



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Day 23

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HANSARD

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Charles Dent, Mr. Erasmus, Honourable Sam Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, 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.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Good afternoon. Honourable Members, I wish to advise that I have received a message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories which states:

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, the passage of Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000, during the Seventh Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

Yours truly, Dan Marion, Commissioner.

As Members are aware, next week the Legislative Assembly will host our first NWT-wide Youth Parliament. One student from each of your constituencies will be participating in this event. The students will assume the same role that you play in the Legislative Assembly and I am sure it will be interesting for us to see how these youths handle themselves in the Legislature and the issues that they feel are important. I am advised that they have been watching the sessions on TVNC and I hope they do not pick up any of our bad habits.

The students selected are:

-Melanie Kimiksana, Holman

-Jill Chinna and Louis de Klerk (he will be the Clerk), Inuvik

-Terry Simba, Kakisa Lake Territorial School

-Clinton Unka, Hay River

-Jackie Pascal, Fort McPherson

-Lana Nahanni, Fort Simpson

-Roxanne Mantla and Kristen Tanche, Rae Lakes

-Shelly Lemon, Fort Smith

-Terrence Kelly, Fort Good Hope

-Leanne Boucher, Fort Resolution

-Eddie Peart, Andrea Tam, Dawn Smith and Jeff Babyn, Yellowknife

The students have already started work on statements, questions and petitions based on concerns of the constituency. Your student may have already contacted you looking for some assistance and guidance. I am sure that each of you agrees that this is a very worthwhile project. The Youth Parliament will help us promote a better understanding of how the Assembly works and how bills become laws. I am sure we will learn from our youths as they have a lot to teach us.

I invite each of you to attend the events scheduled next week. One to mark on your calendar is the soccer challenge scheduled for Tuesday night at Sir John Franklin High School where the students and MLAs north of the lake will take on those students and MLAs from south of the lake. I regret that a number of the Ministers will not be with us and I hope that the soccer event did not send you off to other parts.

At this time I would like to thank the Legislative Assembly staff and particularly Ronna Bremer, Laurell Graf and Ben Nind, who have been working very hard to pull this event together. I would also like to thank the staff at the schools who have helped the students prepare for the Youth Parliament.

The northern businesses who have offered their support also deserve our thanks. These businesses include Canadian North, First Air, Air Tindi, Northwestern Air Lease, Raven Tours, Pizza Hut, Polar Bowl, Inkit, Northern Fancy Meats, Pido Productions, Office Compliments, Javaroma and the Mayor and city of Yellowknife. Without the support of these businesses this event would not be possible, and I would ask all Members to join me in thanking them.

--Applause

The actual Youth Parliament will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, and will be rebroadcast on TVNC at a later date so people in the NWT will be able to watch the Youth Parliament and hear the views of some of our young people. Good luck to all students involved in the Youth Parliament. Mahsi Cho.

--Applause

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 65-13(7): Bargaining Agent for Employees of the NWT Power Corporation

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide the Members with some information regarding documents that were recently tabled in this House. Some employees of the NWT Power Corporation had petitioned me to, apparently, request that their bargaining agent no longer be the Union of Northern Workers. I received further correspondence which suggests that this may not be what is

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being requested but, rather, the employees would like the NWT Public Service Act to be amended to allow them to have the ability to select their bargaining agent. I am seeking clarification on this correspondence from the author and will provide the Members with further information when I receive it.

One statement that was made in the correspondence I received was that the Public Service Act violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as it does not allow employees to select their bargaining agent. This is not an accurate statement. The Public Service Act sets out the bargaining units within the public service and the bargaining agents that represent employees in the collective bargaining process. There is a specific Supreme Court of Canada decision on this issue. This is known as the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada or PIPSC decision. This case is the authority on this matter. It clearly states that the NWT Public Service Act does not violate the freedom of association provisions contained in the Charter. This decision states that while the Charter guarantees freedom of association this does not extend to guaranteeing how bargaining agents are to be selected.

As I stated earlier, I will update the Members when I have clarification on this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Steen.

Minister's Statement 66-13(7): Speed Limits on Highways 1 and 3

HON. VINCE STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member for Yellowknife South has, on several occasions, expressed his disappointment in this House that the Department of Transportation was not moving fast enough to increase the posted speed limits following the enactment of his private Member's bill to amend the Public Highways Act.

As the act stands amended, it is now within the discretion of the Minister of Transportation to set speed limits in excess of 90 kilometres per hour. As the Minister, Mr. Speaker, I do not take my new responsibilities lightly. There are already too many single vehicle accidents on our highways resulting in deaths and serious injuries. The cause of single-vehicle accidents is usually attributed to excessive speed. The Department has been rightly concerned about the message higher speed limits might send the public. Speed, after all, does kill.

This spring, once the snow was gone, the department has taken a careful look at the newly reconstructed and paved corridor from the Alberta border on Highway 1 to Edzo and Highway 3. The Department has recommended, and I agree, that the first 84 kilometres of Highway 1 from the Alberta border to Enterprise is not wide enough and has too many curves for a posted speed limit of 100 kilometres an hour. The speed limit on this section of Highway 1 will remain as it is at 90 kilometres an hour.

Mr. Speaker, the next 350 kilometres of Highways 1 and 3 have been built to a higher standard. The highway is wider, curves have been straightened out and sight distances improved. The department has recommended, and I agree, that the speed limit on the paved surface between Enterprise on Highway 1 and Edzo on Highway 3 should be raised to 100 kilometres an hour.

I have asked the department to put up the new speed signs as soon as possible. They will be changed over the next four to six weeks. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the public that the posted speed limits are

maximums. Whatever the posted limit, the weather, traffic and road conditions are always changing and people must take care to drive accordingly. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 67-13(7): Resignation of Chair, NWT Power Corporation

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform Members that the chair of the NWT Power Corporation will be resigning to take on a new and important role in southern Canada. I learned yesterday that Mr. Pierre Alvarez has accepted the position of president with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. As a result, he and his family will be relocating to Calgary in the near future. Mr. Alvarez was first appointed as a director and chair of the Power Corporation in 1995. Many Northerners also know Mr. Alvarez through his work over the years with various boards and agencies, through private business, through earlier roles with the Department of Executive and the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources or in his capacity as a director of the NWT Scouts Council.

Probably one of his most significant lasting contributions to the corporation is the development of a strong senior management team. I should mention that shortly after appointing Mr. Alvarez as chair, I asked him to also take on the responsibilities of chief executive officer. This dual role meant considerable additional responsibility. His leadership and emphasis on staff development meant that soon he was able to remove himself from the day-to-day operation of the corporation. He took the same approach with the other senior management positions, promoting development of staff to take on more responsibility. As a result, today we have an experienced and competent senior management team. This means we can count on stability and strong leadership under even the most difficult challenges.

Finally, I would like to mention one of Mr. Alvarez's significant contributions during his career with the Government of the Northwest Territories. He was key in planning and preparing for this government's

transition to two new territories. His leadership and direction helped to ensure that programs and services for residents continued uninterrupted during this time of historic change to the map of Canada. Mr. Alvarez should be proud of his lasting contributions to the North. I hope all Members join me in congratulating him and in wishing him and his family all the best as they begin their new life in Calgary. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister's statement, Mr. Roland.

Minister's Statement 68-13(7): Minister Absent From the House

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HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Jim Antoine will be absent from the House today to attend the Akaitcho Treaty 8 chiefs meeting in Rocher River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister's statements. Item 3, Member's statements. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement 168-13(7): Resurfacing the Dempster Highway with Calcium Chloride

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have made statements in this House about maintaining our highways in the Northwest Territories, and I have made reference to the calcium program. Mr. Speaker, I say this in regard to the possible savings, that this project will be not only beneficial to myself in my riding, but beneficial to the North as a whole in saving money in the long term for this government. The savings, Mr. Speaker, would be in the reduced cost of blading the highways and maintaining roads at the present time. It will also improve the costs that are associated with the purchase of gravel which is put on the road and most times is blown off the road because of it being loose. Any traffic going down the road will remove that gravel and it will be put the ditch. Also, there is a question of public safety. Mr.

Speaker, I have made statements concerning the question of saving lives. The cost of accidents that occur on our highways because of the loose gravel is also going to be a savings to this government. The other question that I really never mentioned, but we have to take into consideration, is the wear and tear on people's vehicles, the cost of replacing windshields and tires and also damages to peoples' trailers, boats and snowmobiles that may be towed at the back of a vehicle.

The calcium road treatment, Mr. Speaker, has to be considered in regard to the savings to this government. It will reduce the cost of blading. It will reduce the cost of purchasing gravel. It will also reduce the incidents of accidents on our highways, and it will reduce the cost of wear and tear on vehicles. One thing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make Members aware of is, there are also the economic benefits that come with improving our highway systems in the Northwest Territories. That is, Mr. Speaker, it will increase the number of tourists because of the better road conditions and also improve the cost of moving goods and services to the clients and the residents of the Mackenzie Delta from the south.

Another thing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make Members aware, that only 13 percent of the Dempster Highway is presently being resurfaced or calcium is being applied to it. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to complete my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you have unanimous consent.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I was stating, Mr. Speaker, 13 percent of the Dempster Highway is presently being calciumed, but yet Mr. Speaker, 54 percent of the Liard Highway is calciumed, 100 percent of the Ingraham Trail past Prosperous Lake is presently calciumed. The Fort Resolution section of the highway from Hay River is 100 percent calciumed and the section to Fort Smith is 100 percent calciumed. Again, Mr. Speaker, 13 percent of the Dempster Highway is the least amount of calcium that is applied to our highway system in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I say this in regard to the possible savings to this government, in considering the pros and the cons, and how this might be one way that we can find money to put into education and other programs. It is a savings that we can bring from this government by making changes such as the calcium project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Member's statements, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 169-13(7): Forest Industry Management Policies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our territory is rich with renewable and non-renewable resources. In the South Slave region we have an abundance of harvestable natural resources including forests with rich stands of timber which, if managed properly, can provide sustainable economic activity indefinitely.

In order to benefit from this natural resource, however, it requires sensible and consistent management policies. Our forests are vulnerable to natural removal from such things as forest fire, insect infestation, aging and decay. We conserve and protect this resource from these natural causes of reduction as much as possible as part of the management process. However, we also need to balance the preservation of forests with the much needed economic value which we can derive from them through responsible and sustainable access by northern companies with track records of creating employment and economic wealth and spinoffs.

As a government we need policies which facilitate assisting companies in identifying, accessing and harvesting timber for economic purposes. Sometimes I question if that attitude of facilitating the industry is overshadowed by bureaucratic red tape and politics. If this is an industry which we truly want to continue to develop and realize benefits from, I question why so much confusion and delay still surrounds what should be a fairly straightforward process, of making application and being granted licences and permits in a timely manner. This is a matter which I have addressed in the House before. When concerns are taken to the deputy minister level and the Minister level, we have always received a very positive response, but the everyday working of the system for

applying and being granted approvals seems to be wrought with hesitation, misinformation and contradiction.

The forest industry, like any other, is subject to regulations, reporting requirements, applicable fees and scrutiny. However, if operators cannot secure a reliable supply of inventory over a

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five-year period, they cannot get financing, plan for staff and equipment requirements, etcetera. The forest industry is a very important component of the economy of Hay River from operations in surrounding areas, and as such, I am interested in issues of access, fairness and process in dealing with the offices of this government which deal in these areas.

Later in question period I will have questions for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Member's statements, Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 170-13(7): Leaders Meeting to Discuss Highway 3 Reconstruction

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. Ootes, informed this House the other day regarding the very positive and worthwhile meeting that was held on April 30th, 1999. As you may recall from Mr. Ootes' Member's statement, this meeting was co-hosted by the mayor of Rae-Edzo and the mayor of Yellowknife. Other delegates included my colleagues from Yellowknife, myself, the Grand Chief of Treaty 11, the chiefs of Gameti, Wekweti, Dettah and N'dilo as well as council members from the city of Yellowknife, hamlet of Rae-Edzo and the Rae Band members were present. This, I feel, was a very successful meeting where, for the first time ever, such a group was gathered to seek ways to provide our residents a solution for Highway 3 reconstruction, as one united body. As a result, I think with our combined lobbying efforts we will be able to achieve this goal.

However we, as a whole government, cannot forget to continue on this project. We must progress. It is important for the safety of our residents and the

economy in general to see the reconstruction of this road continue as planned. Over the years, too many lives have unnecessarily been lost on this road, not to find an innovative and progressive solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Member's statements, Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 171-13(7): Passing of Charlie Casaway

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a sad note to inform this House and many friends and relatives of Charlie Casaway that he passed away earlier this week. Of course, Mr. Casaway was a very well-known athlete from N'dilo. He was originally from Fort Resolution and he transferred to the Yellowknife Dene First Nation many, many years ago. He was seen practically every day on the golf courses for several years, he had won many tournaments and been a top golfer. He also had curled for a long time and was very accomplished at that. Mr Casaway was also a self-taught and well-accomplished fiddle player. He was also a very spiritual man and I am sure all of our prayers go with him.

Mr. Casaway succumbed to a long battle with leukemia. He was first diagnosed when his wife, my aunt Cecilia, was taking social work in Saskatoon about ten years ago, and since that time he has been battling with leukemia and had been very successful at it. I suppose you can call it that. Until very recently he had not really had to go into the hospital. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform his family and friends who are not aware of it, that the funeral will be held on Saturday at St. Patrick's Church. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Member's statements, Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 172-13(7): Union Representation for NWT Power Corporation Employees

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to talk about the desire of unionized workers employed with the Northwest Territories Power

Corporation to be able to choose the Union to represent them.

Since my last Member's statement on this subject, further information has come to light. There are 117 unionized employees represented by the Union of Northern Workers who are employed by the Power Corporation here in the west, in the Northwest Territories, presently. Mr. Speaker, of those 117, 108 signed the petition requesting legislative changes to the Public Service Act that would allow them to choose their own union representation.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to make it emphatically clear that I have nothing against the Union of Northern Workers. What I am against, Mr. Speaker, is legislation that dictates whom a class of workers must be associated with. Although the Public Service Act has been challenged and found to be constitutional by the courts on this issue, I might suggest to my colleagues that there is such a thing as legally right and morally wrong.

Further research, Mr. Speaker, has indicated that the Transitional Agreement between the Governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories on the operation of the Power Corporation, has also entrenched the Union of Northern Workers as the Union that must represent all unionized power workers employed by the Power Corporation in the two territories for the life of the Transitional Agreement.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that even if there is success on a joint Power Corporation for the two territories that the unionized employees in Nunavut will have no desire to be represented by a union based in Yellowknife. So you see, Mr. Speaker, we will have to deal with this issue sooner or later, in conjunction with, or in opposition to, the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I see this as the first of many problems that will no doubt surface in the months to come over issues relating to division. Our ability to operate as an independent Assembly, and enact our own legislation for our own constituents, has been compromised by the need to reach an agreement with Nunavut on the future of the Power Corporation. I would ask the Members to consider whether or not this constitutes responsible government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Members' statements. Item 4,

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returns to oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Henry on April 26, 1999. The honourable Member asked whether the Workers' Compensation Act permits the Workers' Compensation Board to sue employees or employers. The WCB does have the ability to sue on behalf of injured workers in specific circumstances such as those relating to the use of operation of a motor vehicle or other mode of transportation as detailed in Section 12 of the Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to oral questions, Mr. Steen.

Return to Oral Question 178-13(7): Designated Aboriginal Organizations

HON. VINCE STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Krutko on May 10, 1999, regarding designated aboriginal organizations.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 10, 1999, the Member for Mackenzie Delta asked me if the Business Incentive Policy classified the ownership of a business or company as aboriginal.

Both the Business Incentive Policy and the Department of Transportation's Negotiated Contracts Policy qualify the government's procurement policies pursuant to the Contract Regulations and the Financial Administration Act. The government's procurement policies apply throughout the territory for the general public considered as all bona fide northern residents. These public policies do not differentiate between the aboriginal or non-aboriginal status of an individual or a company.

The term designated aboriginal organization is used in land claim settlements in defining the relationship and obligations between a claimant group and government. The meaning and application of the term varies from one agreement to another. The

Inuvialuit Final Agreement, for instance, does not use the term. At the present time, there are just three land claim settlements in place with several others at various stages of resolution. For public policy purposes, the term, designated aboriginal organization, does not have a uniform or consistent meaning across the territory.

The government's public procurement policies are one thing and its obligations arising from land claim settlements are quite another. These are different legal and policy contexts that may cause confusion if they are mixed and should be kept separate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is in response to an oral question asked by Mr. Ootes on May 12, 1999, regarding the report on the Economic Development Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, although the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development assumed the lead for the economic strategy in February of this year, the cost to produce Harnessing Our Economic Potential, a public policy discussion paper, was paid by the Department of the Executive. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a couple of employees from First Air. First of all is Julia Mott, a well-known Yellowknifer, the manager of sales for First Air, and Mike Olson, the new director of sales. Mr. Olson, originally from Calgary, has been here for three weeks. I would like to welcome them to the Assembly and, to Mr. Olson, welcome to Yellowknife. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to recognize Mr. Robert Clark. Mr. Clark is the acting NWT Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Mike Mandeville in the Legislative Assembly. He is one of the NWT Power Corporation workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Vital Manual from Fort Good Hope.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 201-13(7): Timber Harvesting Guidelines

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, over the past three years I have, along with some of my constituents, experienced the frustration that they have had in getting timely responses to applications for timber to harvest for the requirements of their business. My question is, when it

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comes to forestry management, should we be assured that there is a reasonable balance between conservation and environmental concerns and the need to assist sawmill operators in identifying harvestable timber for the benefit of the economic

activity created by this resource? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 201-13(7): Timber Harvesting Guidelines

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like to think that all governments try to develop an acceptable balance between environmental concerns and business interests and the interests of industry. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 201-13(7): Timber Harvesting Guidelines

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the subject of conservation and the environment, could the Minister please describe what the policy of this government is with respect to high-grading stands of timber?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 201-13(7): Timber Harvesting Guidelines

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is the expectation of our government that timber licences or permits would be issued with very strict guidelines as to the method of harvesting the timber. That is agreed to before operations begin. High-grading, as it is called, is not an acceptable way of harvesting timber. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 201-13(7): Timber Harvesting Guidelines

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very glad to hear that. Could the Minister also please describe for our information what the purpose is at present for what are called heritage stands? Who puts these stands into reserve, and is there any way that they can be clearly identified for us? Is there a map identifying heritage stands? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 201-13(7): Timber Harvesting Guidelines

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, heritage stands, as I understand it, are simply sections of the forest that are off limits to any harvesting. They are set aside for ecological reasons. We believe that some mature stands of timber are essential to the well-being of some of our wildlife species, such as mink, woodland caribou, as well as other species, and they need mature timber stands in order to thrive and continue to be in a state of well-being. These heritage stands, as we call them, are being designated at this time by the department as areas that we would like to see protected. They will be going into overall management plans and other information bases that will lead to the establishment of harvesting policies and forest management plans. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 201-13(7): Timber Harvesting Guidelines

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Minister speaks of the strict guidelines governing things such as high grading and the off-limits nature of heritage stands, I was wondering if the Minister could tell us, please, what the process would be for lodging, who would you complain to if you felt these policies of the government, if there was any infraction of those? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 201-13(7): Timber Harvesting Guidelines

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the complaint should be made to the closest Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development offices, perhaps the office of the regional superintendent should be the place to lodge complaints or concerns regarding what may be perceived as unacceptable timber harvesting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 202-13(7): Use of Calcium Chloride on NWT Highways

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation. It is in regard to my opening statement. Mr. Speaker, I made reference to the savings in regard to the wear and tear of the roads in the Northwest Territories, especially it will mean a reduction of cost if we consider implementing calcium product on all our roads because there will be less blading to maintain the roads. The cost of gravel will come down because you need less usage of gravel, and also, the question about public safety. I would like to ask the Minister in regard to the percentages that I mentioned, that some 13 percent of the Dempster Highway is currently calciumed, yet 54 percent of the Liard Highway is calciumed and almost 100 percent of the road past Prelude Lake on the Ingraham Trail is calciumed. The same thing applies to Fort Resolution and Fort Smith. What is the department doing to improve those percentages so that we do consider the cost savings to this government by implementing the calcium project?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

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Return To Question 202-13(7): Use of Calcium Chloride on NWT Highways

HON. VINCE STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Member brought the same topic up a few days ago in the House and I responded at that time that the department was considering increasing the amount of calcium that would be applied to Highway 8, the Dempster. I have had meetings with the department since then, and what the department has agreed to do is, we are hoping to sit down with the stakeholders of the Mackenzie Delta area, in particular users of the Dempster, and possibly get some recommendations from them as to what they would think about the possibility of the department reducing some of our capital expenditures on some of our existing projects and, in return, we would increase the amount of calcium. We would have to get some input and guidance from the users as to exactly where they would like to see the calcium applied. Hopefully, after the department has had this meeting, we could then make a decision as to where we would consider increasing the amount of calcium on Highway 8. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 202-13(7): Use of Calcium Chloride on NWT Highways

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for considering and approving the calcium budget, but I do not support the idea of taking away from capital projects to do this. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that 13 percent of the Dempster Highway is presently calcium, yet we have 100 percent of a road to nowhere, which is the Prelude Lake portion from Prelude to the end of Tibbitt Lake, which basically does not serve anything. It is presently being 100 percent calciumed by this government. Will the Minister consider looking at some of those dollars coming out of that section of the road which basically is being calciumed at 100 percent, yet the Dempster is only being calciumed at 13 percent?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 202-13(7): Use of Calcium Chloride on NWT Highways

HON. VINCE STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department will consider anything that will help to improve the safety on the highways. In the opinion of the department, if calcium is not necessary on Highway 4, well then we will reduce it on Highway 4 and apply it to Highway 8, but it would depend on the uses of the highway, on the amount of traffic as well as costs involved. I am sure it is much cheaper to apply calcium to Highway 4 than it is to Highway 8, taking into consideration the distance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 202-13(7): Use of Calcium Chloride on NWT Highways

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister or his department looked at the possibility of what the savings to this government will be by implementing a calcium project? He mentioned the costs of Highway 4 and the costs of Highway 8. The costs to maintain Highway 8 is definitely going to be a higher cost because of where it is located, just above the arctic circle and basically it is one of the most northern highways in North America. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we have to realize that the cost of maintaining this road and the cost of gravel is very high to maintain this road. If we could bring down the cost of the gravel by improving the maintenance of that road, which means less blading, gravel, and dollars to put into that road system, there will be a savings to this government. Has this department considered looking at the savings to this government by putting forth a calcium project?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 202-13(7): Use of Calcium Chloride on NWT Highways

HON. VINCE STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has indeed been considering savings. The department is hoping to be able to reinvest the savings back into more calcium because there is indeed a savings as far as maintenance is concerned, operations and maintenance costs come down, everything comes down. Again, as a matter of getting the calcium to the site. It is expensive to bring

calcium all the way to the Beaufort. In particular, we do not have a calcium source any closer than the southern part of the territories. All these factors are taken into consideration. The department is definitely aware of the savings involved and are definitely aware the safety factors are improved, less dust conditions. We do take all of the factors into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 202-13(7): Use of Calcium Chloride on NWT Highways

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it possible for the Minister of Transportation and his department to table a report in this House to show us exactly the savings to this government so that we can see exactly where we can save money in regards to the expenditures of this government and also improving our transportation system in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Steen

Further Return To Question 202-13(7): Use of Calcium Chloride on NWT Highways

HON. VINCE STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the Department of Transportation, anything is possible.

--Applause

We will make an effort to table this information for the Members and we will specifically provide it to the Members if it will help the department to come up with more revenue to do the job, well, we will table anything. Thank you.

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--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 203-13(7): NTPC Employee/Management Negotiations

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to Mr. Dent, the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, and we will leave it at that today. Mr. Speaker, in my statement, I talked about some of the employees, or I should say an overwhelming majority of the employees in the west, who have a request in to decide which union represents them. The Minister responded previously that the Public Service Act did, in fact, conform to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Mr. Speaker, I would also point out that of the seven Members who heard that case, four of them were in support that the actual agreement did conform to the Charter of Rights and three were opposed to that. It is certainly factual that it does conform to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. My question to the Minister is, could he tell us if there are negotiations presently going on between the Power Corporation workers and the management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return to Question 203-13(7): NTPC
Employee/Management Negotiations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are negotiations to develop a new Collective agreement between the employees and the management of the Power Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 203-13(7): NTPC
Employee/Management Negotiations

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell me who is representing the workers? What organization is representing the workers at those negotiations, the east and the west? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 203-13(7): NTPC
Employee/Management Negotiations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Northwest Territories, it is the Union of Northern Workers and in Nunavut it is the Nunavut Union of Northern Workers.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 203-13(7): NTPC
Employee/Management Negotiations

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had informed me in the House, I believe this week, that in fact there was one short from a majority of the membership of the Union of Northern Workers Power Corporation workers, that there was one member short of the majority. If, in fact, the Power Corporation workers, for the Power Corporation in Nunavut, are being represented by a different union, would the Minister still say that a majority of the western members wish to choose who represents them, of the 117 workers, 108 signed that petition in the west? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 203-13(7): NTPC
Employee/Management Negotiations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would say that we take the petition and correspondence that we have received from union members very seriously. We are trying to ascertain exactly what the wishes of the employees are, but it will take some time to respond appropriately to the request. The reason being if we were to make a change, a Labour Relations Board would have to be established in the Northwest Territories to handle certification issues within the public service.

That would require me to approach my colleague, the Minister of Justice, to examine exactly how our labour regulations should evolve, given self-government negotiations and the changing nature of the public service. I will commit to do that. It is something that

we are looking at very seriously and in consultation with my Cabinet colleagues, we will examine just how we should respond. I should make it clear that this will not happen in time for the next sitting in July. I doubt that we could draft any legislation should Cabinet agree, in time for the July sitting. It will take quite some time as there are other implications we have to consider as it does not just affect one group of employees. If we make a change to the Public Service Act for them, we would have to then recognize that there may be requirements to change the Public Service Act for all representatives and there has to be a whole new system set up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 203-13(7): NTPC Employee/Management Negotiations

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank the Minister for all that detail he provided. There was just one little part that he left out. If I could refresh his memory, part of the question I asked was, does the Minister still feel that out of the 130 members who are in the west, that 108 of them signing a petition would be an overwhelming majority of people requesting the Minister's consideration of this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 203-13(7): NTPC Employee/Management Negotiations

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I said in my last reply that I did take it as an indication that there was a considerable number of people who were interested in some kind of change. We are not absolutely certain if that

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means a change from the UNW or the freedom to select their own representation, and we were seriously looking at trying to ascertain the proper response. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 204-13(7): Home Repair Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, in the last little while we have heard several Members speak about the \$10,000 Minimum Down Payment Assistance Program and we now know that it has cost approximately \$4 million and that there were really no restrictions on who can get this assistance. Apparently, someone could have just stepped off the plane and saw a good deal and applied for the \$10,000 and could have received it. It did not matter if they made half a million dollars a year or \$100,000 a year, they would still be eligible. I have had concerns expressed by people, long term Northerners, who need assistance in repairing their houses and are not able to and apparently there are no means of doing this. What I would like to ask the Minister is, are there any programs in Yellowknife for repairing homes? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 204-13(7): Home Repair Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the MDAPP program was designed and one of the features of it was to try and have people who work in the North but live out of the North, to attract them to buy homes and move to the Northwest Territories. That was one of the features of it and there are programs available to residents of the Northwest Territories for repair of their homes. There are programs for seniors, programs for individuals who have their own homes here in the Northwest Territories, but they would have to meet different criteria for different programs that are out there. If the Member would share some of the specific concerns with him, I would gladly look at those for him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 204-13(7): Home Repair Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had indicated that there are indeed programs for repairs in the Northwest Territories. Could the Minister indicate if the budget for those repair programs comes anywhere near the \$4 million that has apparently already been spent for this MDAPP? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 204-13(7): Home Repair Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of programs. For example, under EDAP, which is again another one to help northern residents purchase their own homes, there is significant amount of funding in that particular program. If the Member is speaking of seniors' repair programs, that program is a grant to seniors who own their own homes in the Northwest Territories and that is capped at \$15,000 per household. There are a number of different areas that residents can access. If it is an improvement program, there are funds available, but I need to know some specifics to give the Member the right information as to the funding allocations for each program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 204-13(7): Home Repair Programs

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I recall correctly, all the repair programs put together in the Northwest Territories would be less than \$1 million and they all also have means tests, so, that if you make over a certain amount of money you are not eligible for that repair program. Yet, we have been passing out \$10,000 bills to anybody who asks for it to help them purchase a home and we did not care how much money they made. I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider initiating a repair program for long-

term Northerners and with, at least, a \$4 million budget and how soon he could do that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 204-13(7): Home Repair Programs

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are aware, Members of this House just the other day, passed a motion for us to find funding for education and we are not sure where we are going to find that, if we are going to have to search from within other departments to come up with that as one Member suggested. That \$4 million that was put into the MDAPP program was one-time monies that was out of a surplus that we had as a government in the previous year. As we know, this year we are eating up the rest of that surplus to continue with a balanced book at the end of this term. For more money to go into other programs it would be difficult. The programs we have existing, have existing funding put into it on a yearly basis. This program is going to be ending at the end of June. If this House feels that it should end sooner, I would gladly look at that request as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 205-13(7): Value-added Diamond Industry

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for Mr. Kakfwi and it is in regard to the value-added industry in the diamond business. We were successful in getting the valuation plant for BHP established here in the North and, following that, we have been able to get the cutting plant established with a number of employees and all that is in the process of happening. Naturally, it is of interest for us to ensure that we pursue this whole area because it can lead to numerous jobs for Northerners. Could the Minister tell me how many applications have been approved by this government for assistance to establish cutting plants? Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 205-13(7): Value-added Diamond Industry

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has approved two proposals for assistance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 205-13(7): Value-added Diamond Industry

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us if the Department of Northern Affairs, Ms. Jane Stewart, the Minister, does that particular department provide any kind of funding or economic support for these value-added industries? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 205-13(7): Value-added Diamond Industry

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

No, Mr. Speaker, just a lot of moral support.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 205-13(7): Value-added Diamond Industry

MR. OOTES:

Thank you. Perhaps that is even too much because we do not receive moral support because they are not even supporting our desire to have value-added industries up here. I wonder if the Minister can tell us what the department, meaning Northern Affairs, is doing with respect to the issue of value-added industries in regard to the socio-economic document with regard to Diavik? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 205-13(7): Value-added Diamond Industry

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government does the layout in terms of conditions that must be met before a licence is issued. For instance, they asked that a socio-economic agreement be concluded with the Government of the Northwest Territories and BHP before a licence would be issued to BHP. What we are working on with the federal government, is how we can ensure that value-added activities are provided for by working with the federal government, our government and Diavik. In the case of this new mine, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the northern businesses, the aboriginal organizations here in the north, will be assured that Diavik will be providing for offsite valuation facility of the diamonds, as well as a portion of their production from diamonds to be accessible to northern businesses for cutting and polishing here in the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 205-13(7): Value-added Diamond Industry

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, in the access to for the value-added industries there has been a limitation set by BHP on the amount of rough that is accessible. Can the Minister tell us if that is under and has he discussed, or is it under negotiation that, that can be increased so we can continue to build upon our value-added industries? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 205-13(7): Value-added Diamond Industry

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, we are having discussions with BHP about this issue. We are also trying to engage Diavik and the federal government to ensure that this is considered part of the terms and conditions for diamond mines in the Northwest Territories, to

provide a fair portion of their production of the size and quality that is economically feasible to cut and polish here in the North, that these be provided for in a reasonable amount. These would be defined by discussions and negotiations with the respective companies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 206-13(7): Validity of Contracts

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for MACA, Public Works and Services, Transportation. Mr. Speaker, not in relation to any specific contracts but in general, when a contract awarded was found to have been awarded with the assistance of a bribe to the employee that was awarded the contract. Would the continuance of that contract and the legitimacy of that contract in the case of a multi-year service contract be revisited by his departments? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have to rule the question out of order. It is highly hypothetical. Also, it would be illegal. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 207-13(7): Progress on Vaneltsi Motion

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Premier. It is in regard to a motion that was passed in this House, 18-13(7) in regard to support for Ms. Roberta Vaneltsi, which motion was passed in this House, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of the motion, seconded by the MLA for Hay River, that the Legislative Assembly support the efforts of Ms. Vaneltsi to secure meaningful visits and contacts with her children. Mr. Speaker, in the motion, it also directs the Premier, Executive Council, to strongly encourage and request the federal government to take all possible means to assist Ms. Vaneltsi. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier, what has the Cabinet done in regard to this motion to date?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Deputy Premier, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 207-13(7): Progress on Vaneltsi Motion

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Mr. Speaker, the motion the Member speaks of, Cabinet has been trying to deal with the issue, but it lies in the area of the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, so I would have to take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 208-13(7): Union Representing Nunavut NTPC Employees

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, the Honourable Mr. Dent. Earlier on today, I had asked the Minister some questions regarding Power Corporation unionized employees in the west, and we had established through that discussion, Mr. Speaker, that, in fact, the Power Corporation employees in Nunavut are represented by a different union. Could the Minister tell me what process did the Nunavut employees use to approach the Power Corporation or whoever they approached to be represented by a different union? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 208-13(7): Union Representing Nunavut NTPC Employees

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now know the proper name of the union I should have referred to earlier. It is the Nunavut Employees Union.. The Nunavut Employees Union is the arm that was created on division of the UNW, so they represent all of the government employees in Nunavut. It was just felt that since the government employees, by their Public Service Act in Nunavut will be represented by the Nunavut Employees Union, Power Corporation employees in Nunavut would most likely be represented by the same bargaining agent. This was

agreed to by the corporation, by the UNW and by the Nunavut Employees Union. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 208-13(7): Union Representing Nunavut NTPC Employees

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my next question to the Minister is, were the western members of the Power Corporation, the unionized western members of the Power Corporation, advised that this would happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 208-13(7): Union Representing Nunavut NTPC Employees

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would guess that technically they were as the UNW was consulted in the decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 208-13(7): Union Representing Nunavut NTPC Employees

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the Power Corporation is presently staying together and what one government does can potentially affect the other as regard to Power Corporation workers. Could the Minister advise this House that, if in fact, the Power Corporation workers represented by the Nunavut government settle for a higher wage, how will that affect the costs that will be born by western consumers, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

When Members use the word, if, you get a hypothetical situation. Does the Minister wish to respond? Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 208-13(7): Union Representing Nunavut NTPC Employees

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are a couple of points that I should respond to as I think there is some misapprehension by the Member in how he understands the current process. We have a transition agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories so that the actions of one government cannot affect the operation of the Power Corporation. The board of the Power Corporation is responsible for running the Power Corporation, not the governments. The governments do not provide direction and the transition agreement quite clearly sets this out. There should be no worry that the actions of one government will affect the return on investment by shareholders in the other territory.

Second, the negotiations are between the Power Corporation and the agents representing the employees. The Government of Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories are not involved in the negotiations directly. The negotiations are being conducted by the Power Corporation management and they are being conducted between unionized workers in the Northwest Territories as one bargaining group, and unionized workers in Nunavut as the other. Should they reach different settlements in each territory, Mr. Speaker, by the terms of the operation of the Power Corporation, there is no cross-subsidization and, in fact, the cost of operation in each community must be recovered from that community, so there is no cross-subsidization even between communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 208-13(7): Union Representing Nunavut NTPC Employees

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that information. Mr. Speaker, we all know that presently the Union of Northern Workers are negotiating with the Power Corporation for a collective agreement for their union. We are

also aware, Mr. Speaker, that if an agreement is reached, the opportunity for the employees to have different representation will be gone for some period of time. Other than the membership of that union, not accepting a contract or dragging their feet on that situation, are there any other steps that the workers can take to force this issue for consideration of a change to the NWT Public Service Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 208-13(7): Union Representing Nunavut NTPC Employees

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already stated earlier today, this cannot be a quick process. There is nothing that can speed it up. I am no labour lawyer, but I would suspect that if we were to agree to make a change in the structure of the regulation of labour in the Northwest Territories, that would not necessarily preclude a change in representation happening in mid-contract. I would be extremely surprised if we were able to respond in the life of this Legislature with the new legislation. The requirement for consultation, and looking at how labour laws would have to change because of the implications to other areas of the public service, this cannot be achieved quickly, however, the process has commenced to seriously look at it. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 209-13(7): NTPC Contracting Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. Recently in Hay River, a contract was awarded by the Power Corporation to a southern company for the provision of workshops and seminars we put on for employees with respect to proper posture and things that could help them in that way. This contract was awarded to a southern company, I believe out of Vancouver, and it was not put out to tender or any proposal called in the Northwest Territories to allow people with that expertise in the North to bid on that contract. My question to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation is,

what is the policy of the Power Corporation with respect to contracting for services? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 209-13(7): NTPC Contracting Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly encourage the board of directors to support northern business as much as possible. They do not have a Business Incentive Policy, nor are they required to follow the Business Incentive Policy of this government, because they are not funded by the government. I do believe that, in general, they attempt to give as much business as possible to northern suppliers. The Member brought this issue to my attention some time ago and I believe that, in consultation with the management of the Power Corporation, there has been an agreement that, in future there will certainly be an opportunity for local companies to bid to supply this kind of service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 209-13(7): NTPC Contracting Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, indeed I did speak with the Minister about this previously, but subsequent to that, the contract did go ahead and it went ahead not only in Hay River as a community but the same service was also provided to employees of the Power Corporation in other areas. It turned out to be, what I would suspect, is a fairly substantial contract and it was not halted after it was brought to the attention of the Minister or to the board. I was wondering, could the Minister tell us, for clarification, the NWT Power Corporation is not guided by the same purchasing principles as the GNWT? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 209-13(7): NTPC Contracting Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they are specifically excluded from the requirement to follow the Business Incentive Policy or the purchasing requirements set out for government agencies, so they develop their own policies and I would be happy to provide the Member with information on what their purchasing policies are.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 209-13(7): NTPC Contracting Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister also undertake to provide me with the details of that particular contract and what the dollar value was associated with it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent, two questions.

Further Return To Question 209-13(7): NTPC Contracting Policy

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On both questions, I will ask the board to provide that information to me so I can forward it to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Henry.

Question 210-13(7): Special Needs Programs For Parents

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger. Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer to a letter I had received and a subsequent conversation with some parents here in Yellowknife regarding some of their children. One was recently diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD. These parents go on to tell

me about some of the difficulties that they have had to go through to, first of all, identify the problem, get the

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assessment, deal with the assessment, and help their child to deal with the medical problems that they have. This certainly, Mr. Speaker, is not meant to pull on the Minister's heartstrings, because I know he feels very strongly about the need for assistance to children with learning difficulties. It is more to get at the point, Mr. Speaker, about a role the department can play in encouraging parents that they have a role to play, too.

Mr. Speaker, the lady talks very strongly and is very supportive of YK Education District 1, and particularly the school that her son is enrolled in that particular school district, Range Lake North School. She speaks very highly of the work that particular board and school does. My question to the Minister is, can the Minister tell me what programs the department runs to encourage parents that they also have a large role to play in doing their part to ensure their children are assessed and also to give them some tools to help their children along through these difficulties? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 210-13(7): Special Needs Programs For Parents

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member raises a key issue that was talked about at some length during the debate on the budget and that is the critical role of the family and parents on the education of their child or children. This issue, as well, was raised by the forum and it is a community issue that we, as a department, along with the DEAs and DEC's, are going to be working on. Are there specific departmental programs such as the Member referenced? Not to my knowledge. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Henry.

Supplementary To Question 210-13(7): Special Needs Programs For Parents

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has acknowledged, in fact, that parents do play a very large part in assisting their family to deal with these situations and he does acknowledge that to his knowledge there are not any programs that the department has. My question to the Minister is, would he give some consideration to having some discussion with his department officials, as the Minister has recognized the importance that parents play in this, and develop some programs or some information pamphlets that can be distributed to schools and, therefore, to parents to help them deal with the situation of getting their children diagnosed if they are running into some of these problems? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 210-13(7): Special Needs Programs For Parents

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify that while I said that the department here in Yellowknife has no specific programs, I know from meetings that I have had with the board here and the one in Fort Smith at this point, that, in fact, the local DEAs and boards go to great lengths to try to contact the parents, try to involve them in the running of the school and meeting their children's educational needs.

As well, I have heard that from the principal in Fort Smith and I just met with the principal of St. Patrick this morning. We talked about that very issue. The department supports that particular kind of approach and I will be meeting with the board chairs for all divisional boards the week of the 25th to discuss that and many other issues. I think the department's role is best served as one of strong support for the communities, schools, DEAs and DEC's to foster and encourage that strong relationship and two-way communication with parents and the school. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 211-13(7): Removal of Northern Artifacts

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, every year in the summertime after the snow disappears, there are things that become visible on the ground and also I guess there is a lot that is under the ground as well. I am talking about artifacts, archaeological artifacts, and many people, some of them Northerners, others tourists, take some of these artifacts and take them home, whatever. Some people have good intentions, of course, they think that by taking this artifact to the museum, that this could be put on display. Others take these things for themselves to put on display in their own home, or, sometimes to sell.

People need to realize and should know that by taking these artifacts they are depriving experts from being able to get information from the artifacts and from the actual site where they are taken from. Actually, they are taking a piece of our heritage. Unfortunately, the maximum fine today that a person could get for removing artifacts under the NWT Archaeological Site Regulations is only \$1,000. This is not much of a deterrent, especially for people who knowingly do this. What I am wondering is, if the Minister could commit to taking a look at this area and see if they could tighten up the regulations and perhaps increase the maximum fine? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 211-13(7): Removal of Northern Artifacts

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member raises an important issue, the issue of preservation of cultural and archaeological artifacts of the Northwest Territories. I would be willing to look at that particular issue. I would also, if the social programs committee wish to discuss that and look at alternatives, is the raising of fines the best way to do that, are there other ways to address the issue so that people are aware of the importance of the issue that my colleague has raised and more importantly, aware of the significance of the artifacts in question and the need to respect the history, the

culture and the land from which they are resting and may possibly be removed without permission.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Rabesca?

Question 212-13(7): Hearing on Highway #3

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be to the Honourable Mr. Steen, the Minister of Transportation, regarding my Member's statement of some time ago. I mentioned the desperate need for Highway 2 to be repaired and maintained between Rae and Yellowknife reconstruction sites. There are some rough sections and then there are some breaks and heaves, and so on, and I was wondering if the Minister would be able to respond to the important question to see whether we could have some of the staff and equipment to look into it as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 212-13(7): Hearing on Highway #3

HON. VINCE STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for bringing that to my attention and I will have the department look into that as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Ootes.

Question 213-13(7): Report on Contracting Policy Review

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Deputy Premier and it concerns the issue of negotiated contracts that the government is doing a study of and wonder if the Deputy Premier might have an update as to when the report might be available so we can release it to the stakeholders and all the interested parties for possible feedback, so we can ensure that this thing is properly corrected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Deputy Premier.

Return To Question 213-13(7): Report on Contracting Policy Review

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that this has been an issue that has come up in this Assembly and we have committed to look into this and do some work in the area of negotiated contracts and the Procurement Policy overall in this government. We have looked at the first phase of this, the negotiated contracts issue, and it is leading to the development of a policy that would be hopefully ready for review by this fall and brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 213-13(7): Report on Contracting Policy Review

MR. OOTES:

Mr. Speaker, I thought we were going to get this report in March of this year, and now it seems it...

MR. SPEAKER:

Can we have some order in the House?

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues just happened to make me chuckle there, so forgive me for that. I was under the impression that this report was to be completed by March 31st and now I understand, this is very embarrassing, but my colleagues are quite jovial. I guess it is the last day of the session that has made them that way. In any event, it is a very serious subject and I wonder if the Minister could tell me if it will be the fall before we see this report, and it is a very important subject, because throughout the summer we are not able to possibly deal with this subject in this House and, in any event, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if he may be able to advance that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is over. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 213-13(7): Report on Contracting Policy Review

HON. FLOYD ROLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, this work that has been done was brought forth to Cabinet and we have reviewed it and out of the work that has been done we have gone to the next phase, to develop a policy and deal with the whole issue of how the government procures its work and the delivery of that work. Our intention, when it is done, is to table it in this Assembly this fall and we hope at that time we can set clear guidelines for how this government does its business.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 7-13(7): Timber Stand Inventories

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, apparently new policy has come into effect in the past three years whereby forestry personnel has the authority to make copies of records to see who timber is being sold to by private companies. Reporting volumes is one thing, but demanding to know specifics of a market is another. I would like to know when that policy came into effect? There has been much debate of methods of inventory in timber stands. This seems to be an ongoing process. Is it possible to determine inventory by historic data, recent years' cuts and, also, how much does the department spend on this inventorying process? I notice there are contracts out right now and I would like to know what is being spent on it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

HON. VINCE STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return

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to a written question asked by Mrs. Groenewegen on April 26, 1999, in regard to delivery of capital projects.

The contribution agreements require communities to comply with the Business Incentive Policy. Consistent with the spirit of the empowerment initiative, communities are expected to meet this obligation without the supervision or involvement of the Territorial Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Returns to written questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a written question asked by Mr. Henry on April 26, 1999.

1. The Workers' Compensation Board was designed to protect injured workers. It has not spent any money suing injured workers.

2. The Workers' Compensation Act provides the Workers' Compensation Board with exclusive jurisdiction to determine all matters arising under the act, including third party actions. The Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board is granted some authority under the act, but does not have the authority to give the board direction on the conduct of third party actions.

3. I am unable to comment on the case referenced by Mr. Henry. This case names the Government of the Northwest Territories as a defendant and is presently before the courts. Thank you

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Reply to Opening Address 4-13(7): Mr. Ootes

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last few years efforts to develop a new constitution for the Northwest

Territories have been unsuccessful, because of the different visions of governance in the NWT. This variance of vision is now focused on the issue of representation in the Legislature, specifically on the discrepancy of representation between rural ridings and urban areas.

Proponents on both sides of the issue are asserting their legally constituted rights. On one side, people in urban areas such as Yellowknife feel the burgeoning population in their ridings is depriving them of their right to equitable representation in the Legislative Assembly. On the other hand, many aboriginal people are equally adamant that additional urban representation could take away from their rights. In the interests of creating a climate where we can live together in cooperation, it is important for people on both sides of this issue to stretch their perceptions and attempt to understand the opposing viewpoint.

However, because of the growth of urban areas such as Yellowknife in recent years, the discrepancy between the size of urban and rural ridings has become too great and now we are out of balance. To give an example that has been repeated many times, Yellowknife South has a population of 7,105, compared to the riding of Tu Nedhe with a population of 842.

What is complicating this issue are the self-government negotiations currently underway between the various aboriginal groups and the federal government. There is concern that self-government agreements should be in place before public government issues are dealt with. Aboriginal people want appropriate and fair representation. I can understand and appreciate that. It is everyone's desire to have a territorial government that represents aboriginal and non-aboriginal residents of the NWT on a fair and equitable basis.

In the summer and fall of 1998, the NWT Boundaries Commission conducted a review of electoral ridings through a community consultation process. This commission was composed of two people from rural NWT communities and one Supreme Court Justice from Yellowknife. Their review noted the unfair disparity between urban and rural ridings and in September, 1998, the commission recommended the creation of two additional seats for Yellowknife.

Unfortunately, this recommendation was defeated in the Legislative Assembly and a subsequent motion to create only one additional riding in Yellowknife was also defeated. In turn, the decision to keep the NWT

down to 14 ridings was then challenged in court by the Friends of Democracy, an action that was opposed by intervenors, Northwest Territories Metis Nation, Dene Nation, North Slave Metis Alliance, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and Lutselk'e Band, all of whom are members of the Aboriginal Summit.

In early March, Justice Mark de Weerdts declared three of the NWT ridings, Yellowknife South, Yellowknife North and Hay River, invalid because the population of these ridings were more than 25 percent higher than the average population of all the ridings. Justice de Weerdts upheld the Friends of Democracy position that the under-representation of certain constituencies was contrary to Section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He rejected the position put forth by the Government

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of the Northwest Territories, and supported the intervenors, that Section 3 is subject to Section 25 which guarantees aboriginal and treaty rights. Justice de Weerdts noted that 20 percent of the voting population of Yellowknife consists of aboriginal people "whose right to effective representation in the Legislative Assembly is affected equally with that of the non-aboriginal population, by the existing maldistribution of seats in the Assembly."

Justice de Weerdts also concluded "that removing the basis for the existing gross numerical under-representation in the Assembly, of citizens of Yellowknife need not in any really significant way alter the existing balance of political power in the Assembly." Justice de Weerdts declared the three ridings of Yellowknife North, Yellowknife South and Hay River invalid but did not tell us how to fix the problem.

At first it seemed possible to solve the problem by splitting each of the invalid ridings to create three more seats. As soon as additional seats are created, the average population of each riding changes and other ridings come into dispute. Once we added two seats to Yellowknife and one to Hay River, then other ridings in Yellowknife and Inuvik were under-represented by more than 25 percent, so more seats had to be added there. Other configurations are possible, but the five seat option is the only one which maintains the cultural and geographic integrity of the ridings.

Where do we stand now? The decision by Justice de Weerdts originally carried a deadline of April 1, 1999,

which was later extended to September 1, 1999. Cabinet has decided to follow legal advice not to have the Government of the Northwest Territories appeal Justice de Weerd's decision. However, the Aboriginal Summit has applied to appeal and Cabinet has agreed to financially support the Aboriginal Summit and the Friends of Democracy in an appeal of Justice de Weerd's decision.

The Appeal Court has indicated it will possibly hear the application for appeal between June 15th and June 17th. Meanwhile, Bill 15, the bill to revise the electoral boundaries to establish five additional seats, three in Yellowknife, one in Hay River and one in Inuvik, for a total of 19 seats, has received two readings by the Legislative Assembly and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations for review.

The committee has up to 120 days to review the legislation. This review period expires July 22nd, 1999. The Legislative Assembly is scheduled to sit again beginning July 26th and Bill 15 on the electoral boundaries situation can possibly be considered then. So this is where the current situation is at. I am still hopeful we can have a fall election. However, it is difficult to confirm an election date for two reasons:

1. The review of Bill 15 on the electoral boundaries is before the Standing Committee of Government Operations and could be referred back to the Legislative Assembly for consideration anytime between now up to July 22, 1999.

2. The Chief Electoral Officer requires up to six months to prepare for an election. This time can possibly be reduced by a month or so, but preparations cannot begin until the electoral boundaries bill is dealt with by the Legislative Assembly.

Members are hopeful that the consultative and legal processes can be accomplished in the next several months. I appreciate the situation is complex. I have tried to simplify it here for the benefit of constituents interested in understanding the issue. The public needs to know the factors involved in the situation in order to appreciate where this government stands as far as announcing the next election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees, Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills, Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 50-13(7): List of Inter-Activity Budget Transfers over \$250,000 for the Period April 1, 1998 - March 31, 1999

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As required by Section 32.1 subsection (2) of the Financial Administration Act, I am tabling a list of all inter-activity transfers exceeding \$250,000 within departments for the period of April 1, 1998, to March 31, 1999. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 51-13(7): Response to Petition 1-13(7): The Delivery of Health and Social Services

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a response to petition 1-13(7), presented by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko, and responded to by the Minister of Health and Social Services, concerning the delivery of health and social services. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 21: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 17, 1999, I will move that Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

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HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 21. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Dent, you have unanimous consent.

Bill 21: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move second by the honourable Member for Inuvik that Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Mr. Clerk, will you ring the bell please. The Chair recognizes a quorum. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 21 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 21: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker,

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for the government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 21 has had second reading and accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Tabled document 31-13(7) and Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the Chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I call committee of the whole to order. We have today, tabled document 31-13(7) and Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, I would like to recommend that the committee consider Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. We will consider Bill 21 after a short break.

--Break

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

I call the committee back to order. We are dealing with Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000, Mr. Dent, would you please introduce the bill. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 1999-2000, requests authority for additional appropriations of \$22,378,024 made up of \$6,373,024 for operations and maintenance expenditures and \$16.005 million for capital expenditures.

Approximately \$1.2 million of the new supplementary requirements will be offset by revenues or other recoveries and will not impact the government's operating results for the year. As a result, the net funding requirement, included in this supplementary appropriation is \$21 million.

The additional appropriations have been provided for in the estimated supplementary appropriation requirements included in the 1999-2000 Main Estimates. The \$16 million required to complete capital projects, carried over from 1998-99, is greater than the \$11 million identified in the Main Estimates for this purpose. However, the full amount did lapse last year and was reflected in the year end result for 1998-99.

A number of interdepartmental transfers are also included in the supplementary appropriations which do not require additional funding.

The operations and maintenance supplementary appropriation requirements include the following major items:

1)\$3 million for the costs of the equal pay tribunal to deal with the equal pay complaint.

2)\$2.2 million related to the continuation of the public/private partnership initiative of which approximately \$1.2 million will be recovered from developers over the next two years.

The supplementary capital appropriation requirements include:

1)\$16 million in capital carry-overs from the 1998-99 fiscal year. The funding was approved and lapsed in the 1998-99 year and is required to complete ongoing projects in the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Would the Minister like to bring in witnesses?

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Yes, Madam Chairperson.

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CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please bring in the witnesses. Mr. Dent, for the record would you please introduce your witness.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Madam Chairperson, with me today I have Mr. Lew Voytilla, the secretary to the Financial Management Board.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. General comments on the bill by Members. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In regard to the Minister's statements where he states that additional appropriations have been provided in regard to the supplementary appropriation, in regard to 1999-2000, that the \$16 million was required to complete capital projects carried over from 1998-99 and this is greater than \$11 million identified in the Main Estimates for this purpose. Can the Minister elaborate or expand on that to identify exactly why we have to have a difference from \$16 million to \$11 million which was identified in the Main Estimates.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Madam Chairperson, the \$11 million identified in the Main Estimates was an estimate which was prepared after consultation with departments following the third quarter in which the departments were asked to estimate what they thought would be lapsed on capital projects underway. There were a number of

unforeseen events, it would seem, that meant that the estimate was off by \$5 million. Madam Chairperson, as I said in my opening comments, all of those monies were approved in the previous year and they were lapsed so it was monies that were approved for projects that were not expended in the capital projects by March 31, 1999. The projects were ongoing, but had not reached a stage where progress payments were made in the amount that had been expected would be made by departments. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. The reason I ask the question is that we just got ourselves out where we ended up with a major deficit in which we had to make some fundamental changes to the way we deliver programs and services and also, cuts to personnel in the government to get out of the deficit, and I do not want to see ourselves getting into the situation where we found ourselves three and a half years ago. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what steps or measures are being taken to ensure that we do not find ourselves in a situation of a deficit in regard to the Deficit Elimination Act which was in place and also what is the status of the act at the present time?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To answer the last question the Member asked first, it is my understanding that the Deficit Elimination Act does not apply to the 1999-2000 budget, however, as I said in the Budget Address, we have brought forward a budget that, while it has a deficit in it, we have sufficient monies in the accumulated surplus to cover the annual deficit that we are projecting this year. What are we going to do to try and ensure that we do not exceed the \$34 million projected deficit? Madam Chairperson, I have advised all Ministers and departments that it will be very difficult to have funding added to supplementary appropriations, and we will expect departments to ensure that we live within the supplementary reserve that we have put into this year's budget. Now going back to the first part of the Member's question which had to do with

the difference between the \$16 million and the \$11 million that was shown in the Main Estimates; it should be pointed out that that difference in \$5 million was actually lapsed so that \$5 million was, if you want, sitting in the bank on March 31st. It had not been paid for capital projects that were underway simply because they had not reached a stage that required the payment. So, it was not as if we had to find extra money for those projects. That was money we had thought would be paid out in capital projects by March 31, 1999, but, in fact will not be paid out until some future date, or some of them may be ready to be paid now, because the project was not as far along as we had expected. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In regard to the Minister's comments. He made reference to there is as of 1999-2000, there is no Deficit Elimination Act, is that what I heard? If so, what is in place to protect us against going into a deficit situation?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent?

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I understand it, our legal advice is that the Deficit Elimination Act will not apply for the fiscal year 1999-2000. I believe it is because there were years that were actually mentioned in the act so it applied to specific years that were mentioned in the act when it was passed and we are now past those years. Members will remember, the driving factor for the introduction of the Deficit Elimination Act was to ensure that we could achieve the creation of two new territories as close to debt free as possible. I think it is worth noting that we did in fact do that. We ended up with both territories having money in the bank. What do we have to protect us? Well, you have my resolve that I will be vigilant at ensuring that the departments live within their budgets, and I will be very difficult to convince that money should be put in supplementary appropriations, and then it is up to the Members of this House to continue that vigilance. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Any further general comments? If not, is the committee agreed that we will go clause by clause, review the bill? I am sorry,

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review of the detail first. If I could direct your attention please, to page 5 of your green tab 21, tab 21, page 5, in your green binders. Executive operations and maintenance, executive offices, Cabinet secretariat, not previously authorized, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Is the \$200,000 that has not been authorized, is there going to be an audit of that money or is there some way of accounting for it?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

I would expect that the groups would be expected to provide us with copies of their invoices and statements from their legal counsel to demonstrate that these amounts have been expended.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Was there a specific category of how this money was going to be spent? Was it clearly identified how that money was going to be spent?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This is to assist both groups to cover their legal expenses and it is

broken up so that each group is provided with \$50,000 for the original case and a maximum of \$50,000 for the appeal.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Was the money supposed to spent specifically for legal fees or consultant fees or that type of expenses or is it wide open?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The fee is to cover legal expenses and court costs.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Executive offices, Cabinet secretariat, not previously authorized, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Executive operations and maintenance, financial management board secretariat, directorate, not previously authorized, negative, \$79,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Labour relations and compensation services not previously authorized, \$3.820 million. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We understand that a large portion of the employees present and past who were eligible for remuneration have been remunerated and are there any continuing costs associated or is this two separate items? Any

associated costs with trying to handle the employees that did not accept the government's offer? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I have understood the Member, he is asking if the \$3 million will cover the tribunal costs which would go towards dealing with the complaint by those employees who have not agreed to settle. That is what the \$3 million is for, is to cover our costs for the tribunal, the court costs, travel, material and supplies, et cetera.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It may be hypothetical, but if the employees that have not presently accepted the government offer, if they were to accept the offer, would this case still proceed or would there be no requirement for it then? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For this case not to proceed, we would have to have 100 percent of all employees agree to the settlement and even in that case, the Human Rights Commission could decide to proceed on its own.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This equal pay situation, how are the Nunavut employees being handled now? Are they still involved in this or are they totally out of the picture and being handled by the Nunavut Government now?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Minister.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The previous employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories are still part of the same action, so it is still the same action. We have an agreement with Nunavut to cover the costs of any settlement, 56 percent for the Northwest Territories and 44 percent for Nunavut. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Financial Management Board Secretariat, labour relations and compensation services, not previously authorized, \$3.820 million. Mr. Erasmus.

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MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Further to Mr. Henry's questions on the amount of people that had accepted the offer that was made by the government to settle the equal pay issue. Will the government be making another offer to employees or have we made another offer to the employees who have not accepted the offer that was made prior to the end of the last fiscal year?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Dr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Nunavut government has been written asking for confirmation that they are prepared to share in the costs of those settlements on a proportional basis and, if we can get that agreement, then we would be prepared to reopen the offers.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This \$3.8 million, is that all for the equal pay tribunal costs, legal costs, that type of thing, and is that for the whole year, this coming year?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The \$3 million we are talking about is for equal pay, and \$820,000 is for the People Self Project cost overruns. Of the \$3 million, \$2.2 million is directly for the equal pay complaint, \$750,000 is for the appeals process for our new job evaluation system.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

So \$2.2 million is for the legal costs and the associated costs such as travelling to and from Ottawa?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That is correct, \$2.2 million.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

And that is for this coming year that we will need this? Is that the case?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That is correct. That will cover equipment and supplies, travel and accommodation, contracts, research, staff costs.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

How much of that is estimated for the travelling to and from Ottawa and associated costs like accommodations over there, that type of thing?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

We have an additional \$150,000 that we have to spend because we are doing this in Ottawa, the majority of the hearings in Ottawa. Can we assume there would be an equal amount for each of the years that this is going to be taking?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would agree that the large majority, almost all of the travel and accommodation costs are a result of holding the hearing in Ottawa. There will be some other costs that will be somewhat higher for us because of the hearings being in Ottawa, and yes, this amount is what we would expect for each year the process is continued.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Is there any possibility that perhaps this decision may be reversed, that we do not have to have all these hearings in Ottawa? I know that we passed a motion the other day trying to get more money for education, and we can certainly use that \$150,000, if not for special needs, then perhaps for the school in N'dilo or some other such worthy cause.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would welcome it if the union were to agree to come back to the table and negotiate this with the government. That would be one way to end the complaint. As I said, when I discussed my disappointment with the tribunal's decision to hold the hearings in Ottawa, we are considering whether or not to request a judicial review of that decision. We do, right now, have three cases before the courts relating to this complaint. If we are successful in any one of those three cases, it may significantly change the whole process. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Erasmus.

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think one final question. Could the Minister indicate what percentage of the employees involved in the equity pay have not been dealt with through the equal pay offers that were made?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Erasmus. Mr. Dent.

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HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The people that we were able to locate, in other words if we had their addresses and the offer was sent, 80 percent have accepted the offer to settle. There were 4,340 offer letters sent out. We have had 3,467 that we have received back, and 3,490 that we have received confirmation by fax but not have received the original document yet. We think that 3,490 people will be the final number that have accepted. There are 988 former employees whose addresses we cannot find so they have not been sent offers. I think that responds to the Member's question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, and I thank the Minister. Those are interesting numbers. If I understand it correctly, there is an anticipation when the original documentation comes back, that 80

percent of the former and present employees entitled to pay equity would have their cases settled and be paid up. For 20 percent of the employees, my question is, is this \$3 million for a one-year term? Also, if the Minister could respond to comments that were made previously that this could last for two to three years. The Minister did not make that, but I am sure I have heard his predecessor, I am sure I have heard the comments, so if the Minister could respond, how long will this take and is this \$3 million for this year plus, potentially, if it goes another year, will it be another \$3 million? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. First of all, it is \$2.2 million specifically for the tribunal. There is \$750,000 for appeals on the new job classification system. We would expect that that \$750,000 will be adequate to get through all the appeals that we expect. We do not expect that amount will be needed every year. But the \$2.2 million, we do expect will be needed every year. The commission itself estimated it would take three years to conclude this. Our estimate is, given how long it has taken other complaints, at least five years and perhaps longer.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Those numbers are staggering in light of some of the motions that have been made in this House to put extra funding to problems that we have in education and health care. At the worst situation, if this did go for five years, we are potentially looking at least \$10 million to handle that if it was \$2 million a year. Madam Chairperson, more as a comment, I would encourage the Minister to sit down with the union and look at these costs and maybe there is room, when presented with this information, some goodwill on both parts, to maybe bring this to a culmination for the betterment of the residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I, just two days ago, signed a letter which included a suggestion to the president of the UNW that we do, in fact, get back to the table to discuss this issue. We continue to believe that a negotiated settlement among Northerners would be the best way to solve the problem and would dearly love to embark again on that process. The government continues to advance that position and request that action. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just as a note of encouragement to the Minister, his predecessor and staff were able to achieve an 80 percent settlement. I would suggest that with that same staff and yourself, 20 percent should be quite easy to achieve. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In regards to the People Self Project, it says there are additional costs associated. Is this a cost overrun because you had to extend the project for the \$820,000?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, this is a cost overrun. The project has taken longer to conclude than what had been expected. The cost overruns are a result of that extra length of time.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can the Minister state how long this project has been ongoing and what is the cost to date for this project?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This project was commenced last spring, and we are now expecting it to conclude at the end of June this year.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

The \$820,000, that is the total cost of the project to date?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. No, I believe the total cost of the project is about \$5.5 million.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Krutko.

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MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The \$5.5 million, is that the total cost of the project to date or does that include the \$820,000?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It is about \$5.6 million I am advised now and that does include the \$820,000, yes.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Financial Management Board Secretariat, Labour Relations and Compensation Services, \$3.82 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Budgeting and evaluation, not previously authorized, \$2.180 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$6.121 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Public Works and Services, operations and maintenance, asset management, not previously authorized, negative, \$1.117 million. Agreed? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In regards to the user pay user say program, which is presently under process, and programs which used to be done by the Department of Public Works, now done mostly by the departments themselves, is there any time frame to phase out this whole idea of user pay, user say, and have the departments put these costs directly into the Main Estimates?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We have almost concluded all of the transfers to the departments so we should not see too many more of these sorts of transfers. In most cases, the departments are now fully responsible for controlling all of their expenditures.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can the Minister state exactly when he sees the completion date of this practice?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It is difficult to say for certain, but we would hope that it would be done this fiscal year so that Public Works is not responsible for paying the costs of building operation for other departments in the subsequent budget. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Public Works and Services, operations and maintenance, asset management, not previously authorized, negative, \$1.117 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, negative, \$1.117 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Department of Education, Culture and Employment, operations and maintenance, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$129,024. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Education and Culture, not previously authorized, \$79,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$208,024. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operations and maintenance, resource management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$1.161 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Total department not previously authorized, \$1.161 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, community operations, not previously authorized, \$2.963 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Total department, \$2.963 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you. Department of Public Works and Services capital, asset management, \$1.813 million. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam

Chairperson, I wonder if we can get an explanation of what the office renovations in Yellowknife are for?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. \$685,000 is for the Laing Building upgrade and fit up of offices, \$827,000 is for Hodgson Building upgrade and fit up of offices, \$125,000 is for the Career Centre relocation to the Joe Tobie Building, and \$126,000 is the total for minor office space projects in various buildings throughout Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Laing Building upgrade and fit up of offices, could the Minister tell us what the previous expenditures on this building were in the last two and three years, and what the projected expenditures are in future years? My concern, Mr. Chairman, is that this building was originally intended to be taken off the market and all of a sudden, the government, because of other circumstances regarding the Lahm Ridge Tower, this building is back in the planning stage again and the question becomes, originally, the building was to be taken off because it was deemed unfit for and too costly to bring up to grade. Now, all of a sudden, we find ourselves back in the situation where we are upgrading this building. Could the Minister tell us what kind of expenditures have been and what are anticipated to be made on this building?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Mr. Dent.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have that detail with me. It would most likely be better put to the Minister of Public Works. I expect that the Minister will be bringing forward a paper to look for funding to upgrade the building, but I would be working from only a vague memory if I were to start quoting numbers here today, Mr. Chairman. I must say that to date, no paper has appeared in front of the FMB for consideration that would renovate the Laing Building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

I guess I am just concerned because again, my understanding was this is going to be a several million dollar project in the long run. We are looking for money for education. Yesterday, we passed a motion for \$5 million. My thought would be well, wait a minute here, if this is going to be a couple of million to renovate a building that in the first place we were not going to do, then, here is part of the money, in my opinion. I do not have a problem if we said, well, let us look at this and be serious. The Minister does not have the information that applies here and I am concerned about that. Possibly, should we put this off until we can get some answers on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Mr. Minister.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is important to point out that this is capital monies that were approved in last year's budget that were not spent by March 31st, so this is a capital carry-over, this is not ongoing funding that would be available to put into a program. This is capital dollars that were committed. However, I believe that not all of this money will be spent unless there is subsequent approval for a significant amount of renovation work to the Laing Building. As I said, that has not yet been considered and definitely not yet approved by the FMB.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Am I to understand this is a \$685,000 is a carry-over from last year, presumably on renovations that were started last year, is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Mr. Minister.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was based on the planning and design work that was approved last year

and I do not believe that any construction got started, but the design work was done. I am not sure if they actually did anything in the way of construction.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

This is contingent upon additional funding but we do not know how much the additional funding is. If I heard the Minister earlier, he said he does not know. We are trying to approve \$685,000 contingent upon future funding, but we do not know what that funding is. Can the Minister tell us if he might be able to scratch that up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Mr. Minister.

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Depending on the plan that comes forward and whether or not the plan is accepted, there may be surplus funds here. How much they are, I would not want to say right now because, at the very minimum, the air handling units need some work in that building even if nothing else is done, we are talking about well into the six figures to deal with just that one issue. I would not count on having \$600,000 extra even if no other funding is found, we are probably going to have to spend a good deal of this money, one way or the other, on that building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

Thank you. I certainly would encourage the Minister to consider what I have said earlier. We are looking for money for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. I think it is important that we passed a motion in that regard for \$5 million that we have to come up with and identify, before the next session. I would encourage the Minister to consider this, especially since it is contingent on additional funding. There is an opportunity here to possibly find a substantial amount of money. I will leave my comments at that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Asset management, \$1.813 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.813 million. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Health and Social Services, capital, primary and acute care program, not previously authorized, \$413,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you. Total department not previously authorized, \$413,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Justice, capital, community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$190,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total department, not previously authorized, \$190,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Education, Culture and Employment, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$870,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Education, Culture and Employment, not previously authorized, \$1.172 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total department, not previously authorized, \$2.042 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Transportation, capital, airports, not previously authorized, \$527,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Highways, not previously authorized, \$7.483 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Community local access roads, not previously authorized, \$85,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total department, not previously authorized, \$8.095 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, capital, resource management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$489,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total department, not previously authorized, \$489,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Does the committee agree that we have dealt with Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Does the committee agree that we stand down the preamble?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Does the committee agree that we continue with clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Schedule, part 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$6,373,024. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Part 2, vote 2, capital, total capital, \$16.5 million. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Total supplementary appropriation, parts 1 and 2, \$22,378,024. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Now we will return to the preamble. Preamble. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Is the committee agreed that Bill 21 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Bill 21 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your witnesses. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ootes.

MR. OOTES:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000, and would like to report that Bill 21, is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake is seeking consent to deal with Bill 21. Are there any nays? We have no nays. Mr. Dent, you have unanimous consent.

Bill 21: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 21 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:

Mr. Speaker, Premier and honourable Members, before I assent to the bill today, I have observed in my travels to three communities, that there is a need to recognize individuals in a special way. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Commissioner's Office does have the Commissioner's Awards Program and this, of course, will continue. However, there are individuals who have shown that extra effort as a citizen of the North. These individuals have done civic and public duties to their community, as well as contributed to the well-being of all Northerners. Some are elders, some are former chiefs or councillors, some are just ordinary citizens and, Mr. Speaker, I feel these people need special recognition. Over the next few months I will be asking the advice of the Premier on this matter and look forward to announcing, with his concurrence, a program of special recognition.

Mr. Speaker, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bill: Bill 21: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999-2000.

Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Thank you. Before we break for the summer, I would like to wish all of the Members good luck and have safe travel. Enjoy your time with your constituents and your family and friends. 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 and Services Board immediately after adjournment this afternoon and at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning of the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure.

Order of the day for Monday, July 26, 1999:

1. Prayer
 2. Ministers' Statements
 3. Members' Statements
- Page 604
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
 - 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., Monday, July 26, 1999.

--ADJOURNMENT