends. The committee noted in its review of the 1999-2000 draft Main Estimates for the Department of Justice a \$594,000 increase in operations and maintenance costs from the number contained in the business plan attributable in the increased personnel costs associated with collective bargaining and a \$4,000 reduction in capital funding related to the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre parking lot.

The Affirmative Action Plan included in the human resource implication section in the business plan contained sufficient detail to give the committee a good understanding of the department's current affirmative action status, as well as its plans for the future. Committee Members were disappointed that the Affirmative Action Plan achieved results in the Corrections Program while failing to address the other programs in Justice. However, the department's placement of aboriginal candidates in developmental positions in Corrections is an excellent way of improving aboriginal representation at the managerial level.

In summary, the reporting process is commendable. However, more focus must be placed on other areas in the department. In addition, committee Members stressed that annual performance appraisals are a valuable management tool to gain employee feedback on the success or failure of the departmental goals and strategies and to gauge whether the department is being successful in implementing its stated goals. Also, in this time of stress and anxiety surrounding division, it is important to provide a sounding board for employees so that they can feel a part of the departmental team. The committee recommends that the Department of Justice examine opportunities to include aboriginal managerial developmental positions in program areas other than Corrections. If necessary, these developmental positions should include an educational component if the candidate is lacking in some required skills that could only be obtained in a post-secondary institution.

During the review of the business plans, committee Members were pleased with the progress made in the Community Constable Program. It was acknowledged that this is a valuable program to smaller communities and the RCMP officers who serve us. In the larger communities, committee Members believed that the Auxiliary Constable Program needs to be promoted as a positive way of dealing with the policing shortages facing northern communities.

During the business plan review, the committee had requested that the department investigate the possibility of using the Aboriginal Justice Training Centre in British Columbia for the training of community constables. The committee notes that the department has decided not to pursue this option citing satisfaction with the RCMP Training Depot in the fact that the community constables work closely with RCMP officers and should be trained in RCMP methodologies.

With the coming diamond mine, the Northwest Territories may attract a more sophisticated criminal element, and the RCMP will need resources to combat this. The committee recommends that the department and the Premier's office apply more pressure to their federal counterparts to increase the policing budget for the Northwest Territories and to ensure that services and support staff related to northern policing stay in the north.

As with other programs within the Department of Justice, committee Members were concerned with the lack of measurable results that could be attributed to the Wilderness Camp Program. There was total agreement among committee Members that this program should be valuable in keeping first-time and minimum risk offenders from being exposed to the more hardened criminal element in our correctional centres. However, Members felt that in the absence of quantifiable results showing recidivism rates of the inmates who have gone through the Wilderness Camp Program, the committee's faith in the program needed objective justification. Committee Members believe in the merits of the wilderness camp and appreciate receiving further information on per diem rate and on the areas of the Northwest Territories that may not be adequately served. Committee Members also believe the department needs to make a greater effort to promote the wilderness camp option in the general public as a positive government policy to the judicial system as a viable sentencing option and to the correctional service as a way to deal with most low risk offenders. The committee Members noted that the department works with Corrections Canada to ensure that eligible federal prisoners from the Northwest Territories can be placed in wilderness camps.

Committee Members are concerned that there is no apparent methodology for program evaluation of wilderness camps. It is felt that each operator must be evaluated as to the quality and quantity of programming offered and the qualifications of the staff. This relates to a committee concern that the present per diem is inadequate to ensure the viability of wilderness camps, particularly if there is more than one operator in the community or area. It may be necessary to limit the number of wilderness camp operators to ensure the long term goals of the department are met. Committee Members are not convinced that the per diem method of payment ensures the long term success of the program. If operators cannot maintain equipment and staffing levels due to under utilization of their wilderness

camps, it is likely that they would not be able to gear up to take in the

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maximum number of offenders they are allowed in their facilities. Committee Members would like to see a blend of core funding and per diem rate method of funding the wilderness camp operators be instituted. It is felt that this would lend a sense of permanency to the operators and ensure the long-term success of this valuable program. The committee had recommended, in the review of the business plan, full time wilderness camp operators be funded on a combined core funding and per diem rate basis to ensure the viability of the program. The department states that it is not possible in the light of the amount of funding available to the program.

Members of the committee would like to encourage the department in the development of its own stand alone probation service. The separation of the probation task from the social service task will improve social service delivery at the local level and provide increased sentencing options for the judiciary and community justice committees. Members would like to receive regular updates on the status of the stand along probation service as it is developed.

Committee Members were impressed at the level of detail that the department provided in the business plan. The level of detail gave Members a good understanding of the problems facing the department and the strategies the department intends to implement to resolve its information system shortfalls. Members look forward to updates on the department's progress. The committee recommends that the Department of Justice work in conjunction with other departments in the social programs envelope to develop common information system strategies, where possible, and work with other government departments in developing common computer platforms.

Committee Members realize that the corrections facilities in the Northwest Territories are overcrowded and that, as a result, space to run relevant inmate programming is not available. It is felt that the department is doing what it can under adverse conditions, however, committee Members believe that as program space becomes available through redesign and renovations at the Yellowknife Correction Centre, the department must be able to step in and fulfil its mandate to provide relevant programming to inmates. The committee encourages

the department to monitor this closely so that it is able to implement more programming as soon as space becomes available. It is also felt the department has to lend greater credence to the wilderness camps as a viable and important part of corrections programming.

The department had set many goals and projected outcomes in the business plan, however, in the absence of any defining benchmarks, committee Members feel that they were unable to measure the department's success against next year's business plan. Committee Members also hope that improvements to the information system would enable the department to provide relevant statistics to measure success in meeting departmental goals. The committee looks forward to progress in next year's business plans. This is the third year that the committee has conducted its business plan review in the absence of defining goals and objectives quantified by measurable benchmarks. Committee Members are concerned that in the absence of measurable benchmarks they are, in effect, giving carte blanche to the department.

The committee recommends that the department develop defined goals and objectives as quantified by measurable benchmarks. Committee Members were concerned that the business plans do not currently contain references to planned projects under the P3 initiative and made a recommendation that P3 projects be listed in the business plan. This information is necessary so that committee Members can have a true understanding of all requirements of the department and so that the committee can ensure adequate, forward planning by the department in meeting the future operations and maintenance requirements of any proposed P3 project. The committee was pleased that the department agreed with the recommendation and will provide a listing of P3 projects in future business plans and Main Estimates.

All persons are now assumed to be eligible for legal aid under the presumed eligibility policy. Persons no longer have to apply and wait for a decision on whether they are eligible for legal aid. Committee Members could accept the majority of arguments that the Minister put forward on the effectiveness of presumed eligibility. However, in the absence of any quantifiable statistics, it is still hard to justify the committee's faith in the program. Members look forward to the implementation of the legal aid information system in the upcoming fiscal year and

discussion on the success of presumed eligibility during the next business plan review.

Committee Members appreciated the opportunity to have a wide ranging discussion on the residential school abuse issue during the review of the business plans and main estimates. Members were impressed with the concept of an alternative dispute mechanism, as proposed by the Grollier Hall survivor's group. The use of an alternative dispute mechanism would remove the need for costly court proceedings through the use of negotiation. The opportunity for the department to work proactively with the survivors to reach a mutually acceptable solution must be pursued vigorously by the department. Committee Members are, however, concerned that any solution arising out of the successful use of the alternative dispute mechanism should not intrude on the lives of any persons who have dealt with their own issues surrounding the abuse that occurred at Grollier Hall.

Regarding any monetary compensation for the abuse suffered in residential schools, committee Members concur with the Minister that there should be a methodology of validating any claim. While committee Members do not wish to see any particularly onerous criteria attached to the validation of any claim, it is necessary to formulate a validation process to protect the public interest. Committee Members would be interested in

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reviewing the criteria for monetary compensation once it is developed.

Committee Members are interested in the appointment of a special advisor to the Premier on residential school abuse. Members believe that the issue of residential school abuse is of such a magnitude that it warrants the appointment of a special advisor to help the Minister and department develop approaches to deal with this important issue affecting the lives of many northerners. The appointment of a special advisor would demonstrate to Members of the general public that this government is serious in its strategies to deal with residential school abuse. The special advisor could also serve as a central contact authority for victims of residential school abuse or for persons who have encountered physical or sexual abuse in government-run institutions. Committee Members are of the opinion that there is an opportunity to access some federal funds to provide treatment to inmates whose lives have been adversely impacted by the abuse they

suffered in a residential school. The committee was pleased with the department's promise to work with aboriginal organizations to develop programming for those inmates with issues arising from residential school abuse. The government must develop a proactive approach to dealing with the issue of residential school abuse. All departments must work together to identify the magnitude of the problem and offer all possible support to the survivors. The committee would like to be kept apprised of progress on this issue and the measures being taken by the government to support the survivors of residential school abuse.

Committee Members could not help but feel that they were blind sided by the department's presentation of a need for a stand alone courthouse during the business plan review. There was no mention, in the last two business plans, that this was a requirement. Committee Members are not adverse to a stand-alone courthouse. However, there are several more steps that the department will have to take before the committee could support this request. The committee requires more information on financing options. Committee Members strongly believe that the stand alone courthouse must become a part of the Department of Justice's capital planning process. Initially committee Members feel that the issue of a stand alone courthouse cannot exist outside of the planning process. Should another financing option come forward such as the one proposed by Polar Panda Developments in their letter of January 15th, 1999, and be accepted by the government, the building of the courthouse could then move forward outside the capital planning process. There will have to be further discussion between the department and the committee before the committee can adopt any definite position. The committee recommends that further study of other viable options be undertaken by the department on the need for a new courthouse.

Committee Members strongly believe in the delivery of justice at the community level where appropriate. Sentencing circles, the involvement of elders in the justice system, and wilderness camps are excellent examples of delivering justice at the community level that must be supported by this government. With division, committee Members believe that this is the perfect opportunity to re-examine justice at the community level. Committee Members support the department's intention to sponsor a conference on community justice in the new Northwest Territories. Committee Members are well aware of the overwhelming workload placed on the staff charged

with delivering the activity of maintenance enforcement. To help the staff in discharging their duties, it is strongly recommended that all government computer systems be adapted to red flag any person with outstanding obligations, informing the staff of the maintenance enforcement unit as to the location of persons who have maintenance enforcement judgements against them should make it easier for staff to track these people in the Northwest Territories. The renewal of driver's licences, registration of vehicles, and access to health care services are three examples that could be used by the government to track persons owing money under maintenance enforcement judgements. The committee recommends that government computer systems be adapted to assist the maintenance enforcement unit in tracking persons in default under maintenance orders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Does the committee have some motions to present? Mrs. Groenewegen.

Committee Motion 9-13(7): Aboriginal Managerial Development (Justice)

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Mr. Chairman, as a result of the overview of the committee, there are a number of motions that we would like to proceed with. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice examine opportunities to include aboriginal managerial development positions in program areas other than corrections; and further, if necessary, these developmental positions should include an educational component if the candidate is lacking in some required skills that could only be attained through a post-secondary institution.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Committee Motion 10-13(7): Increase to the Policing budget (Justice)

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Department and the Premier's office apply more pressure to our federal counterparts to increase the policing budget for the Northwest

Territories and to ensure that services and support staff related to northern policing stay in the north.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried. Mr. Erasmus.

Committee Motion 11-13(7): Social Envelope Cooperation to Develop Common Information System Strategies (Justice)

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice work in conjunction with other departments in the social programs envelope to develop common information system strategies

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where possible and work with other government departments in developing common computer platforms.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Abstentions? Motion is carried. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just before we proceed with the other committee motions, I move that we extend sitting hours until we finish this department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

There is a motion on the floor to extend sitting hours. The motion is not debatable. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Erasmus.

Committee Motion 12-13(7): Development of Defined Goals and Objectives/Measurable Benchmarks (Justice)

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the department develop defined

goals and objectives as quantified by measurable benchmarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Committee motions. Mr. Erasmus.

Committee Motion 13-13(7): Study of Viable Options on the Need for a New Courthouse (Justice)

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that further study of other viable options be undertaken by the department on the need for a new courthouse.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Committee motions. Mr. Erasmus.

Committee Motion 14-13(7): Adaptation of Computer Systems to Assist the Maintenance Enforcement Unit (Justice)

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that government computer systems be adapted to assist the maintenance enforcement unit in tracking persons in default under maintenance orders.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Erasmus.

Committee Motion 15-13(7): Appointment of Special Advisor on Residential School Abuse

MR. ERASMUS:

Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Premier appoint a special advisor on residential school abuse to help the Premier and departments develop approaches to deal with these important issues affecting the lives of many northerners and to demonstrate to members of the

general public that this government is serious in its strategies to deal with residential school abuse.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Your motion is in order, but we need a copy of the motion. We will take a short break while we get a copy of the motion.

--Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you. I will call the committee back to order. We are dealing with Motion 15-13(7). Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Premier appoint a special advisor in residential school abuse to help the Premier and departments develop approaches to deal with these important issues affecting the lives of many northerners and to demonstrate to members of the general public that this government is serious in its strategy to deal with residential school abuse.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to call his witnesses. Mr. Kakfwi, would you like to call your witnesses?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to call witnesses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Does the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Can the Minister introduce his witnesses.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left, the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Don Cooper. On my right, the

director of finance and administration for the Department of Justice, Ms. Louise Dundas-Matthews.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments dealing with the Department of Justice. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to comment on the stand alone courthouse. Mr. Chairman, while the committee has recommended that other viable options should also be looked at, I wanted to note that the committee was not fouling out a stand alone courthouse, just that there were other options that came forward or at least one that we knew of. We felt that other options should not be ruled out in the course of determining whether a stand alone courthouse should proceed because the department had come forward with a proposal of a stand alone courthouse and definitely, there is a well demonstrated need to improve the current courthouse in terms of security, office space and all the rest of that. I just wanted to indicate that this recommendation does not rule out a stand alone courthouse. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. It was more of a comment than a question. General comments. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some question in the area of the gun legislation and particularly with regard to safety programs for the communities. I understand that the Canadian Firearms Safety Program has not been instituted in the communities that this government was at one time looking more at having the Hunters and Trappers Associations' delivery of safety programs. I wonder if the Minister could update us on that particular area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Cooper will answer that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The responsibility for firearms testing and the issuing of certificates now has gone to the federal government and it is attempting to put the program in place. I do not have all the details as to exactly what is transpiring with the program right now. I know that the RCMP are involved, they are looking at some cost-effective models and hybrids of how to put the program into effect.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is naturally obvious to have the RCMP be involved perhaps in safety training and so forth, but the moment that we introduce the RCMP into this program, we would have to look at a bill back situation. In essence the territorial government pays for the operation of the policing throughout the territory and because we do not agree with the federal gun legislation, therefore we should not be entering into any areas that cost this government money to institute. The area I am concerned about is whether a safety training program, I am dealing with two issues, I guess. One is the cost factor, if there is a cost factor with the RCMP. Second, is the issue of a safety training program in communities. Who will be delivering that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal government, I believe is going to contract the RCMP directly to carry out work to implement the new gun legislation, so they will pay for all costs to introduce and implement this legislation to put it in place. As far as gun safety is concerned, our government provides basic safety training programs. This does not constitute what is required by the federal government to meet the requirements of that new legislation. For instance, to acquire a licence, to own, possess or purchase a firearm, you need to pass a test. That would be all provided for by the federal government and not by our government. We will continue to provide basic training where possible in the public interest in order

for people to meet the demands of the legislation in acquiring guns. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. What is the wish of the committee? Details. Corporate services, activity summary, page 7-9. Operations and maintenance, \$6.316 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Page 7-11, Corporate services, grants and contributions. Grants, \$40,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Contributions, \$3,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total grants and contributions, \$43,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Law enforcement. Operations and maintenance, \$18.270 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Legal Services Board, page 7-17. Operations and maintenance, \$3.286 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Legal Services Board, grants and contributions, contributions. Total contributions, \$853,000. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The decrease in that amount, is that a reflection of the separation of the Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Legal Services Board, grants and contributions, contributions. Total contributions, \$853,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

For the record, we will go back to Legal Services Board, grants and contributions, contributions. Total contributions, \$853,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Moving to page 7-21, registries and court services. Operations and maintenance, \$8.518 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Moving to 7-23. Registries and court services, grants and contributions, grants. Total grants, \$3,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Page 7-25. Community justice and corrections. Operations and maintenance, \$18.281 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Page 7-27, community justice and corrections, grants and contributions, contributions. Total contributions, \$834,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Details of capital, page 7-28, contributions, headquarters region. Total headquarters region, \$165,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total contributions, \$165,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Other equipment, headquarters region. Total headquarters region, \$160,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total other equipment, \$160,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Land and buildings, headquarters region. Total headquarters region, \$4.000 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Fort Smith region, total Fort Smith region, \$312,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total land and buildings, \$4.312 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total capital, \$4.637 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Information item, page 7-30 active positions. Questions? Detail, work performed on behalf of others. Total department, \$9.762 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Turn back to page 7-7, Department of Justice, program summary, operations and maintenance, \$54.671 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Capital, \$4.637 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total expenditures, \$59.308 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

That concludes Department of Justice. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. I will rise to report progress.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Good evening. We are on item 21 report of committee of the whole. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the committee has been considering Bill 17, and Committee Report 1-13(7) and we would like to report progress with ten motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, we move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meetings tomorrow at 9 a.m. of Caucus and at 10 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, April 27, 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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

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13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 18, Loan Authorization Act, 1999-2000
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 17, Appropriation Act, 1999-2000
 - Committee Report 1-13(7)
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned to Tuesday, April 27, 1999, at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT