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**HANSARD**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Honourable Jim Antoine, Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Erasmus, 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.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Krutko):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Minister's Statement 62-13(7): Ministerial Compensation and Benefits

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a number of questions have been asked in the Legislative Assembly this week with respect to the compensation and benefits that are available to Ministers of this government. Mr. Speaker, the Cabinet for the new Northwest Territories considered this matter at its first planning meeting at Cli Lake on April 7th and 8th, 1999. Since that time, Cabinet has begun a comprehensive review of all aspects of the ministerial compensation package, the Ministerial Policy Manual and the recommendations of the Commission on MLA Compensation.

As a result of our initial review of these matters, work has begun on the development of recommendations to rationalize the compensation and benefits available to Ministers. We expect to consider these recommendations within the next several weeks. Mr. Speaker, these recommendations will deal with all aspects of the ministerial compensation package including: ministerial salaries, expense reimbursements, annual and sick leave, furniture allowance, relocation assistance, furniture disposal, headquarters accommodation reimbursement and home travel. In addition, Mr. Speaker, we will be considering recommendations on the transition

allowances available to outgoing Cabinet Ministers. This is to ensure consistency and transparency in the availability of these allowances.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet is committed to the implementation of a fair, simple, easy to understand and transparent system of compensation and benefits for Cabinet Ministers. As I stated earlier, substantial progress has been made on the development of recommendations to change the current system of compensation for Ministers since the current Members of Cabinet first met in April. We will provide all relevant details of these changes to the Members of this House during the summer sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that our review and resulting changes will be limited to the compensation and benefits available to Ministers. Any changes with respect to MLA compensation are issues that can only be determined by all Members of the Legislative Assembly and must be left to another forum. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Ministers' statements. Mr. Miltenberger.

Minister's Statement: 63-13(7): Surviving Spouse Benefits

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give an update today on the issue of surviving spouse benefits in the Workers' Compensation Act. At the present time, the surviving spouse of a worker killed in the course of his or her employment is entitled to workers' compensation benefits. However, these benefits are terminated if the surviving spouse remarries.

Similar provisions have existed, at one time or another, in all jurisdictions in Canada. Since the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was passed, questions have been raised about the constitutional validity of these provisions. Governments and workers' compensation boards across Canada, and here in the Northwest Territories, have been struggling with appropriate responses to these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, although there have been concerns, there has never been a decided court case on the issue of whether such provisions are constitutional. Since the question of surviving spouse benefits has

been raised by a widow from the Northwest Territories, the Board of Directors of the WCB has decided to obtain a court ruling on the constitutional question. This will then help clarify the need for legislative amendments to deal with the issue. The WCB will be seeking a declaratory judgment on all issues related to the constitutionality of these provisions, Mr. Speaker. In order to get a full hearing of the issues, the WCB will fund all reasonable legal costs and disbursements for one party to argue in favour of the constitutionality of the provisions and another party to argue against their constitutionality.

Once the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories and the Nunavut Courts of Justice have ruled on the matter, the WCB Minister for Nunavut and I will be asking the WCB to provide recommendations on what, if any, legislative amendments are necessary. This appears to be the quickest route for resolving the question of surviving spouse benefits on remarriage. Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the WCB to be fair to workers and their families. I look forward to the results of this court hearing and to a resolution of this issue, hopefully by the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr.

Page 552

Roland.

Minister's Statement 64-13(7): Alaskans Agree to Buy Made in the North Housing Packages

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and announce that the Inupiat Development Corporation, of Alaska's North Slope, has agreed to buy six housing packages from the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. These six homes will contain elements manufactured in the Northwest Territories. Materials will be bought through NWT suppliers and shipped to Alaska down the Mackenzie River on the barges of the Northern Transportation Company Limited. All of these activities create jobs for our constituents. It is expected that contracts for these six housing packages will be signed in the near future following final design changes. The packages should hit the beach at Barrow this July with construction carried out by local labour.

The sale is the direct result of the Corporation's efforts to open new markets for NWT products, designs and services. This is work that has been ongoing for more than a year. Mr. Speaker, when I was an Ordinary Member, I accompanied representatives of the Housing Corporation on a trade mission to Alaska and the Russian Far East. This trade mission was followed by several visits to Alaska by representatives of the Housing Corporation. At that time they presented to the Alaskans, the high level of design and logistics expertise developed over the years by the corporation. To put it simply, Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation showed the Alaskans that it could provide homes for a lower cost than their suppliers in the lower 48 states.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Ootes.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement 162-13(7): Economic Development Strategy Report

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in early February, this government released the much anticipated Economic Strategy Report. We know from discussions of last summer that the contract to develop the strategy had a hefty price tag, some half million dollar figure was bandied about. It was initiated and was to be directed by the former Finance Minister, Mr. Todd.

When the strategy was released, the document was handed over from the Finance Minister to the Minister of RWED, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Kakfwi has made it clear that after he had received the document, that as far as he was concerned the document was only a discussion paper. Although this economic strategy was to cover Nunavut as well, we found out that Nunavut was not waiting for the document and had in fact gone ahead with a process of developing its own economic strategy.

In March of this year, I asked a number of knowledgeable constituents and business people to provide me with feedback on the economic strategy document. They came back with comments that referenced what we started with and where we ended

up. In the original request for proposal several specific terms of reference were outlined:

-that two strategies were to be developed, one for the east and one for the west;

-that specific priorities for investment be outlined;

-that measurable goals and ways for measuring performance be detailed;

-that roles for all stakeholders be clearly defined;

-that the strategy document be developed with and supported by key stakeholders;

-that a communications plan for each strategy be included.

These were just some of the key requirements the contractor was to deliver in the final product of the economic strategy. The report does not provide us with all of these things and it gives us a discussion paper rather than a strategy. The economic paper is full of economic policy declarations and much repetition. There seems to be no guidance in the paper on how to achieve the policy ideas, but this is exactly why an Economic strategy contract was awarded by this government, to provide us with directives that can be implemented and measured. The people that replied to me tell me the document is difficult to read. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do I have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ootes, you have unanimous consent.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people that replied to me tell me that the document is difficult to read. They also stated that it is full of jargon, run-on sentences and convoluted ideals. Minister Kakfwi has said that the document will serve as a basis of discussion and he has emphasized that. He has also stated that he feels it is now essential that this document must go out and he must meet with aboriginal leaders, federal government representatives and business organizations to find out if they can buy into the idea of creating an Economic strategy and to get feedback on the report. It sounds to me like we are back to square one and asking, do we need an Economic

strategy? Mr. Speaker, that should have been the first step last summer before the Economic strategy contract was even awarded. It was also in the terms of reference of the Economic strategy contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 163-13(7): Super Soccer Tournament

Page 553

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little over a week ago Yellowknife was host to the annual major soccer event of the year, Super Soccer. As has been the case over the past few years, many teams from across both our NWT and Nunavut were in attendance. From the people I have talked to, the event was a success and everyone had a very good time. Normally the teams from Rae-Edzo are the ones to beat and as always this was the case again this year. However, we did not have the full contingent we usually have, but the teams that did go did very well and were able to take the championship for the 14 and under boys' category. They played very hard and the community is very proud of the boys as well as all the other teams that represented Rae-Edzo. I would like to congratulate the teams from Rae-Edzo for the fine job they did as well as congratulate the organizers for the excellent work they did again this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 164-13(7): Aboriginal Peoples Television Network

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to inform the House of a new national television network. In February of this year the CRTC approved the application from the APTV, which is the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, to operate a national aboriginal television network. This network will come into effect in

September of this year. The application for this new television network was made by TVNC, which is Television Northern Canada who, over the next few months, will transform itself into the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

Mr. Speaker, what makes this so unique is that this network will offer aboriginal programming to all regions in Canada as well as offer international, indigenous programming to viewers. This is especially significant for Northerners to be proud of and will offer viewers in the North a television network free of charge. Southern viewers will be offered the same service at a cost of 15 cents per month. Unlike southern viewers, Northerners will have access to a special northern feed which means that viewers in the North will continue to be offered northern-specific programming such as the Legislative Assembly proceedings and distance-education programming. This will ensure viewers, particularly aboriginal people, a network with northern content.

The greatest benefit, Mr. Speaker, is that viewers in the North will now have access to other southern and international aboriginal-based programming that they would not otherwise be able to view. Like many residents of the North, I welcome this new addition to northern television, particularly on behalf of aboriginal people and look forward to viewing this network when it comes on-line in September. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 165-13(7): Government Contracting Irregularities

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have recently heard in the media that a former government employee within the Fort Simpson region has been charged with receiving some sort of remuneration in return for the award of service contracts in the Fort Simpson area. As a former engineer with Municipal and Community Affairs, I am going to be very curious to find out, Mr. Speaker, how the department was involved in this investigation. It would be interesting also to know whether these contracts were publicly tendered or negotiated contracts because it strikes at the whole issue of contracts in our government, which has always been a source of much debate and consideration. I will be curious to know what kind of

values were involved with these contracts. These contracts apparently were awarded within a specific time frame so, I am also concerned about this because companies in my community rely on the ability to bid on and win the contracts in this area. This may be evidence to us of how widespread this practice may be within the government departments who are responsible for awarding contracts.

Mr. Speaker, it is not only unfair to other potential bidders, but it is also an irresponsible handling of public funds. One would think, Mr. Speaker, that if these are service contracts that are multi-year contracts, we need to know not only about the employee who received remunerations from the government, but also, we need to know about the companies that were offering this as an incentive to receive these contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. As a reminder to Members and the House, if any matter is before the court or judiciary system we are not allowed to debate it in this House. Please keep that in mind. Members' statements. Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 166-13(7): Generosity of the Yellowknife Business Community

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said on a couple of occasions, I like to give acknowledgement when it is in order. Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the local business community. The Yellowknife businesses, Mr. Speaker, provide a good service. Additionally, they often give, give and give again. By this I mean that they are behind the scenes making local events possible. They donate gifts, gift certificates, prizes, money, services and many of them sponsor community events and recreational and athletic teams such as baseball teams and that sort of thing. I am told that they get an amazing number and variety of requests. Some places get three to five requests per week and, in fact, some businesses get daily requests. Mr. Speaker, despite the doom and gloom about businesses closing in Yellowknife, many people, including myself, have been amazed at the generosity of the Yellowknife businesses.

--Applause

For example, the Youth Parliament here in May is partially made possible through the generosity of the

airlines helping them to come from the communities to Yellowknife to participate in the Youth Assembly. Folk on the Rocks, Raven Mad Daze, you name it, whenever events like this occur, you always see lists of acknowledgement in the papers. Mr. Speaker, it is really true that

Page 554

there is a multiplier effect when you spend your dollars locally. The dollars stay in the North and there is also the hidden benefit of assisting the local business community to provide a little more to these local events. Mr. Speaker, this statement is made to recognize the businesses. On behalf of the public and especially the volunteers who are continually asking for donations for various projects, I would like to applaud and to thank the local business community. Thank you.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 167-13(7): Recognition of Martha Harry and Canada Highway Stamp Set

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize one of Inuvik's most treasured elders, Mrs. Martha Harry. Miss Martha Simon was born on January 12, 1918. She met and fell in love with Mr. George Harry and they were married in Aklavik on March 17, 1939. The couple had 12 children. Five of their children are still alive. They are: Mr. Leonard Harry, Ms. Lillian Elias, Ms. Valerie Steffanson, Ms. Susan Pepper and Mr. Harold (Eben) Harry.

Mrs. Harry is well known for her drum dancing. Her great aunt began teaching her to drum dance when she was about four years old. Her son, Mr. Leonard Harry, says that children were taught the dances as a part of their education. Mrs. Harry knows the dances of long ago. She was happy when she and her husband were approached in the late 1980s to see if they would be willing to teach drum dancing. That was when they began teaching drum dancing sessions in their own home on Co-op Hill in Inuvik.

When they first began, there were only a few people that came to their house for the sessions and they were: Mr. Wilbert Papik, Ms. Debbie Gordon-Ruben, Mr. Leonard Harry, Mr. George Harry and Mrs. Harry.

Mrs. Harry would drum on a piece of cardboard or a garbage can lid and Mr. George Harry would teach the dances. Ms. Gordon-Ruben knew some of the dances, Mr. Papik was very shy and Mr. Leonard Harry liked to yell out during the dances. Mr. Leonard Harry made about 40 phone calls asking if people were interested in learning to drum dance and invited them to come to his parents' home. Everyone he contacted said that they were interested, not one person said no. They began with about five people, soon their home would be filled with people and sometimes there would be no room in the living room because so many people wanted to learn.

Mrs. Harry has travelled to Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, British Columbia, Rankin Inlet, Kugluktuk, Whitehorse and Point Barrow, Alaska for drum dancing. She has met many people in her travels because of her interest and desire for teaching drum dancing. Mrs. Harry is a permanent and honoured member of the Inuvik Elders Committee and was given an award from the ICC Elders Committee in 1997 during a workshop. She was named the Elder Role Model of the Year for 1997. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Member for Inuvik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do I have any nays? I have no nays. Mr. Roland, you have unanimous consent.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. On one of the stamps that Canada Post has recently released, we have this wonderful opportunity to show this treasured elder, Mrs. Martha Harry. These stamps are a part of the 1998 Scenic Canada Highway Stamp Set. Mrs. Harry is shown drum dancing and behind her is the Dempster Highway. The stamps are now available and the people of Inuvik are very proud to have Mrs. Harry representing them.

Mrs. Harry and her children are well known throughout the Delta for their warm laughter, their friendly smiles and especially their kindness. When sitting with her and her family you will hear interesting stories, fond memories of her late husband, their grandparents, and always, always hear their laughter. Thank you, Mrs. Harry, for giving us so much to be proud of and for your willingness to share more knowledge of the Delta tradition and culture. We

appreciate all that you continue to do and for being the wonderful person that you are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was an oral question asked by Mr. Morin on April 26th in regard to ministerial authority to purchase arts and crafts. As all Members are aware, the creation of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development involved the amalgamation of the former Department of Economic Development and Tourism. One of the goals of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism was to increase job and income opportunities in the arts and crafts sector. As a result, the department has historically been involved in the purchase of arts and crafts in all ridings throughout the Northwest Territories. Likewise, the goal of the NWT Development Corporation is to stimulate growth of businesses in the NWT and to promote economic diversification and stability, including the arts and crafts industry.

Clearly the Department of RWED, the NWT Development Corporation and the Minister responsible for both are mandated to purchase products from NWT artisans and crafts people for promotional purposes, such as displays at trade shows, art festivals and international conferences. As far as other departments or Ministers are concerned, if the purchase of arts and crafts assist in meeting departmental or governmental objectives, it would fall within the scope of their authority.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

Page 555

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my daughter, who is up here visiting me in Yellowknife today, Jillian.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

At this time I would like to recognize a former Member of the House, Ms. Lynda Sorensen.

--Applause

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 190-13(7): Economic Development Strategy Report

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I made a statement today regarding to the economic strategy document and I have a number of questions in that area for Mr. Kakfwi. My first question for the Minister is, to the Minister's best knowledge, did the contractor fulfil all the guidelines and terms of reference as stipulated in the contract agreement? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 190-13(7): Economic Development Strategy Report

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the former Premier had given direction that the former Finance Minister, Mr. Todd, take the lead in developing the economic strategy. I believe a call for proposal was made sometime in the early months of 1998. I was not involved as a Minister in that initiative and the definition of it. I am unable to answer the question. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 190-13(7): Economic Development Strategy Report

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell me what department may have paid for the economic strategy?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 190-13(7): Economic Development Strategy Report

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I am not able to answer to answer that question either. I will take it as notice.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

Question 191-13(7): Public Works Contract Management

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for Mr. Steen and I will take into account your comments with regard to matters that are being considered before the courts so I will try to make the questions of a very general nature. Mr. Speaker, what measures does the Minister have in place to ensure that contracts awarded by the department that he oversees, are not affected by bribes and kickbacks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 191-13(7): Public Works Contract Management

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information at my fingertips, I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 192-13(7): Court Decision on WCB Benefit

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. It is in relation to his statement on the surviving spouse benefits. Is the Minister aware that the Human Rights Commission in Alberta recently indicated that it may be unconstitutional to provide more benefits to people if they are a widow or widower in relation to other people who are not married and still have children to raise. Is he aware of that recent decision that came down about two weeks ago?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 192-13(7): Court Decision on WCB Benefit

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, I am not. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 192-13(7): Court Decision on WCB Benefit

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to provide the Minister with the name of the decision. It indicates that perhaps, giving widows and widowers a pension in addition to what other people would be able to get for raising their children, is unconstitutional. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 192-13(7): Court Decision on WCB Benefit

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member's offer. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**



Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Page 556

Question 193-13(7): WCB Surviving Spouse Benefits

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully the Minister will be able to dispose of my questions on the same topic as Mr. Erasmus asked. My questions are for the Honourable Mr. Miltenberger, on his comments today on surviving spouse benefits through the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, how much money is he talking about or does he have a figure on how much the cost of this action will take to find out if the Workers' Compensation Board should remunerate the widow of a deceased employee? How much will this action cost? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 193-13(7): WCB Surviving Spouse Benefits

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the last three and a half years, my experience with lawyers would cause me to say I have no idea what it would cost, but it would probably be in the five to six figures. This would just be a layman's guess. I can indicate to the Member that there are significant amounts of money sitting there waiting for widows. That and fairness in this area is what is driving this issue. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 193-13(7): WCB Surviving Spouse Benefits

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, he has noted that there has been a request from the widow of a deceased worker. Can the Minister tell me the number of requests that he has had, or is this the first request that has come in and we are going to get the lawyers involved? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 193-13(7): WCB Surviving Spouse Benefits

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue before us with the Workers' Compensation Board, is the fact that the current legislation precludes us from paying widows should they choose to remarry. We are looking for a way, an expeditious way, to address that issue. Now that we are two jurisdictions, legislative changes are significantly more time-consuming to enact. We have limited time as an Assembly to do that. We are hoping that by choosing the route for seeking a declaratory judgement from the court, to indicate that, yes, our current legislation which precludes us from paying widows who remarry is unconstitutional will give us the leverage to move ahead in a timely fashion to address the issue. Other jurisdictions have in fact taken that step. We are aware of the situation, but we do not have the legal means to honour the need to address the issue of widows that remarry. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 193-13(7): WCB Surviving Spouse Benefits

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that the funds that the Workers' Compensation Board collects go to worthy causes, like looking after work for lawyers. My question, Mr. Speaker, is did the Workers' Compensation Board do a cost analysis of what it would have taken to resolve this issue by paying the annual figures out to the parties that have requested them, as opposed to getting a ruling from the court and having additional parties involved and financing that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 193-13(7): WCB Surviving Spouse Benefits

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if I have not been clear in my response. The current legislation precludes the board from in fact doing that. This has been checked into and what is required is a change in legislation. We are not in a position at this point to bring forward in a timely manner changes to legislation. A way to speed that process up in our opinion, is a seeking of a declaratory judgement which would give us the legal basis to move ahead with paying spouses. As it now stands, our legislation, which is outdated, does not give the board that authority. They would, in fact, be contravening their own legislation. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 193-13(7): WCB  
Surviving Spouse Benefits

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that clarification. Has the Workers' Compensation Board checked with other jurisdictions to find out what they do, regardless of what our legislation says? Has the Workers' Compensation Board checked with other jurisdictions to find out what they do in similar circumstances? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 193-13(7): WCB  
Surviving Spouse Benefits

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker. There has been a thorough review of this issue across Canada and in all other jurisdictions. All other jurisdictions at one point or another, in the past or the recent past, have taken steps to ensure that the legislative basis upon which the WCBs in their jurisdictions operate reflect the need to address this issue. Our legislation does not at this point. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Page 557

Question 194-13(7): Review of Business Incentive  
Policies

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for RWED. Mr. Minister, as you are aware, there have been many attempts in the past to look at the Business Incentive Policy as well as the Manufacturing Policy. The problem our contractors and manufactures are having in the Nunavut Territory as well as other parts of Canada, is the ability to bid successfully and to be able to succeed in getting the work. My understanding is that as of today, the door to Nunavut is shut to western business contractors. The door is shut to our manufacturers as well. My understanding is that the Nunavut Government directed contractors that were going to bring in tanks from Fibreglass North, to now bring them in from Winnipeg. Is the Minister going to be doing any more work on the Business Incentive Policy and the Manufacturing Policy? Will we see in the life of this term, in this Assembly, any more initiative from this government on the whole issue of the Manufacturing and the Business Incentive Policies? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 194-13(7): Review of Business  
Incentive Policies

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will not be anything specific that we will do regarding the Business Incentive Policy or the Manufacturing Policy. We will be talking with the Nunavut Government to ensure that the relationship that we established will see that we treat our businesses and our companies in a way that would benefit both territories. We are interested in ensuring that we continue to do good business, even though we are now two separate territories, business in a way that would mutually benefit both business communities. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 194-13(7): Review of  
Business Incentive Policies

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do wish the government and the Minister the best of luck in their deliberations with the Nunavut Government. We are all politicians here and we all understand who we represent and what our constituents expect of us. I would not be holding my breath too long, Mr. Speaker, hoping that the Nunavut government would be awarding contracts to western contractors or western manufacturers at a premium price over southern manufacturers. We are no longer part of the whole Northwest Territories that did exist prior to April 1, 1999. The Minister is quite correct when he says there are two separate governments now, the Nunavut government is separate.

We have to start looking, Mr. Speaker, at our own contractors, our own manufacturers, to enable them to compete in Nunavut or the Yukon Territory and southern Canada. Will the Minister commit to taking a serious look with the private sector at our Manufacturing Policy and our Business Incentive Policy to enhance it and make it work so that it has measurable, measurable benefits to the west, and also so that it ensures that our people compete on even footing with other contractors from southern Canada and Nunavut? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 194-13(7): Review of Business Incentive Policies

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is work underway now to look at the Procurement Policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories and under that we will be looking at our policies such as the Manufacturing Policy and the Business Incentive Policy. We will be looking at it in terms of the overall Procurement Policy that this government has. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 194-13(7): Review of Business Incentive Policies

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that commitment of looking at the Procurement Policy, and the Manufacturing Policy and Business Incentive Policy fitting underneath the overall Procurement Policy of the Northwest Territories' government. But, Mr. Speaker, as you are aware and the Minister is aware, as well as every other Member of this House, it is now, May 12th today. Construction season starts when the snow leaves, building season starts when the snow leaves. It is springtime, we are into our new capital commitments to the Northwest Territories, building roads, building buildings, and it does not do us a lot of good just to look at the policy, what we have to do is to do something about it.

Would you be able to, as a Minister and as this government, take action to ensure that the drainage to southern Canada ceases from the Northwest Territories? Our people are capable, more than capable of doing the work in the Northwest Territories. As well, to make sure that our manufacturers and our contractors are on an even footing when they compete with southern Canada and the new Nunavut Territory. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 194-13(7): Review of Business Incentive Policies

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be reviewing that. As the Member suggests, we are contracting for services with the Government of Nunavut, a substantial number of services are still being provided by our government to the Government of Nunavut, and we will be taking a positive role in ensuring that Nunavut residents continue to get good services as they are setting up their government. We will continue to work with them to ensure that there are economic opportunities and ways in which we can interact with them in a business relationship and economically, we will explore that and those discussions will continue. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Page 558

Supplementary To Question 194-13(7): Review of Business Incentive Policies

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am well aware, Mr. Speaker, that we do supply services to the Nunavut government and the Nunavut government is a customer of this government, basically, we are supplying a service. I am well aware of that and I congratulate and commend the government for assisting our neighbours to the east, but also I am well aware, Mr. Speaker, that our contractors and our manufacturers in the Western Arctic are basically having the door shut in their face in being able to tender or get any work in the Nunavut Territory. Will the Minister assure this House and make a commitment that not only will he look at the Procurement Policy of this government, but that they may attempt to do something about the policy to correct it prior to the construction season going into full swing? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 194-13(7): Review of Business Incentive Policies

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, we will continue to work with the Government of Nunavut. There are meetings being set up, the Premiers are planning to meet very shortly, for instance, and there will be an agenda and I am sure the items that the Member has raised will be part of the discussions that are ongoing right now. We are paying attention to the issues that the Member is raising. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 195-13(7): Expanded Down Payment Program Budget

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow up to Mr. Morin's questions, and somewhat in relation to them, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation how much was budgeted for the MDAP program? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 195-13(7): Expanded Down Payment Program Budget

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The initial amount that was budgeted for the MDAP when it was announced, was \$2 million, but I would have to check back to the information and make sure I have that accurate. I know it has gone above that since we extended it. It was initially to end March 31st but we have extended it to the end of June, so I know the numbers have gone above that. I think we are in the area of over \$3 million into that program now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 195-13(7): Expanded Down Payment Program Budget

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you. The Minister answered what my second question was, and that is how much have we spent today, approximately, on the MDAP program, and he has answered that it is around \$3 million. Is there going to be a cap on the amount of dollars expended by the NWT Housing Corporation on the MDAP program? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 195-13(7): Expanded Down Payment Program Budget

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that initial amount that was put out there, we did go back and have approval for a limit. If we go over that limit, then the Housing Corporation will have to start using it from its existing resources, so there will not be any new money, for example, being appropriated for this one. The program was announced in the previous year, I believe supplementary funding was given for the program. Anything that would go over that would come from within and, in speaking to the president of the Housing Corporation, he did raise that concern, if

we were getting close to our limit we would have to relook at that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 195-13(7): Expanded Down Payment Program Budget

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am curious about how that was budgeted for, but that is a whole other subject we will have to take up on another day. My concern is, Mr. Speaker, we have heard a little bit about some of the economic benefits of the MDAP program. I believe the previous Minister alluded to them, but I am just curious, based on what it costs on average to build a new home in the Western Arctic in a community, how many houses could have been constructed with spinoff to contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, shippers, craters, local employment benefits to small communities had these dollars been spent on construction in small communities where the need for housing is the greatest? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 195-13(7): Expanded Down Payment Program Budget

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the MDAP has created other economic development in communities where people have bought new homes and have further gone into repair, so there has been other activity created by the purchase of homes where new owners would go in and if it is renovation, if it is a kitchen area, if it is replacement of windows, and so on, so there has been the creation of some economic spinoffs because of this program. Just to be a little more clear, right now, in the areas throughout the whole territory, before we split off, this is as of March 15th, the numbers were at, for total

Page 559

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 195-13(7): Expanded Down Payment Program Budget

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it the intention of the Minister and the NWT Housing Corporation to do a post-mortem on this program? I hear him allude to the benefits by people upgrading homes and so on, but we are well aware of the benefits of new home construction. We may not be as aware of the benefits of remodeling, if required. I am sure many homes that were purchased did not require any upgrading, so is a post-mortem going to be done on this to determine whether or not this was good value for money at \$3.9 million? Also, whether or not this money was equitably spread over the Western Territory, because I do believe that there were only a few communities that really benefitted from this program when, in fact, perhaps it could have been a little more equitably distributed so that some of the other communities could have benefitted as well. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 195-13(7): Expanded Down Payment Program Budget

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member did hit on an area that is one that does stand out. When we reviewed the numbers, there have been a number of communities that have accessed this program and it has definitely been accessed more heavily in the larger areas, for example, Yellowknife, Hay River, and to a certain degree, the community of Inuvik, have accessed this program more than the smaller communities. I do know that, again, as of the middle of March, the amount of funding or house sales in the Western Territory is around the \$40 million figure, so it has generated a fair amount of spinoff from that investment. But, as I say, we are concerned that we will go over our limit and we will have to look at that because as we know in these fiscal times we have to be very careful with where we expend our money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 196-13(7): Consultation on the Economic Strategy

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had questions earlier in regard to the Economic strategy and I have some different questions on the Economic strategy for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi. I wonder if the Minister could tell us, when the Minister received the document it had become a discussion paper and the Minister felt it appropriate to do consultation with stakeholder groups, which I think is certainly warranted and should have been part of the original mandate to fulfil. In any event, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if he has initiated those steps to consult with the stakeholder groups, the aboriginal groups, the various municipal governments and the economic associations, such as the business organizations. Could the Minister tell us that, please? Thank you

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 196-13(7): Consultation on the Economic Strategy

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier has given the responsibility for developing an Economic strategy to myself as a Minister, in February. Since then, the Premier and myself have both taken up the work of meeting with various aboriginal organizations, regional organizations, the Aboriginal Summit, as well as business leaders, to lay out the approach we want to take. The approach is to ask for the aboriginal organizations and the federal government, in the first instance, to buy into the idea of developing one Economic strategy, that the aboriginal leaders could support and develop, that could be supported by this government as well as the federal government. Then to lay out a process whereby we could get community leaders, individual communities and regions, the business community, as well as other stakeholders to get involved in a process to help us develop a vision, and process as well as a timetable to develop such a strategy. We are still having discussions with various aboriginal organizations and stakeholders to make sure we have sufficient support to begin the process and within the

next few weeks, hopefully, we will be in a position to say emphatically that we have agreement to proceed. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 196-13(7): Consultation on the Economic Strategy

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of areas that the Economic strategy should happen, perhaps did, but I think could have been more pronounced and focused in the Economic strategy. One of the areas, for example, is the oil and gas sector and the mineral sector. The oil and gas sector, by way of example, Mr. Speaker, there are 330 billion barrels of oil sitting on the Beaufort and that is, by the way, one and a half times what Alberta produced and reserved that they still have left. We exceed Alberta's by a far amount. The gas reserves are 126 trillion cubic feet Which is approximately three quarters of Alberta's reserves. That is an area of Economic strategy that should be part and parcel to this. Could the Minister tell us, in his consultations, if he will or is looking into this particular development, because that can be the salvation of this Territory? Thank you.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 196-13(7): Consultation on the Economic Strategy

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sectors of the economy that involve oil and gas, mining and tourism at this time appear to be the sectors that have the

Page 560

greatest potential for creating immediate economic activity that could be of benefit to the aboriginal communities, the territories as a whole, to the business community, as well as this government. Yes, we are prepared to focus very specifically once the aboriginal communities and regions and other communities within the territory agree on the

approach. We believe that is exactly what is going to happen. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 196-13(7): Consultation on the Economic Strategy

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you. Yes, I certainly agree with the Minister that this can be a tremendous opportunity for the aboriginal groups to be the leaders and the driving force in and of great benefit to the aboriginal organizations and groups, as well as this government and business groups. In my understanding it was not delved into in great depth in the Economic Strategy originally. Can the Minister tell us if he is pursuing that in a more constructive way to identify? The Minister's group of people are well versed in this whole area. I wonder if he can tell us if he is going to capitalize on the knowledge that his group has to try and build that into the Economic Strategy and consultation paper because I think that is needed.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 196-13(7): Consultation on the Economic Strategy

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working with communities in the Deh Cho, communities in the Sahtu and are keeping an eye on the potential activity that could return to the Beaufort in the oil and gas sector. We have been taking a very proactive approach in making sure we are abreast of the developments within the federal government in regard to oil and gas activity here in the Northwest Territories. We have taken the initiative to work with communities such as Fort Liard, Fort Good Hope, Tulita, Norman Wells and other communities that are interested and taking the initiative to get involved in working with oil companies and, working with these sectors to look at ways in which we can realize the potential for benefits from oil and gas activity here in the Northwest Territories. Yes, we have already been working with some of our communities.

The approach we would like to see is for more of the communities to indicate that they want to be taking part in the economic development of the resources and to discuss ways in which we can work as partners in making sure that the benefits, jobs, flow to our aboriginal communities, our northern communities, our businesses and to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 196-13(7): Consultation on the Economic Strategy

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the Minister has a very experienced and capable group within his department that can put together a very persuasive package. I wonder if he is able to take that package and address it with Minister Stewart in Ottawa on the potential of the oil and gas and the mineral activity here in the Northwest Territories so that, while we have to ensure that the aboriginal groups are on side on this, I also feel at this particular time we have to ensure that Minister Stewart in Ottawa is very cognizant and aware of the tremendous potential that this can have on the country as a whole. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 196-13(7): Consultation on the Economic Strategy

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the Minister Ms. Jane Stewart is convinced, after three years or so of study by her officials that there is one thing that is absolutely clear, that none of the officials working for the federal government in Ottawa responsible for oil and gas and mineral activity in the Northwest Territory, that not one of them is interested one bit in working or living here in the Northwest Territories. We also know that they would be totally demoralized if it were even suggested that they have to live and work in the area where they carry out their responsibilities every day. I believe that the good Minister, Ms. Jane Stewart, will make a decision in the next few weeks that will see the moving of positions from Ottawa to the North so that the people who are

responsible within the federal government for administering oil and gas activities, for giving out permits and exploration licenses, will finally have to live and work here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 197-13(7): Eliminating Cigarette Vending Machines

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, a couple of months ago we had an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Cancer Society. They had given us a small briefing, I suppose you could call it, on smoking and possible things that could be implemented in the North, some of which would not cost very much and which could be very helpful particularly to stop children from smoking. We all know how damaging smoking is to people healthwise, people getting cancer, emphysema, that sort of thing and how expensive it is to the government.

One of the suggestions that was made was to ban vending machines in the Northwest Territories. This has been done in Ontario and Nova Scotia. I was wondering if the Minister would consider making it illegal to have vending machines in the North because vending machines, of course, anybody can throw their money into a machine and buy a package of cigarettes, and there is no way of telling how old a person is that is buying the

Page 561

cigarettes. I was wondering if the Minister would consider making it illegal to sell cigarettes through vending machines in the territories? Thank you.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 197-13(7): Eliminating Cigarette Vending Machines

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the area of tobacco and tobacco cessation is a large one for the department. We are concerned, and as I stated in my Minister's statement on the health forum, that is one of the areas where we see it as being a preventable illness, the impacts of smoking. I would indeed consider what the Member has just stated and will be discussing it with my Cabinet colleagues to see what options are before us in the area of reducing vending machines that would deliver smoking products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 197-13(7): Eliminating Cigarette Vending Machines

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another suggestion that was brought up and which is actually done nationwide in the United States is to require retailers to ask for photo ID from all customers who appear to be under the age of 25. This is because a lot of people look older than their age and it is now illegal to sell tobacco products to people who are under the age of 19. Would the Minister also take a look at this particular issue of requiring retailers to ask for photo ID's from customers who appear to be under the age of 25? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Further Return To Question 197-13(7): Eliminating Cigarette Vending Machines

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that there is now a request that vendors have to require ID if they feel that the person buying the products is under the age limit that is out there right now. The area of photo IDs is something I think this government is trying to deal with, trying to make the photo IDs more available. We could definitely look at that as well to see what can be done and be done in a way that would be cost-effective to this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**



Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 197-13(7): Eliminating Cigarette Vending Machines

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another suggestion that seemed very, very logical in trying to stop young children from being enticed to smoke is to ban candy cigarettes and other imitation tobacco products. Would the Minister also undertake to look into this suggestion? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 197-13(7): Eliminating Cigarette Vending Machines

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again the area of smoking and products being available to the younger ages is of concern to this government and myself as Minister. The area of trying to stop candy products that come in the form of cigarettes is an area I think we definitely have to have a look at to see what can be done. I am not sure if we can limit candy sales. The Member has stated that they have banned it in other areas, and I will have the department look at that to see what is done in other areas and what implications there would be for this government. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 198-13(7): Wildlife Act Residency Requirements

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of RWED. Mr. Speaker, a number of times in the life of this Legislature I have questioned the Minister on making changes to the Wildlife Act, which would permit RCMP and armed forces personnel to be able to hunt in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, the Minister informed me over the last four years that there was quite a backlog of legislation to prepare for Nunavut and now that division has taken place, I would like the Minister to

tell me when the changes that he committed to a review of the Wildlife Act, when those changes would be presented for public consultation or for review of this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 198-13(7): Wildlife Act Residency Requirements

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have indicated a number of times, we had elected to wait until division to begin work on drafting a discussion paper that would lead to the drafting of a new Wildlife Act for the new Western Territory. Our officials have begun discussions that would lead to the development of a discussion paper, which I hope will be released later this year that could lead to work, for instance, with the aboriginal communities because of their constitutional rights to bind to a process, to draft a new Wildlife Act and have that perhaps ready to be considered as new legislation sometime in the year 2000. The specific request made by the Member, I think, would be considered in that process. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 198-13(7): Wildlife Act Residency Requirements

Page 562

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my information indicates that, in fact, the RCMP and DND personnel who are posted to other parts of the country are permitted to hunt much sooner than a normal person moving to an area. The Minister had indicated that it is under review right now, but I do not believe he indicated as to when he would be bringing it forward in legislation. Could the Minister indicate again if he did not do it in the past, when will the legislation or the discussion paper be brought forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 198-13(7): Wildlife Act Residency Requirements

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the Wildlife Act that we have now is very outdated. It does not adequately reflect, for instance, the land claims agreements of the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu. It does not reflect the fact that we have a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. There are sections of it that are extremely outdated. When we undertake the drafting of new legislation, it would have to be preceded by extensive discussions with the aboriginal stakeholders, as well as the overall community of the Northwest Territories. The initial part of the work, the consultation, will probably be the most extensive part. I am sure the point that the Member raised will be considered in that process. I hope that with the initial positive response by the Dene chiefs to setting up an intergovernmental forum and the commitment to work with this government through that forum, as well as interest by the other aboriginal leaders in working on common issues with this government, that we can see a discussion process start this year and, as I have said, with legislation being drafted for consideration some time next year, in the year 2000. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 198-13(7): Wildlife Act Residency Requirements

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am talking about is extending these hunting privileges to RCMP and DND personnel while stationed in the Northwest Territories and I accept the fact that where there are already settled claims, they should have the permission of that particular group to hunt or to be on that particular land. It is the public lands that I am talking about, Mr. Speaker, that allowing these particular groups of individuals who are not necessarily here because of choice, but because they are posted here, to have them given the right to hunt on these public lands. Could the Minister tell me if, in fact, the GNWT has the responsibility over those lands, not the aboriginal claimant lands, to allow hunting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 198-13(7): Wildlife Act Residency Requirements

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The most elementary of all aboriginal rights, I think, as, even former Prime Minister Trudeau said back in 1973, is hunting and trapping. Those are constitutionally entrenched rights within the claims, within the treaties. It is important that, when we talk about access to hunting and harvesting of wildlife anywhere in the Northwest Territories, we must always take into consideration the rights of aboriginal people. It is our obligation to consult with them on any changes that we make in regard to management, harvesting and anything that would have an impact on the hunting and trapping rights of aboriginal people. We would have to take an overall approach to ensure that everything is balanced and consistent and considered in developing the legislation. We have to stop doing patchwork and remedial work on this rather outdated act. I am unable, unfortunately, to give a specific response to the Member. I know he has been raising it for some time. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 199-13(7): Ministerial Compensation and Benefits

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier. Before I ask my questions, I would like to commend the Premier for his Minister's statement today on ministerial compensation and benefits. This is another indication of the forthright and responsive way that this Premier responds to concerns from this side of the House, so I want to thank you for that statement.

--Applause

I would like to ask a couple of questions with regard to that statement. Mr. Speaker, is it only Cabinet Ministers who decide on ministerial benefits? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 199-13(7): Ministerial  
Compensation and Benefits

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you. Yes.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 199-13(7): Ministerial  
Compensation and Benefits

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you. I understand, then, that benefits available to the Cabinet Ministers are not brought to the House and decided on by the whole Legislative Assembly, that, in fact, it is determined from within the Cabinet and decided there and there alone, is that what I am hearing? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 199-13(7): Ministerial  
Compensation and Benefits

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you. Some of the benefits are from policies that govern Cabinet. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs.

Page 563

Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 199-13(7): Ministerial  
Compensation and Benefits

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then, further to that, who actually approves the expenditures with respect to ministerial benefits, for example, these severance packages which were approved for the Nunavut Members. Who would actually approve that within the policy? Would that go to Cabinet or is it approved by the Secretary of Cabinet, or how is that handled? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 199-13(7): Ministerial  
Compensation and Benefits

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the severance packages for the Ministers just follows the policy so it does not necessarily come from Cabinet, the decision, it just follows the policy. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mrs.  
Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 199-13(7): Ministerial  
Compensation and Benefits

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know then, if in the specific instance of the Nunavut Cabinet Ministers who retired days before the end of their term, whether or not that was approved by Cabinet and whether or not, in fact, in essence, the Nunavut Members who are now re-elected to the Nunavut government, are not on both payrolls at this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 199-13(7): Ministerial  
Compensation and Benefits

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the policy itself was approved by Cabinet. The severance payout was administered according to the policies. I think you had two questions there. I think the second question was that to the Nunavut Ministers, they resigned, two of them resigned on a Friday, two resigned on a Monday and, yes, the four of them are eligible for the severance benefits. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 200-13(7): Value - Added Industry for Diavik

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is again for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It seems that our economic life revolves around the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and my question relates somewhat to that department again. It is to do with the proposed Diavik project which came out with a draft of the environmental report in the past week, I believe. Of concern, of course, to us here are the added benefits of diamond mining, the spinoff benefits such as the valuation plants, the cutting plants, the manufacturing industries. DIAND is not interested in addressing this issue so we have to take up that gauntlet and say we are going to do it. Now, I wonder if the Minister, in considering this environmental report, have we had satisfaction in the socio-economic report for Diavik that this issue has been addressed adequately? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 200-13(7): Value - Added Industry for Diavik

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The company, Diavik, is applying to the federal government for a licence to begin mining diamonds within the year. It is my expectation that the federal government will decide within a month or two on whether they will issue the licence and what terms and conditions will be attached to the licence. It is my view that Diavik will be expected to provide for some value-added activity by ensuring that valuation of their diamonds by government will be done off-site in one of our communities, off the mine site.

--Applause

That they will be required or will be expected to ensure that some of the diamonds that would be considered economical to cut and polish in the North will be provided to northern businesses for cutting and polishing here in the Northwest Territories.

--Applause

I expect that the federal government and our government will find a way to make that clear to Diavik, and that Diavik will realize that it is essential to

good business for them to provide for that and indicate that as soon as possible. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 200-13(7): Value - Added Industry for Diavik

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell us if the federal government does not take and ensure these steps, for example, that we get access to 10 percent of the rough so that we could build our industries here in the Northwest Territories, as a start, that should be conditional, we should have a minimum 10 percent as a start. What steps, can the Minister tell us, we can take in the event that the federal government does not address this very, very important issue? The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs is responsible for northern development, that says to me, the economic development. Therefore, why are they not concerned about this? Can the Minister tell me what steps we will take in the event that the federal government does not take appropriate steps to protect our northern interests? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Page 564

Further Return To Question 200-13(7): Value - Added Industry for Diavik

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There used to be a symbol, and I think it is still there, for the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada. I believe the symbol might be still there under the Assembly of First Nations. It is has a huge peace pipe that is sitting alongside a war club and it denotes the policy of chiefs of Canada, that always in the first instance when you are intending to do business with anybody, you take down the pipe, with the expectation that is all you need to do to make sure that common sense prevails and that there is a good relationship established and an understanding that flows from that. It has always been said by the elders of that organization that never once have they ever had to take down the war club. It is my view that common sense will prevail and that

there is no need to flex our muscles and do the other things that we may need to consider. I believe we should take a positive attitude so that groups like Rio Tinto, partners in Diavik, Aber Resources, the federal government and ourselves will in the end come to an agreement that will be of benefit to everyone so that we can get on with the business of developing the resources of the North that will have profound benefits for aboriginal communities as well as this government and the business community of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Question period is over, but I will allow Mr. Ootes to conclude his supplementaries. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 200-13(7): Value - Added Industry for Diavik

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is appreciated. This is an important subject. I wonder if the Minister can tell us if some identification has been made in the socio-economic agreement with regard to the value-added industry, if a percentage of the rough has been identified. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 200-13(7): Value - Added Industry for Diavik

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are discussing with Diavik a socio-economic agreement and we hope to conclude that by the end of this month. We are proposing to include sections or clauses in there that would provide for value-added activity, that is specifically ensuring that some of the production that comes from the mine that is economical to cut and polish in the North be provided for the North for our businesses and for cutting and polishing here in the Northwest Territories. Exactly what the provisions will be are not specific, but they will be intended to give us assurance that, yes, we will try to get some portion of the diamond productions for value-added activity here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 200-13(7): Value - Added Industry for Diavik

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us when the socio-economic agreement may come to a conclusion? I missed that particular part of his answer. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 200-13(7): Value - Added Industry for Diavik

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hope to conclude the socio-economic agreement with Diavik within the next two to three weeks. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to recognition of visitors in the gallery.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Member from Hay River is seeking unanimous consent to return to recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mrs. Groenewegen, you have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize Mr. Cameron Clement, President of Northern Transportation Company, a large corporate constituent in my riding. Thank you.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Roland.

#### ITEM 13: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 49-13(7): A National Children's Agenda: Measuring Child Well-Being and Monitoring Progress, Supplementary Discussion Paper

#### HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Minister's statement yesterday, I would like to table the following document entitled A National Children's Agenda: - Measuring Childs Well-Being and Monitoring Progress, Supplementary Discussion Paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Erasmus.

#### ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Page 565

Motion 21-13(7): Funding for Special Needs Assessment and Programming

#### MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 14, 1999, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories make an initial investment of \$5 million to provide for special needs assessment and programming in the Northwest Territories;

And further, recommends the government provide additional base funding of \$7.7 million dollars annually for special needs assessment and programming on an ongoing basis;

And furthermore, recommends the government introduce a supplementary appropriation at the next sitting of this Legislature to provide for the initial

investment of \$5 million to deal with this special needs crisis.

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

#### DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Notices of motion. Mr. Dent.

Motion 22-13(7): Extended Adjournment

#### HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 14, 1999, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Thursday, May 13, 1999, it shall be adjourned until Monday, July 26, 1999;

And further, that any time prior to July 26, 1999, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

#### DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Notice of motions. Item 16, motions. Mr. Dent.

#### ITEM 16: MOTIONS

#### HON. CHARLES DENT:

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

#### DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Motion 22-13(7): Extended Adjournment

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

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

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Thursday, May 13, 1999, it shall be adjourned until Monday, July 26, 1999;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to July 26, 1999, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ERASMUS:**

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

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Erasmus, you have unanimous consent.

Motion 21-13(7): Funding for Special Needs Assessment and Programming

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Education Act of the Northwest Territories requires children to attend school until the age of 16;

AND WHEREAS 37 percent of the population of the Northwest Territories is under the age of 20 and 22 percent of the total population is in school;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories has the highest student teacher ratio in Canada;

AND WHEREAS teachers in the Northwest Territories are facing increased challenges, including students with special needs, multi-grade classes, fewer and inadequate resources, and rising class sizes;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated that nearly one-half of the students in the Northwest Territories require additional support in the classroom and approximately half of those students receive the required support;

AND WHEREAS the number of Northwest Territories students with special needs is unknown;

AND WHEREAS the number of children with special needs and the range of special needs must be identified and assessed

Page 566

before appropriate responses can be initiated;

AND WHEREAS success in school for children with special needs is linked to early diagnosis and assistance;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Social Programs has recommended, on numerous occasions, that funding be allocated and programming be developed to deal with special needs students with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect;

AND WHEREAS the majority of northerners who spoke to the Minister's Forum on Education agreed that the Inclusive Schooling Policy is valid and desirable but also held the view that funding was so inadequate it rendered the policy unworkable;

AND WHEREAS it is projected that every dollar spent on early childhood developmental programming will result in a savings of \$7 in future costs to government later in that child's life;

AND WHEREAS the Minister's Forum on Education recommended that, to ensure the needs of all students are met in an equitable way, the number of Special Needs Assistants, Program Support Teachers and Reading Specialists, as well as other support services should be increased;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the

Government of the Northwest Territories make an initial investment of \$5 million to provide for special needs assessment and programming in the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHER, recommends the government provide additional base funding of \$7.7 million annually for special needs assessment and programming on an ongoing basis;

AND FURTHERMORE, recommends the government introduce a supplementary appropriation at the next sitting of this Legislature to provide for the initial investment of \$5 million to deal with this special needs crisis.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe I have to say too much. For the last couple of days, Members have expressed their frustration with the fact that we need to put an awful lot of money into education and that perhaps the best place to start is to deal with the special needs in our schools because of the fact that special needs students need a lot of attention and they do cause disturbances in the classes. Dealing with this particular problem at the outset will help alleviate a lot of the other problems such as pupil/teacher ratio, that type of thing. Mr. Speaker, at this point I would just like to request that we have a recorded vote. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Member is requesting a recorded vote. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seconded this motion and I will be supporting it, obviously. I think it is very important, when looking at the various areas, that we could direct funding to in education, we felt that special needs was an area that could affect a large number of other areas of education. We believe that the extra help will relieve some of the stress in the classroom that is experienced by the teachers, perhaps some of the stress experienced by other students who are not receiving the amount of attention that they should be because of special needs students as a demand and a requirement on

the teachers. But, mostly, Mr. Speaker, I think that this money needs to be put in here for the sake of the children. We can look at all the other areas in education, but we need to look at the child. We need to look at the child who is in that classroom who has a special need in education who, if they do not have their needs met and they do not have proper diagnosis, a proper work plan, and proper help at this stage of their life, it could affect them for the rest of their life. I will be supporting this motion, and I believe that we do manage, \$5 million sounds like a lot of money, but one bad forest fire season can cost us an extra \$20 million. Many different areas of spending of this government can quickly accrue to this amount of money, and I believe that it behooves us to find the money to put it to education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it would be totally inappropriate for any Member to oppose this motion. We have all spoken earlier this week about the need for additional resources in education. I am somewhat miffed by the demand of it, that we put \$5 million in. But I would like to clarify for the Minister that I would like to see this particular money coming from within the department. I would like every stone turned over to try and provide the funds that are required for the special needs that are asked for in this motion here. Mr. Speaker, I would very much encourage the Members of the social committee to work a lot closer with Members on this side of the House long before an item like this gets to this Legislature and if they will attend the meetings and make sure these other Members in this House are very aware of what they are proposing, it would be much easier to work collectively and support a motion like this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Mr. Ootes.

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be voting in favour of the motion, but I think Mr. Henry does have a legitimate comment. First of all, on the issue of refining, I do believe that the department within itself can find certain amounts of money, as well. I am



supportive of ensuring that more money be dedicated to this type of program, no question in my mind that it is needed, but, certainly within bureaucracies, we can always find and refine. I also agree with Mr. Henry that it is important to keep us informed on this side of the House on social matters. This is an extremely important area and throughout the year, I think the committee can devote itself a little more attentively to this, but I am supportive of this initiative. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Closing remarks, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have made this

Page 567

motion because of the fact that there is simply not enough money in the education budget. I do not think walking around turning over stones is going to help find more money. In any case, if they do find some money, they become more efficient. It is not going to be \$5 million a year or more, so it has got to come from someplace else. Just about every time we come back to this House in the last couple of years, there seems to be another pet project that Cabinet comes up with and they find the money for these things. Half the time, we do not even know anything about it until we see an article in the newspaper telling us about it. They have always been able to find money for projects. Now this is an area where, even if we have to go to deficit, this is the place to do it. This is the area, education, particularly special needs. Mr. Speaker, if this is the appropriate time, I would seek a recorded vote on this matter. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Erasmus is asking for a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

Mr. Erasmus, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Henry, Mr. Rabesca.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Dent, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Motion has been carried. Five in favour, none against, six abstentions. Motion is carried.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item number item 4, returns to oral questions.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 4, returns to oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent, Mr. Kakfwi.

**REVERT TO ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Return to Oral Question 167-13(7): Small Claims Court Procedures

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Jake Ootes on April 30th in regard to Small Claims Court Procedures. The small claims jurisdiction of the Territorial Court was reviewed several years ago following the release of the Canadian Bar Association's report on the civil justice system.

At the present time, the jurisdiction of the Territorial Court to hear civil claims for debt or damages is limited to those matters under \$5,000. Statistics for the past five years show no increase in small claims cases commenced. More importantly however, the statistics show that a majority of civil cases filed in the Territorial Court are for recovery of damages in the \$500 to \$3,000 range. Less than 18 percent of the actions commenced in the last five years have been for amounts in excess of \$3,000.

Based on the above information, as well as the unknown effect that the creation of two territories would have on the workload of the NWT Courts, a

decision was made to retain this status quo. My officials will be contacting other jurisdictions regarding their small claims fees, procedures and the impact that changes have had on the workload of the courts. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. We are dealing with Bill 17, Appropriation Act 1999-2000; Committee Report 1-13(7), Report of 1999-2002 Business Plans and 1999-2000 Main Estimates. Tabled Document 31-13(7), Report to the Minister, Public Works and Services, April 15, 1999, regarding issues raised in the report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

I am going to call the committee of the whole to order. We have a number of items today. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I recommend that we continue dealing with Bill 17 and Committee Report 1-13(7) to try and conclude the Department of Education, Culture and Employment today.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Is the committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

We will continue with general comments under the Department of Education, Culture and Employment after a brief break. Thank you.

--Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

We will come back to order. I would like to determine if the Minister would like to bring in his witnesses. Is it agreed that the Minister bring in his witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you please bring in your witnesses?

Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses, please?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is our pleasure to be here for the third day to discuss the education budget. On my left, I have Mr. Mark Cleveland, the deputy minister, and on my right, Mr. Paul Devitt, the director of finance and management services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Are there any further opening remarks? Detail has been asked for so we will start on

Page 568

page 9-9, directorate and administration, operations and maintenance \$5.433 million. Mr. Henry

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just have one question of the Minister, and I anticipate he probably does not have the information, but I would appreciate it if he could get it. What we have heard over the last few days, numerous points brought up around the pupil/teacher ratio in our classrooms in the Northwest Territories. I am wondering if the Minister could provide, if you will, a pupil/teacher ratio to the number of the bureaucracy including boards across the territories, the pupil/teacher ratio to the bureaucracy ratio, and if there is any research done to how that compares to other jurisdictions just to ensure we have a good functioning bureaucracy managing our education system. If the Minister could provide that at some time, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like some clarification. Is the Member asking that we take all the

money we currently spend on employees and compare it to the number of pupils we have?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Henry, would you like to clarify this for the Minister please?

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will certainly try and clarify. What I am asking for is take the number of people involved in the administration of education, the department and boards and agencies that administer education and compare that to the number of students we have in the territories, then using the same comparison in other regions of Canada. I see a couple of people nodding, Mr. Chairman, so I anticipate that was clear enough.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will commit to attempting to pull that information together of the students compared to the administration. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Further questions. Operations and maintenance for directorate and administration, \$5.433 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman, before we get too far, under which area would we ask questions about heritage?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Can the Minister clarify that for us please?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under education and culture, page 9-16.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Are you okay with that Mr. Erasmus? Directorate and administration, operations and maintenance, \$5.433 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Page 9-11, advanced education and careers, operations and maintenance, \$57.351 million. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is difficult to see exactly where we are here in relation to the previous year because the previous year has the total budget for the east and the west. Could the Minister indicate if the college is receiving similar funding to last year less or more?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they point out under 9-28 and 9-29, there is a detail on the college funding.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Further questions? Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister to repeat that? I had to put my earphone on because he does not quite speak loud enough.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. That is a good observation, Mr. Erasmus. The Minister indicated that the detail for colleges is on page 9-28 and 9-29. Thank you. Further questions. Page 9-11, advanced education and careers, operations and maintenance, \$57.351 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Page 9-13, Advanced education and careers, grants and contributions, \$8.653 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion. Mr. Chairman, as noted in the Budget Address by the Minister of Finance, the government intends to provide funding to support the continuation of the Working Together Program by providing wage subsidy for employers to hire students and youth and help them acquire the essential skills necessary for securing meaningful and lasting employment. Therefore, I move that the amount of \$1 million be added to the operations and maintenance, main estimates of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment programs under the activity, advanced education and careers, grants and contributions, contributions to provide funding to support the continuation of the Working Together Program.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister, I wonder if I can draw to your attention, the motion may be more appropriately made on page 9-14 rather than under this item, under contributions instead of under grants. Additionally, Mr. Minister, if we could have you take your seat in the chamber. We are on page 9-13,

Page 569

advanced education and careers, grants and contributions, grants, \$8.653 million. Agreed? Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular area is almost one and a half million dollars less than last year. Could we get an indication of why?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The number is down because there was no projected growth in this particular area that was anticipated. The program has not changed. As was indicated in the business plan, there was less of a subscription to student grants. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Grants, \$8.653 million. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to clarify when the Minister would be moving on the revision of the student financial assistance that is available to students. I know we have addressed this before, but I just wanted to clarify because we are still getting complaints from students. Many of them are now are just getting back and they are saying how difficult it is to get through the school year when the tuition allowance we provide is a lot less than what the tuition actually costs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated yesterday in the House, my intention is to move the SFA issue and the proposed option. Along with the process, I have to take it to Cabinet, but hopefully it will be ready to come back by the July sitting with a legislative proposal and we are targeting the school year, the fall of 2000, to be ready so that, if all goes well and all the approvals are achieved, by the fall of 2000 those students starting that year will have been able to take advantage of the changes to the SFA Program. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister saying that the legislation would be ready in July or when would it be ready?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, if all the approvals are achieved, that if there is a sitting in the fall, that we would hopefully have it ready by then. The legislative proposal would hopefully be ready for July for consideration, pending Cabinet approval.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there were a sitting in the fall, then why could not the new rates be implemented in January, in the semester after Christmas?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular scenario has been examined, the logistics of trying to do it in mid-year with students under one system, changing over, notifying students, implementing the various forms and such, it was deemed that would be such a problematic situation that it would be best to do it clean and neat so that we are ready for the start of the school year for 2000. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Problematic for the students or for the administration?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Uninterrupted service to the students is a primary concern, not causing any confusion or possible delays in payments, those kinds of things are a concern. There is a concern, as well,

about being ready administratively to, in fact, implement this in mid-year. If we just find out, just get the approval to go ahead in the fall, it would be very difficult. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think if students were informed in September that there is a strong likelihood that they would be receiving additional funding in January, I do not think they would mind waiting a couple of extra days to receive that funding if they do not have to pay an additional \$1,000 out of their own pocket for their tuition, or however much it is. I would strongly recommend that we try to implement this in January, if at all possible. We are supposed to try and help the students and if it is a little bit of a struggle administratively, then we should be able to try to solve that problem. We have almost a year to do it. If we know that the legislation is going to be passed, we should be able to put some extra measures into place to ensure that things can go smoothly. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have noted the Member's recommendation as he has requested and, as we move through this process, should we get the approvals necessary, we will give his suggestions and recommendations due consideration as we try to do this as expeditiously as possible. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Further questions? Advanced Education and Careers, grants and contributions. Grants, \$8.653 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Contributions, \$21.148 million. Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 29-13(7): To Provide Funding to the Working Together Program

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as was noted in the Budget Address by the Minister of Finance, the government intends to provide funding to support the Community Skills for Work program which will help people acquire skills and knowledge to reduce dependency on income support and to develop the skills in community-based jobs such as special needs assistants positions. Therefore, I move that the amount of \$1 million be added to the operations and maintenance Main Estimates of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment under the activity, Advanced Education and Careers, grants and contributions, contributions, to provide funding to support a Community Skills for Work program. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Miltenberger.

--Applause

Committee Motion 30-13(7): To Provide Funding for the Community Skills for Work Program

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As noted in the Budget Address by the Minister of Finance last week as well, the government intends to provide funding to support the continuation of the Working Together program by providing a wage subsidy for employers to hire students and youth and help them acquire the essential skills necessary for securing meaningful and lasting employment. Therefore, I move that the amount of \$1 million be added to the operations and maintenance, Main Estimates of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment programs under the activity, Advanced Education and Careers, grants and contributions, contributions, to provide funding to support the continuation of the Working Together program.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been

called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Contributions. As amended, \$23.148 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate how much interest was accumulated for these two million dollars since last week? The Minister had indicated yesterday that this money was accumulating interest.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Did you wish to answer that, Mr. Minister?

**MR. MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been a tremendous amount of interest generated. In fact, if I had a dollar for every syllable and vowel uttered in support of education in the last three weeks, people in the Northwest Territories would be happy people. There has been tremendous interest generated and we are going to try to make the most of that interest. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions? Contributions, \$23.149 million, as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Total grants and contributions, as amended, \$31.801 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Page 9-15, Advanced Education and Careers. Details of capital, land and building, headquarters region. Total headquarters region, \$936,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Fort Smith region. Total Fort Smith region, \$612,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Inuvik Region. Total Inuvik region, \$5,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Total land and buildings, \$1.553 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Total capital, \$1.553 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Page 9-17, Education and Culture. Operations and maintenance, \$91.240 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Page 9-19, Education and Culture, grants and contributions. Grants, \$60,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Contributions, page 9-21, \$83.211 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Total grants and contributions, \$83.271 million. Agreed?

Page 571

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Page 9-22, Education and Culture, details of capital, land and buildings, headquarters region. Total headquarters region, \$5.604 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Fort Smith region. Total Fort Smith region, \$2.755 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Agreed, Mr. Miltenberger? Inuvik region. Total Inuvik region, \$3.614 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Total land and buildings, \$11.973 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Total capital, \$11.973 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice in the Inuvik region that high temperature hot water system. Did these amounts not come under Public Works in previous years and, if so, why are they in the education component?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Henry, we have already approved the Inuvik region. I will need the committee's permission to go back to the Inuvik region. Is the committee agreed to go back to the Inuvik region?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For clarification, if the total capital has not been agreed to by the committee, then you still cannot ask a question on that page? Is that what you are saying?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Henry, I had called Inuvik region and then total Inuvik region, and we had agreed to that and then we had gone on to total lands and buildings and we were finally on total capital. We have permission to go back to that item.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the clarification. Again my question on the high temperature hot water system, I believe that over the past couple of years, we have had approvals for these items under Public Works and Services, if I recall.

Could I get some clarification why it is also under Education, Culture and Employment?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Yes, of course. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is this \$1.2 million has to be budgeted by education because it is a renovation cost and it is separate from the ongoing costs of paying for the use of the high temperature hot water system. This is to convert. We, as a department, had to budget for that \$1.2 million renovation cost.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Further questions? Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recall the rationale for this conversion, and it certainly made economic sense. It may not be the appropriate area to ask, but I would be interested in knowing how much the conversion by all departments, and I realize this Minister does not have that information, but I would seek it, how much of the conversion for this particular component has cost over the past, I believe it is three years, since it started?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry. The Minister may have that information, but if he does not, it may be more appropriate to put it to the Minister of Finance or Public Works and Services tomorrow during question period. Mr. Miltenberger, do you wish to address the question?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have those figures. My layman's assessment is that it has cost lots, but I would have to quantify what that means. I will not be able to respond at this point other than those comments. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Further questions on the Inuvik region? Inuvik region. Total Inuvik region, \$3.614 million. Agreed?



**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Total land and buildings, \$11.973 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Total capital, \$11.973 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Page 9-25. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman, could we ask questions on page 9-24?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. We will give you that opportunity to ask questions on page 9-24.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate what these two projects are, particularly the housing in Fort Smith?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Page 572

This particular project is to replace old housing units that sort of stand alone and are scattered around the town and, many of them are in a state of some disrepair. It is an attempt to consolidate and tie into the campus facilities near the town core. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions, Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate how many units this is?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

I believe it is 25. They are looking at 23 bedroom units and five four-bedroom units.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is in addition to some other student housing already in existence, I would imagine. How many units in total will there be after this project is completed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the information of the total number of units in town in the community. I will have to check. There is going to be a number of them decommissioned. Some of them are going to be possibly turned over to the housing and some possibly to the Pentecostal Church. How many we will end up with in total, I will commit to get that information but I do not have it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department must have a target that they wish to meet. Does the department have an estimate of how many units they require and will they be able to meet that requirement once this project is completed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is basically a replacement project and it is anticipated it will meet the needs for accommodation for the Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do they require 500 units for all their students or 400? How many do they require?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is he talking for the whole Northwest Territories or for Fort Smith. I do not think there are 500 houses in Fort Smith.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Erasmus, could you clarify your question please?

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just trying to get an estimate of how many units they require for the students that are going to the Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

I see. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the interest of accuracy and not just taking ballpark guesstimates, I will commit to get that information and will identify the number of units we have, the apartments that are available, Breynat Hall residents. We will itemize the entire accommodation inventory in the Thebacha Campus. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister know how many units they provide for student housing in Yellowknife?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Not off the top of our collective heads, no.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

I would not want information off the top of the Minister's head, so I will wait. Could the Minister indicate if that housing is sufficient for the students' needs in Yellowknife?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister, do you wish to answer that?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will provide that information, the estimate of need, as well as the numbers of units in Yellowknife and whether it is deemed to be adequate or not. My understanding is that there are some shortcoming and repairs being done and renovations and such, but once again, I will commit to getting that specific information.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Mr. Chairman, should we defer finishing this particular part of the budget until we get that information?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Erasmus, this is an information item. It is not part of the budget. Mr. Erasmus, it is the Members' right and privilege to do and proceed as they desire. Further questions? Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the campus in Fort Smith, as far as occupancy in the classroom facilities, is it at present completely occupied?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Thebacha Campus, for the most part, is fully utilized. Courses come and go. There are weekly courses, there are semester courses, there are courses based on third party funding. The enrolments, to my understanding, have been stable and fairly average for that particular campus. Yes, I would say that facility is being fully used.

Page 573

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to hear that it is being fully utilized. Presently then, Mr. Chairman, I could assume that these proposed units are not constructed yet so presently all the students attending that require housing are being accommodated in potentially not ideal conditions. I think the Minister said some of the units were a little dilapidated. Am I correct in assuming that all the students who are attending the campus right now are accommodated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

To my knowledge, in one way or another, in varying degrees, as the Member accommodated, yes. They are accommodated in units scattered across the community in various stages of disrepair and various stages of age.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Further questions, Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister just tie in this \$4 million? Is this going to be an annual thing? What is going to happen to the units that are presently being used to house the students that attend Thebacha? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Two questions there for you, Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a P3 project, the process that has been discussed and reviewed with all Members. These are initial construction costs. There is going to be, as part of this process as there will be with other P3 projects, an arrangement negotiated and entered into with the successful bidder to construct and maintain these facilities in return for the lease payments over the longer term. This is the initial capital investment. It is not going to be an ongoing cost. Like all other P3 projects, once the details of the lease are negotiated, they will be able to budget for those as we have requested that departments do. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions? Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister's comments require a little more clarification. Could the Minister just tell me what the total cost of the project is to provide these units? I take it that it is more than \$4 million but could the Minister just tell me first of all what is the total cost of these proposed units? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The estimated project scope is \$4 million. This is what has been referred to by the finance people as an off-balance sheet expenditure. There is no initial capital outlay on part of the department. Our cost comes in the yearly lease payments. I recollect very clearly we asked every department in the social program to have a page that identified P3 so we would know what the

cost is. That is what it is, but it is not a cost to the government at this point. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Henry.

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that is the type of information that the public needs to know, that these are not, and both cases are not, expenditures of the government. They will be financed by private developers, but the government will assume, under the P3 initiative, the cost to finance these over a period of time, if the Minister would clarify the accuracy of that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could just read the second sentence of the heading on that particular page, 9-24, under the P3 approach, a private developer constructs a facility to meet the government's functional program requirements and the government enters into an operating lease for use of the facility. Possibly that could be elaborated on to indicate its off-balance sheet expenditure and such. I believe that is the nub of this approach. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Further questions on page 9-24. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to Mr. Henry's questions and also to the original questions that I had asked the Minister. The Minister had indicated that with this P3 project which would be, I guess, to consolidate some aged and dilapidated housing, that the needs for the student body at Thebacha Campus would be sufficiently met, but he also indicated that the housing that is provided in Yellowknife is not sufficient to meet the needs of the students. I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider a similar off-balance sheet to P3 projects for Yellowknife so that we would have adequate housing to meet the needs of the student body here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is an issue as the government looks at, in fact, how well this P3 process has worked as they do their evaluation and they look at deciding whether they are going to continue with the P3 approach. Further requests and projects will be brought forward of which there are many. The situation in Yellowknife with the College campus did as referred by my honourable colleague of course will be on that list. From what I recollect, the College with the Thebacha Campus Proposal, pull together a fairly effective and tight proposal that received approval. I will commit that once we are clear on how we are going to look at this as a government and a Legislature that yes, it will be on the list for consideration. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions. No further questions, we will carry on. Page 9-25, active positions. This is an information item. Page 9-26, information item, student loan revolving fund. Any questions? Page 9-27, information item, detail of funding allocated to educational bodies. No further questions. Page 9-29, information item, college funding allocation. No further

Page 574

questions. Page 9-30. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I remember correctly, the money that had gone down in Student Financial Assistance was as a result of less program money for the college. Is there an indication that this funding and, of course with the third party funding that comes from other governments and from private industry, would there be more programs this year than there were last year in the colleges?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can just specify for the Member that under colleges, there is an addition of \$43,000 for forced growth and utilities, \$1.0 million roughly for new job evaluations and adjustments.

Now that we have passed the Community Strategies for Work, there will be some funding that was initially sunsetted that will be put back into the college. It is about \$.5 million less than was in the budget under Northern Employment Strategy from last year, but there will be some funds to offset that. Pre-employment training is for \$265,000, diamond training, \$265,000. There is a transfer of \$30,000 from other operations and maintenance from ABE and Literacy and \$750,000 for enhanced training for health and social work professionals. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. This is an information item. We are on page 9-29. Questions? Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Minister for that information. Could he indicate whether there will be the same amount of programs being offered in the colleges as there were last year, courses, I should say? If not, could he indicate where there would be less courses being offered?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The base funding, as I have indicated to the Member has been increased somewhat. The one issue that we are not certain of for the coming year is the third party funding where outside agencies and possibly governments or groups paid to have courses. The base funding for the college is there and the third party funding side is where we are not clear on at this point. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions? Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the information on the base funding but it does not really tell me much about if there are going to be the same amount of courses or more courses or less courses being offered. Will this core funding, the base funding, will that allow the college to put on the same amount of programs that they had last year with their base funding?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Aside from the third party funding issue, it is anticipated that the money in the budget and the increases to the base will allow us to maintain the current programs as well as the additions that were touched on in regard to pre-employment, diamond training, enhanced training for health and social services professionals, and now that we have passed the motion on the Communities for Skills for Work we will be able to maintain some of those out of the previously sunsetted strategies. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions? No further questions. We are on page 9-29, college funding allocation, information item. Page 9-30, detail of work performed on behalf of others, there are three pages and we will flip to page 9-32, total department will be \$14.584 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

That concludes. We will now return to program summary on page 9-7 and we have Education, Culture and Employment, program summary, operations and maintenance, as amended, \$156.024 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Capital, \$13.526 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. Total expenditures, as amended, \$169.550 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Mr. Minister, I would like to thank you and the witnesses for being with us today.

--Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

For the information of the Members we have some cleanup work to do and it relates to the committee report. I believe we have a motion. I will call on Mrs. Groenewegen.

Committee Motion 31-13(7): Social Programs Departments to Provide Periodic Updates on Departmental Cooperation

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the departments in the social programs envelope provide the Standing Committee on Social Programs with periodic updates on the cooperation between the departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Groenewegen. The motion is being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Does the committee agree that concludes committee report 1-13(7).

Page 575

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Does the committee agree to move to clause by clause consideration of Bill 17?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

It is under tab 17 in your green binders. We are on Bill 17, Appropriation Act, 1999-2000. Clause 1. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Clause 2. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Clause 3. Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 32-13(7): To Amend Clause 3(2) of Bill 17: Appropriations Acts, 1999-2000

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I stated in the Budget Address, the government intends to increase the proposed 1999-2000 budget by \$3.5 million. Specifically, the increases are:

- \$1.5 million to establish a labour market supplement for nurses;

- \$1 million for the continuation of the Working Together Program; and

- \$1 million to provide funding for our Community Skills for Work Program.

Motions have been passed by this committee to add this money to the appropriate activities in the Main Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment programs.

Therefore, I move that clause 3(2) of Bill 17 be amended by striking out \$723.398 million and by substituting \$726.898 million.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Clause 3, as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Clause 4. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Clause 5. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Schedule, part 1, vote 1. Operations and maintenance, operations and maintenance appropriations, \$637.136 million. Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 33-13(7): To Amend the Schedule of Bill 17: Appropriations Act, 1999-2000

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, this committee has passed motions to add additional money to the Main Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment programs as follows:

- \$1.5 million to establish a labour market supplement for nurses;

- \$1 million for the continuation of the Working Together Program; and

- \$1 million to provide funding for a Community Skills for Work Program.

Therefore, I move that the schedule to Bill 17 be amended to:

a) increase by \$1.5 million the appropriation amount set out in part 1, item 6, Health and Social Services, by striking out \$159.421 million and by substituting \$160.921 million;

b) increase by \$2 million the appropriation amount set out in part 1, item 9, Education, Culture and Employment, by striking out \$154.024 million and by substituting \$156.024 million;

c) increase by \$3.5 million the amount set out in part 1 as Operations and Maintenance appropriation, by striking out \$637.136 million and by substituting \$640.636 million; and

d) increase by \$3.5 million the amount set out at the end of the schedule as Total Appropriation, by striking out \$723.398 million and by substituting \$726.898 million.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations and maintenance, operations and maintenance appropriation, as amended, \$640.636 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Vote 2, capital, capital appropriation \$86.262 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Total appropriation as amended \$726.898 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Back to page 1, Bill 17, Appropriation Act, 1999-2000, preamble. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

Page 576

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Does the committee agree that Bill 17 is ready for third reading as amended?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Bill 17 is now ready for third reading as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

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

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ootes):**

Thank you. The motion is in order. The motion is not debatable. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will now rise and report progress.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

I will now call the House back to order. We are on item 20, report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 17 and Committee Report 1-13(7) and would like to report progress with five motions being adopted that Committee Report 1-13(7) is concluded. That Bill 17, Appropriation Act, 1999-2000, is ready for third reading as amended and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 17: Appropriation Act, 1999-2000

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 17, Appropriation Act, 1999-2000.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The Minister is seeking consent to deal with Bill 17. Are there any nays? I have no nays. Mr. Dent, you have consent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 17, Appropriation Act, 1999-2000, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 17 has had third reading. Third reading of bills.

It is my understanding that the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to enter the Chamber and give assent.

Mr. Clerk, could you ascertain if His Honour, the Commissioner, is available to give assent?

**COMMISSIONER MARION:**

Please be seated. As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following

Bill 17, Appropriation Act, 1999-2000

Thank you.

--Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

The House will come back to order, Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**



Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Management Services Board and all members at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning and of the Standing Committee on Government Operations at 11:00 a.m.

Order of the day for Thursday, May 13, 1999:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills

Page 577

-Bill 18, Loan Authorization Act,  
1999-2000

18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 31-13(7)
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:**

Thank you. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 13, 1999.

--ADJOURNMENT