



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**HANSARD**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

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

**SPEAKER (Hon. Sam Gargan):**

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Good afternoon and welcome to the reconvening of the Seventh Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly. I hope that you all have had a good summer so far with your family, friends and constituents. We have a lot of work to do in the week ahead and I ask Members for their attention to the matters of the House. I also will remind Members that I intend to be strict with the rules of this Chamber so that we can deal with the business at hand. I ask Members to be aware of their commitment to serve the people of their constituencies. And I ask each Member to treat each other with mutual respect. So, welcome to the reconvening of the Seventh Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

I wish to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories:

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, the passage of the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999-2000, during the Seventh Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly.

Yours truly, Dan Marion, Commissioner.

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

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Minister's Statement 69-13(7): Six-Month Safety Record - NWT Power Corporation

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, workplace accidents can be devastating. Not only is an employee affected - family, friends and fellow workers all share in the consequences.

Accidents can be prevented. However, it takes commitment, training and a strong sense of responsibility from both the employer, and the employees, to make a difference. I am very pleased to report that the people at the NWT Power Corporation have demonstrated they can make the difference.

On June 30, 1999, the corporation's 295 employees achieved a record of six months - over 400,000 hours - with no time-loss accidents. I am pleased to report that as of today, that record is now almost seven months. This is a very good turnaround from only five years ago, when there were 18 time-loss accidents during the year. Last year, there were only five.

The commitment of the board of directors to make safety the top priority and to put the resources behind their decision has been a major factor. I compliment them, the management and the safety managers of the NWT Power Corporation in the NWT and Nunavut for the excellent job they have done.

I know this Assembly will join me in congratulating the front-line workers, the line crews, the electricians, mechanics and other tradespeople who perform their duties safely every day.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined here today by members of the joint occupational health and safety committee in the gallery who I will introduce at the appropriate time.

Finally, I look forward to January 1st of next year when I am confident we stand a very good chance of achieving a full year - almost one million hours - of zero lost time at the NWT Power Corporation. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 70-13(7): Minister Absent From the House

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Michael Miltenberger will be absent from the House today to attend a funeral in Fort Smith. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement 173-13(7): Benefits of the Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk a little bit about the history of the Government of the Northwest Territories. As Members are all aware, the Government of the Northwest Territories was moved north quite some time ago in the early 60's. At that time we had a commissioner by the name of Mr. Stewart Hodgson. He was the one who implemented and brought North the civil servants and set the government up in the Northwest Territories. At one point in my career, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to talk to the Prime Minister of this country. One of the things that stands out in his mind, is when the

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Northwest Territories had one elevator, he can remember it quite clearly when he was the Minister of Indian Affairs, but yet we had two elevator inspectors. That was caused by transferring the bureaucracy from one level to another.

What I would like to talk about a little bit today, Mr. Speaker, are negotiated contracts, the Business Incentive Policy, and the development of government by the people of the Northwest Territories. It seems like a long time ago now, Mr. Speaker, but it was not that long ago that the majority of the contracts in the Northwest Territories were tendered. I can remember quite clearly back in 1986 when we had a million dollar project in the riding of Tu Nedhe and when everything shook out of the wash, because it was tendered, a Yellowknife firm got it and the community and the riding of Tu Nedhe benefited less than one percent of the capital cost. That is one of the reasons the government of the day made the bold decision to start negotiating contracts.

They also made a bold decision of implementing a Business Incentive Policy. The government of the day had decided at that time it was a benefit to our communities to negotiate contracts. It is a benefit to the government to negotiate contracts. Everybody always hears why we have so little money left to spend on capital projects. The money that we do spend on capital projects should stay in the community. That same capital project money should be used to help train the community, help implement programs in the community, and help people grow in the community by carrying out their own projects. Mr. Speaker, this government in its wise decision has developed a policy on community empowerment. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Tu Nedhe is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do we have any nays. There are no nays. Mr. Morin, you have unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank all the Members of the Assembly for allowing me to conclude my statement. This government has brought into existence the Community Empowerment Policy and this policy, Mr. Speaker, they work with communities so communities can take control of their own programs and services. Communities now take care of their health program delivery, their social service program delivery. Building of buildings is not that hard. Communities can do that as well. It is a benefit to this government for communities to negotiate contracts and for community members to build those buildings and community development corporations to build those buildings. There is no way that our community development corporations can compete against major cities and major communities like Yellowknife and Hay River. Our communities are very small, isolated, and we work within our own boundaries. We want to carry out our own projects, do them with our own people and do them well. I believe this government would benefit in the long run by continuing its negotiation policy and Negotiated Contract Policy with our communities. It would show good faith on this government's part by negotiating contracts with our communities.

I am quite aware, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier and many other Members of Cabinet have been talking about a new partnership, and that partnership must

mean the carrying out of negotiated contracts as well. A new partnership does not mean that you abandon the development corporations in our communities. It is very important that we carry out our negotiated contracts in our communities and all people move ahead together in the Western Territories. Our capital budget is not designed for Yellowknife or the big centres alone. It should be designed for our communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement 174-13(7): Property Appraisal Systems in Smaller Communities

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we know most communities in the smaller ridings are classified as GTA communities. Mr. Speaker, a large part of the reason why GTA communities are such is because they do not have population or economic base to maintain, operate and manage municipal services on their own. However, whether or not it is suitable, this government must continue to maintain and operate the capital infrastructure in a lot of our communities but also the community has to retain certain hardships to maintain those programs. Mr. Speaker, it was recently brought to my attention that some appraisals of properties in the Mackenzie Delta communities have skyrocketed in regards to value. For an example, Mr. Speaker, the property that was originally appraised at \$3,000 has now been appraised at \$13,000. Although it might not look like much of an increase for some people, it is a major problem. It is a major problem for the people who do not have work, who are unemployed, who are trying to continue to maintain properties that have been in their families for hundreds of years and also who have lived in these communities for hundreds of years.

Mr. Speaker, the new appraisals are not realistic but such cause severe hardship on the people that call those communities their home. The hazards, to think about all the people such as our senior citizens, people who are on income support and those people who want to continue to maintain homes and property in their home communities. The appraisal system, which we adopted from the south, it belongs in the south. Our government is here to help the people who we represent and not drive them into hardship.

Mr. Speaker, we need a northern solution to deal with northern issues. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister responsible for property increases and how the property appraisal system has been established and exactly what he can do about helping poor or small communities. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members statements, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement 175-13(7): Activities and Celebrations in the Hay River Area

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the last time that we gathered here in this House was some time ago now. Since then has probably been the longest period of time that I have spent in my riding on a continuous basis since

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coming here four years ago. There is a lot to be said for staying home and spending time with the people who elected you to represent them. It has been a great break but not in the sense of it not being busy because it has been very busy. Besides dealing with many issues and concerns and working on various ongoing initiatives, I have been able to visit with constituents and participate in community activities, activities such as Heritage and Canada Day festivities, celebrating the tenth anniversary of Woodland Manor, our seniors' care facility, congratulating NTCL with past and present employees at the reunion to commemorate their 65th anniversary, offering best wishes to Arlene Johns and Romeo Gonzales when friends, family and colleagues gathered to honour them for over 30 years of teaching in the North, attending the graduation of 27 fine young people from Diamond Jenness Secondary School, joining with Premier Antoine, Minister Miltenberger and Commissioner Marion in the opening ceremonies of the 1999 Territorial Track and Field Meet with almost 1,000 athletes, coaches and volunteers in attendance.

The Minister of Education was down to tour our facilities and meet with citizens concerned about education, as he said he would be. The Cabinet convened a meeting in Hay River in conjunction with their presentations at the Community Leadership Conference. The Government Operations Committee

met in Hay River for the public hearing on Bill 15. This is just to name just a few of the activities so far this summer, and the remainder promises to be just as busy as I host a barbecue in honour of our seniors in recognition of the International Year of Older Persons with the help of the Commissioner Dan Marion on August 2nd. On August 11th, together with the Career Development Centre in Hay River, I will host the Ready for School Barbecue for students going out to post-secondary education.

The only problem with being home for so long is that it is hard to come back but once again, on Saturday afternoon, I made the trek back. We have had many visitors in Hay River over the summer, but we would always like lots more. If any of you are thinking of driving down, I would just like to tell you that Mr. Rabesca's road construction is not any obstacle and is proving to be very scriptural and, in fact, the crooked paths are being made straight. Mr. Gargan's bison, however, are still hogging the road with their usual stubbornness and disregard for humans trying to take advantage of that new speed limit on the highway. But when you are going by, when you are going through Enterprise, take note of Mr. Steen's beautiful new weigh scale which was just being paved when I came by. As I said, we are never too busy in Hay River for visitors. The golf course is green, the beaches are sandy, and the fish are biting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Rabesca.

Member's Statement 176-13(7): Impact of Electoral Boundaries Legislation

**MR. RABESCA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back, colleagues. I hope that everyone had some time to rest and enjoy the summer holidays. Mr. Speaker, we are now only a few short months away from ending our term as the 13th Legislative Assembly. Although we have dealt with many issues over the last four years, I wonder what our residents will remember this government as.

Will they remember the struggle we had encountered over balancing the budget or making the dream of Nunavut a reality? The thing our residents will remember this government, as a government that

took away the voice of the rural communities and gave it to the urban of our territory. When Bill 15 is read and passed, it will change the political structure of this House forever. We cannot forget the smaller communities. They have just as much right to voice their concerns and raise issues of those of the person in any of the larger centres. Yet we have failed to compromise in these issues and the entire North will suffer as a result. We cannot forget the roots of this territory and where most of us come from. The smaller communities are the cultural centres for the territories and yet do not have a strong enough voice to do anything about it.

I have continued to stress the need for an additional seat for the North Slave area, specifically Rae-Edzo. My region still feels that there is a need to have more representation from the smaller communities and this would at least give us more voice. How can the larger centres expect to know and feel what it is like living and working in the smaller communities when very few of the residents ever travel outside of the municipal boundaries of their communities. Through all these talks and deliberation that has gone, I feel this is a black day in the history of our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement 177-13(7): Ensuring the Ongoing Viability of Giant Mine

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My comments today will be on a subject that is economically related, and it is of great concern to many people in Yellowknife and is, no doubt, of great concern to this government as well. The government is always looking at the possibility of job creation. As an example, I give the economic strategy which is underway in which the honourable Minister for RWED is in charge of.

That strategy is to create an economy whereby people can get jobs and this government can raise revenues. But what is of concern to me is, does this government have a program, a strategy of job retention. As an example, I use the Giant Mine situation. Some months ago, the Yellowknife MLAs met with the mayor of Yellowknife, representatives of the union, the Chamber of Commerce, a number of

business people, and aboriginal representatives. It was to discuss and investigate the possibilities of a sale of Giant Mine, as well as to look at what can be done about the arsenic problem. Some progress has been made to that end.

DIAND, who has held a very successful and major conference on arsenic problems and brought in experts to gather together for a three-day session here in Yellowknife. I am sure that there will be progress made in that end on the arsenic issues. At the same time, the receiver has received interest from potential

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buyers for the mine. But Giant continues to be of great concern to all of us and especially the 280 workers and their families, as well as some 250 spinoff jobs that are affected by it. There is a tremendous impact on this community, as well as the territory, if we should lose this mine. To this end, I wonder what this government is doing in terms of pressuring the Department of Indian Affairs to continue to seek solutions to the arsenic problem, as well as to assist potential buyers and operators. If a buyer cannot be found, if we can provide assistance to keep this mine going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement 178-13(7): Municipal Taxes Applied to Senior Citizens

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak about municipal taxes. Mr. Speaker, recently we have been hearing a lot about concerned citizens who are concerned about increasing taxes in Yellowknife. But I would like to talk about the forgotten taxpayer and, Mr. Speaker, those are the seniors for whom the municipal taxes are a constant concern. That is because most of them are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to pay municipal taxes. Many of those people who live in Yellowknife, seniors, want to continue living here. They may have worked for years in order to acquire their homes, and now it is time to relax and time to enjoy their retirement. That is why the GNWT instituted a municipal tax program so seniors would not have to pay taxes.

In the general taxation area, Mr. Speaker, this is true, seniors do not have to pay taxes. But in the tax-

based municipalities, this may not necessarily be true. The way it works is that the GNWT pays half and the municipal government forgives the other half. The problem is that, in Yellowknife, they have instituted a maximum which you cannot go over. If the tax is over that maximum, then the senior has to pay the rest. This is where the problem comes because a senior may have a large house and property, but if they are living on a fixed income, it does not necessarily mean they can afford to pay those taxes.

This is why, a while back, the ordinary Members passed a motion saying that seniors need to be treated equally in the general taxation area and the tax-based municipalities as well. They asked for a means test so that those who can afford to pay would pay and those who cannot afford, would not have to. This is only in those communities where there has been a maximum ceiling put on. At the last session, the Minister responsible for this had indicated that he would look into this motion that we had passed and see what had happened with that motion. So at the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the appropriate Minister questions on this matter. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement 179-13(7): Constituency Office Relocation

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as well, I have had the opportunity during our break in session to go back home and visit with the people in my community. A number of events have taken place there. At this time right now we have the Great Northern Arts Festival, which is off to a great start and is in its closing days now. Another event that happened in my community is, while I was here, I received a phone call from my assistant, quite concerned with some events that were happening at my office back in Inuvik. We received a call and were notified the office was being closed down due to the unsafe conditions of the building we were in. We had to operate for a week or so without an office.

I have to thank my assistant for carrying on the business of the day from her home and using her home as an office. But it gave me an opportunity to

use the sidewalks and the streets as an office place, which was interesting and brought me together with a lot of people who do not necessarily have the time to come forward into an office. So in that sense, it was okay, but thankfully we are back into an office and to notify the people back home that I am in the Boreal Bookstore, the old location. It is called the Delta Building. The people in Inuvik refer it to the Boreal Books Building. We are located and set up there and we are back on line. We have our phones and faxes operating and hoping to continue to serve the people appropriately back home. In closing, Mr. Speaker, again I would like to send greetings back to my family. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' statements, Mr. Henry.

Member's Statement 180-13(7): Trade Mission to Nunavut

**MR. HENRY:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to, on behalf of the constituents of Yellowknife South, welcome all the Members back to the Legislative Assembly for this particular session.

Mr. Speaker, in the April 1999 session, this Legislature, in response to the Construction Association personnel members, I had asked the Premier if he was planning a trade mission to Nunavut. The Premier replied that his office was not planning a trade mission but "I think we should take the initiative and say yes, we want to continue to work in Nunavut and that the businesses that are here have the expertise of working in the North. We should try to promote that." Mr. Speaker, I think a trade mission is an ideal trade initiative, a trade mission comprised of key personnel from the public and private sectors is most likely to provide the necessary catalyst to get trade between the two regions into motion. However, we are still waiting for the trade mission to take place.

We need to get our economy back into the competitive trim. That is why we need an economic plan that reduces our exposure to resource extraction and diversify into secondary and surface-oriented industries. A trade mission to Nunavut would provide that idea platform for northern businesses to establish themselves in an underdeveloped market.

As a result of financial corrections and government cutbacks, northern workers businesses have become more productive than ever. Fewer people are producing more and more goods and services. In an environment such as this, the only way to create more jobs and to raise income levels is to have more customers. That means exports. Exports to Nunavut, exports

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to southern counterparts. Not just goods but also services, Mr. Speaker. That is why, in this new economy, the Northwest Territories must compete and not retreat.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I agree that economic renewal must begin at home, but we must have to reach out beyond our borders if we are to prosper and overcome in the long run. Let us remember that Northerners have never cowered from change and competition, we are the master of them. That is the message I want to leave you with today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Steen.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Return to Oral Question 135-13(7): Rental of Restricted and Adult Movies to Youth

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Henry on April 27, 1999. It is in regard to rental of restricted and adult movies to youth.

The Northwest Territories' current legislation is the Film Classification Act with accompanying film classification regulations. This legislation imposes restrictions and regulations on movie theatre operators in the Northwest Territories and adopts the Alberta movie classification system.

Recent changes to the Film Classification Act which were included as part of our government's regulatory reform initiative were intended to streamline the film classification regulations as well as clarify the act. No additional restrictions were considered when changing the act.

Video distributors and rental outlets in the NWT do not require a special licence other than their business licence to operate. Restricted or adult videos are available through various retail outlets and sources. Established businesses from large chain stores to the corner convenience stores can sell and rent videos. They are also available through mail order or Internet. A significant enforcement effort would be required on the part of this government to ensure effective legislative controls on the sale or rental of videos.

The Criminal Code of Canada does control obscene materials in Canada and the RCMP enforce these laws. Municipalities are also delegated authority under GNWT legislation in which they can regulate the display and distribution of adult materials within their community. Enforcement by communities presents the same challenges to them as it does to the territorial government. Presently, only the City of Yellowknife has a by-law controlling adult publications.

Perhaps there are more effective solutions such as promoting voluntary compliance with guidelines for the display and sale or rental of restricted and adult videos. As Members can appreciate, the regulation and setting of moral standards for the community is a matter that requires serious consideration. The department will continue to look into this important issue.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return to Oral Question 162-13(7): Appeal of British Columbia Supreme Court Decision - Possession of Child Pornography

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Henry on April 30, 1999, in regard to the appeal of the British Columbia Supreme Court decision on possession of child pornography.

On April 30, 1999, Mr. Henry asked if the Government of the Northwest Territories has written the federal government to encourage them to appeal a decision of the British Columbia Supreme Court with respect to possession of child pornography. No, Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories did not write the federal government to encourage them to appeal the decision. In the BC case, Mr. Justice

Shaw of the British Columbia Supreme Court found that the child pornography provisions set out in Section 163.1 of the Criminal Code, which deal with the possession of child pornography, were in violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The decision to appeal this case rests with the British Columbia Attorney General, not the federal government, and the BC Attorney General is proceeding with the appeal. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Return to oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Return to Oral Question 207-13(7): Motion of Support for Ms. Roberta Vaneltsi

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Krutko, a motion of support for a Ms. Roberta Vaneltsi.

On April 26, 1999, Mr. Krutko asked about the progress made regarding the motion of support for Ms. Vaneltsi in her attempts to have her children returned to Canada from the Czech Republic.

The legal steps available to the Government of the Northwest Territories are limited. On July 5, 1999, the Honourable Floyd Roland, Minister of Health and Social Services, wrote to Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy to take action under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to assist Ms. Vaneltsi. To date, there has been no reply.

The Honourable Floyd Roland and the Premier have made a commitment to keep Mr. Krutko informed of Mr. Axworthy's response and actions. The Government of the Northwest Territories also offered to assist Ms. Vaneltsi with accommodation costs for her most recent trip to Brno, Czech Republic. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MR. KRUTKO:**



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Ron English from Inuvik. Welcome, Mr. English.

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--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. I would like to inform the Members that maybe some of your lights are not working, but they are on. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to my Minister's statement, I would like to take this occasion to recognize some of the members of the joint occupational health and safety committee from the NWT Power Corporation and I will recognize them from my right to left across the top. Mr. Reg Crozier, plant operator, Valerie McPhee, office manager, Mr. Dan Roberts, the regional director of central operations, Chris Chatwood, the area maintenance superintendent. Along with the members of the occupational health and safety committee are Brian Willows, the safety manager for the NWT Region, and Mr. Bill Braden, who is the director of corporate development.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Honourable Kelvin Ng, Minister of Finance for the Nunavut Government and our past colleague. Thank you.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. For those that have not been recognized, I would like to welcome the audience in the gallery. Welcome to the Assembly. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Morin.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 214-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Vince Steen, Minister of Public Works and Transportation. Mr. Minister, it has been a long standing practice of this government to negotiate contracts with local development corporations in the smaller communities. The reason previous governments, as well as this government, today developed this policy and the reason they implemented negotiated contracts to start with, is to ensure that the limited dollars, the limited capital dollars that we do have within our budgets stay within the communities they are allocated to. Also, the reason for this is to ensure that our development corporations and our communities get training on the job, they benefit from the ability to run the jobs and they do not only sweep up the floors after outside contractors. I ask the Minister today, Mr. Speaker, through you, has there been any change in the negotiating policy on negotiating contracts with this government? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 214-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question the Member has as to whether or not this department or this government still has a negotiated contract policy. The answer to that is yes. We still have a negotiated contract policy and under my other portfolio as Minister of Transportation, there is a negotiated contract policy in regard to the Department of Transportation. However, there is no negotiated contract policy per se that would apply to Public Works, but the Cabinet and the Executive Council did adopt negotiated policy guidelines very recently in May, which more clearly gives direction to the department as to what would be taken into consideration when dealing with the negotiated contract requests.

There are also quite clear directions from Cabinet that we were all expected to comply with and do our best to follow these guidelines. Now, after saying that, Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to say that the department has been following the guidelines as close to the letter as possible. In those guidelines it outlines specifically

that we have to identify benefits as far as economic benefits overall for the community, but also benefits in regards to employment opportunities within the community. Now, it is suggested in the guidelines that not only is it the responsibility of the Department of Public Works or the department involved to identify these benefits, but it is some responsibility on the applicant as well.

What the department is doing is trying our best to work with the applicant to come forward and identify these benefits that would not be obtained through the normal tender process. So far we are doing our best to abide by those and we are still awarding contracts or we are still considering requests from negotiated contracts, I should say, and we are awarding negotiated contracts based on that policy. Unfortunately, we have not been able to award all the requests from negotiated contracts because in our responses to communities, Mr. Speaker, we stated clearly that we believe the communities have, in the past, through their records of operation, indicated that they are capable of competing in a normal tender process. Based on that, we have been turning some of them down. That is my response to the Member at this point in time. The department still has, Cabinet still has, a negotiated contract policy, although it is not in writing per se, but I know that Cabinet did forward copies to all the MLAs of the guidelines that we have adopted and that we are planning follow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 214-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the government for also forwarding the negotiated contracts and new rules and procedures basic outline to the MLAs. I also thank the Minister for the commitment that he just made of his people working and his staff working with the communities and the development corporations to put forward the information to justify the negotiated contract. That should be all civil servants jobs, Mr. Speaker, to work with the people to develop their proposal to present to the government. I would also like to ask the Minister, at this time, Mr. Speaker, if he will commit, through this Legislative Assembly, to immediately meet with myself, with his

deputy minister of MACA and his deputy minister of DPW in

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order to finalize the talks on the negotiated contracts in my riding which he put out to tender and is closing in three days' time. I would like to know if he is interested in meeting to talk about that issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 214-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department and myself were available to discuss with the Member the negotiated contract request that we have at this point in time, as well as those that have been tendered. At this point in time, the department is open to discussions with the Member. I would suggest that the Member come forward with a suggested time and where to meet. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 214-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A good time for me would be 7:30 breakfast tomorrow morning, if the Member is available.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 214-13(7): Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning breakfast was on me. Tomorrow, breakfast is on the Member, but I am available.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 215-13(7): Property Appraisals in Rural Communities

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It is regarding my opening comments about the property values that have increased drastically in my riding. But first, Mr. Speaker, the whole history of lands and municipalities have drastically changed through land claims negotiations in the Mackenzie Valley. There was a land freeze on for the last 20 years in which a lot of people required property in which they developed those properties with the understanding they will eventually own them and they lease that property knowing that once the land claims were settled, they were going to be able to acquire these properties by outright ownership. But I think the changes that we have seen, they did not expect that there would be such a drastic price increase from the original \$3,000 they thought they were going to purchase this property for to where it has gone up to \$13,000. The increased appraisal values have inflated the land prices in the Mackenzie Delta and possibly in other regions. As a result, people are having trouble paying the property taxes and even having the ability to purchase land at a fair price in the Mackenzie Delta. Will the government consider adopting a more reasonable appraisal system that reflects the realities of the role the communities in the Mackenzie Delta so that we can understand the sensitivity of the northern cultures and also the people in the Mackenzie Delta? I would like to ask the Minister, is his department considering looking at such an option?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 215-13(7): Property Appraisals in Rural Communities

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that over the past three or four years, the department has been reviewing the land pricing policy. I think it was under a program called land reform within the communities, and it is related to eventually turning over the control of these lands including the pricing of

these lands to the communities. Now, at what stage this program is sitting, I am unable to indicate to the Member exactly where we are with that program. However, I am prepared to review with the department where the program is sitting at this time and get back to the Member with the information. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 215-13(7): Property Appraisals in Rural Communities

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister also tell me what is the government doing to implement a more reasonable property appraisal system that is incorporated in reflecting a more northern approach in regards to properties in the North? In my riding, for instance, you are dealing with permafrost, you are dealing with people who develop a lot of these properties, but you do not have the luxury of pavement or other necessities for property development, but a lot of people have put sweat equity into these properties over time. I would like to ask the Minister, are you considering also looking at that as a possibility?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Krutko, the question has been asked, and it has been responded to by the Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 215-13(7): Property Appraisals in Rural Communities

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me if the government is considering looking at the remote communities in light of the problems that they have versus the larger centres and try to find a more marketable system of appraising properties in isolated communities than they do in larger centres?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 215-13(7): Property Appraisals in Rural Communities

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the whole question is relating to pricing of lands and exactly what the criteria is used to arrive at the price of lands in, for instance, communities with highly developed streets and properties including running water and sewage facilities versus

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the smaller communities. There is no doubt, there is a different criteria used for the pricing. All I can say to the Member is that I am going to have to review with the department all the related items that would apply to the pricing and get back to the Member with that information. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 215-13(7): Property Appraisals in Rural Communities

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to ask the Minister if his department or himself can look at the hardship that this has caused, especially in a lot of the smaller communities like Aklavik. I have heard from a lot of constituents that this is a real problem. From seniors and also people who are wanting to own their own homes but also seeing that there is a significant increase which they were unaware of that it would be such a drastic increase. Could the Minister consider that this is causing hardship to the people in the Mackenzie Delta and will he also take a look at those hardships? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 215-13(7): Property Appraisals in Rural Communities

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the department would take into consideration the suggested hardships on the citizens and residents of these communities. But I would like to point out that the department is not doing the land Reform Pricing Policy in isolation. We are working, and we have worked in the past, with the

Association of Municipalities. Through that organization, we assume that communities have had input to the department's policy. These types of concerns are addressed at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 215-13(7): Property Appraisals in Rural Communities

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just on the whole point of the communities I represent and the Association of Municipalities, I think the one thing that the Minister has got to be made aware of is that there are two differences between a tax-based community and communities who have the CTA community status. That is where, I believe the problem lies. We have to treat these two institutions differently. The circumstances are different in the smaller isolated communities. That is the point I am trying to make. There is hardship in a lot of those communities to develop property where you do not have the luxury of roads or you do not have the luxury of accessing gravel at a reasonable rate. I would just like to make the Minister aware of that. Also, the communities that I represent are settlement councils and also municipal councils, but they are not classified in the larger sense of cities, villages or towns for those instances which should be treated differently because of the titles. I would like to make the Minister aware of that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. There were no oral questions? Oral questions, Mr. Ootes.

Question 216-13(7): Continued Operation of Giant Mine

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, I spoke about the Giant Mine situation and the importance that it places on the community and on the economy of the Northwest Territories and should we lose this mine, then we potentially lose 280 jobs directly and, in all likelihood, 250-300 jobs indirectly. I am wondering if the Minister from Renewable, Wildlife and Economic Development could tell me if he has been in touch with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs with regard to not the arsenic problem because there

is a program in place on that and it was a very successful conference that was held here, and a great many experts are working on that particular area. But I am very interested in the continuing operation of the mine. I am wondering if the Minister could tell me what his negotiations have been and what subject and is he making progress with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in regard to supporting any potential buyers for the mine and to ensure that it keeps going? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 216-13(7): Continued Operation of Giant Mine

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has been carrying on discussions with federal officials and various private interests to explore options and possibilities for ensuring that the mining operations continue at Giant Mine, plus as well to deal with the arsenic issue and the environmental liability. It is still possible to find someone from the private sector to assume some interest and responsibility for carrying on the operations and ensuring that the mine continues to operate. We still have an enormous amount of work to do with the federal government to clarify how the environmental liability, specifically the arsenic problem, should be addressed. It has to be addressed before I think there is definite commitment, if any, by the private sector, to assume some role and some responsibility. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 216-13(7): Continued Operation of Giant Mine

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am more concerned about the type of assistance and the initiative that both our government is using and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs is using to attract a potential buyer and what the hurdles in that may be. Could the Minister tell me if they have a program in place or if they are working on that to assist potential buyers and in what way they may be looking at assistance for buyers? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 216-13(7): Continued Operation of Giant Mine

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**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that there are discussions ongoing, as I said, with federal officials, as well as some private sector interests to make a deal. One of the issues that needs to be addressed and clarified is who is going to assume liability for the environmental aspect of Giant Mine, that is, the surface clean-up, as well as the arsenic that is stored underground. We are working with the federal government and the private sector to try to make a deal. We could, perhaps, discuss with my staff what more I could say. It is very insensitive and difficult to speak of it off the cuff. Perhaps I can try to make a more definitive statement later on this week on that. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ootes.

Supplementary To Question 216-13(7): Continued Operation of Giant Mine

**MR. OOTES:**

Thank you. I would appreciate if the Minister could prepare a detailed statement on this that he could present in the House. I am interested, for example, in the area that should a potential buyer not come forward, then will this government provide assistance to a local group, be it as individuals such as the Canadian Auto Workers who have expressed an interested and, I understand, are looking into the potential of carrying on. But they need assistance, and there may be interest on the business sector here in the North combined with the union people. I am interested in knowing from the Minister what this government is prepared to do to assist those groups in order to look at a potential carrying on of the mine in the event a buyer is not found. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 216-13(7): Continued Operation of Giant Mine

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will consider making a more detailed statement to answer the Member's question later on in the week. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 217-13(7): Update on Recruitment and Retention Efforts

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The government announced, some time ago, that they were going to put some money into a program for the recruitment and retention of health care practitioners in the Northwest Territories. I was wondering if the Minister could update the House on how these efforts are proceeding. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 217-13(7): Update on Recruitment and Retention Efforts

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we, along with partners in the area of Health and Social Services, the boards, the Nursing Association, FMBS, and the union have been working on trying to develop a suitable plan for the amount of money that was forwarded to us by this government in the area of recruitment and retention. We are at the point where all the parties have gone back to their principles to see if the plan they have worked out on distributing or how to come up with a suitable allocation of the \$3 million over two years. I believe it is going very well. I have been told that the meetings have been very positive.

In fact, we have gone on to do a number of other things in the area of retention and recruitment, and that is to allow for nurses and social workers that area coming out of their, for example, the nursing program out of Yellowknife, to be able to do their practicum in

the smaller communities. That has been working very positively. We have also a northern development program that has made good progress this summer in career promotion in trying to encourage high school students to take up working areas in nursing and social work. I think we have done quite well there, and hopefully in the very near future, we will be able to share the news with what plan we have come up with the \$3 million over the two years that was given to this department by yourself. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 217-13(7): Update on Recruitment and Retention Efforts

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of whether or not the situation with the staff of positions for health care workers has deteriorated any since this program was put in place? Are things remaining basically status quo, or are we continuing to lose health care workers to other jurisdictions? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 217-13(7): Update on Recruitment and Retention Efforts

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that, in fact, we have been losing our professional people to other jurisdictions. Although the program we have started will show promising results, I believe it will take time in trying to deal with that now and the shortages we are facing has been very critical in some areas. I am sure you have been aware and heard the news of a number of communities going on emergency services only until they can come back up to being fully staffed. We are hoping, in the near future, that will happen in the communities that have announced their service reductions. We are working with the health boards to make sure that services are provided to residents as they are required. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 217-13(7): Update on Recruitment and Retention Efforts

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

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the Minister has mentioned that there has been an effort to encourage northern students to take up careers in the health care areas. He specifically referred to the nursing program. Would it be too soon to be able to find out whether or not the enrolment in the existing programs for training nurses has increased for this coming season? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 217-13(7): Update on Recruitment and Retention Efforts

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that information available to me right now, but I will endeavour to get that from the department and pass it on to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 218-13(7): Seniors' Municipal Tax Obligations

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, earlier I had made a statement in regards to the municipal tax programs that the government had instituted some time back so that essentially seniors would not have to pay municipal taxes and the fact that in the general taxation area, this is true, seniors do not have to pay taxes as the government takes care of the whole thing.

However, in the municipalities that are tax-based, the government pays half of the taxes and the municipalities are expected to forgive the other half. In Yellowknife and perhaps other communities, they placed a maximum on this so that once you reach that level, the senior has to pay the rest. Now, this is true

whether a senior can afford it or whether they cannot. Some time back, the ordinary Members, Members who are not Cabinet Ministers, had passed a motion saying that this government should do what it can to ensure that only those seniors who can afford to pay municipal taxes should pay, in other words, institute a means test to go by their income. If a senior is on a fixed income, a small pension, they may not be able to afford to pay tax, it does not matter how big their house is. During the discussions on the budget, I had brought this up with the Minister and his staff. The Minister had indicated that his staff would look into the matter. At this point, I would like to ask the Minister for a report on his inquiries into this matter. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 218-13(7): Seniors' Municipal Tax Obligations

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for bringing this back to my attention. At this point in time, I am unable to supply the information to the Member. I am going to have to take the question as notice and get back to the Member with the information. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 219-13(7): Renovations to Yellowknife Correctional Centre

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year's budget in the capital budget of the main estimates, you have a line called the Yellowknife Correctional Centre enhancements and renovations. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if anything has changed with this project? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 219-13(7): Renovations to Yellowknife Correctional Centre

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today, I will be introducing a supplementary bill which will address some proposed changes to the budget for that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 219-13(7): Renovations to Yellowknife Correctional Centre

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little over a week ago, myself and one of the committees of the Legislative Assembly had the opportunity to meet with the Minister to be consulted on changes to this line item in the budget, the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. Can the Minister at least tell me if that meeting was to consult with Members or had this government made a decision prior to that meeting on that item? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Again, to remind the Members, the matter is before the committee and the question must not seek information about proceedings in the committee which has not yet been reported to the House. I am sorry, Mr. Morin, your question is out of order. Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 220-13(7): Closure of Northern Addictions Services

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, recently I had an opportunity to see some young men who had just finished a rehabilitation program at the Rehab Centre in Hay River. They were very upset with some news they had received at the Northern Addictions Services Rehabilitation Centre which seemed to be on the verge of being closed. What they were saying was that there are thousands upon thousands of people who are addicted to alcohol and drugs in the Northwest Territories and that these rehabilitation centres are their lifeline back into the mainstream society and it seems as though every time they start to get their feet back under them somebody is trying

to kick them back out and this is the way this move is being looked at. What I would like to know from the Minister is, if the Minister could give us an update on his department's efforts to close the Northern Addictions Services Rehabilitation Centre? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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Return To Question 220-13(7): Closure of Northern Addictions Services

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department, just to clarify, did not undergo an initiative to close down a facility. The department, previous to my time was working along with the Northern Addictions Services Board to try and come up with a reasonable level of programming that could fit the residents of the Northwest Territories. It was with our disappointment from within the department we were informed that, in fact, the board had decided to pursue another avenue and they are continuing to work in the area of Justice Canada to try and run a program that would treat their clients. That being the case, we have decided to not continue the existing arrangement we had with them, but instead we are looking at what services we can provide out of the existing facilities that are available to us at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 220-13(7): Closure of Northern Addictions Services

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From my understanding of the situation, there was some type of a plan to reprofile the Northern Addictions Services Rehabilitation Centre, so that it would no longer rehabilitate alcohol and drug addicted persons. The Minister has indicated that there was no move to close the centre for this type of work. I would like to know what was the plan? What were they going to do with Northern Addictions Services, which made the



board of directors take such a drastic step? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 220-13(7): Closure of Northern Addictions Services

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, initially there was no plan to close the facility. We were looking at reprofiling the facility and that work has been going on for some time with the board. In the area of looking at repatriating some of our children's services that are performed on behalf of residents in the southern provinces and looking to bring back to the North and trying to make a child work along with children and families, as I have said, unfortunately, we were informed that was not the area the NAS board saw the facility moving in. They went on to contact Justice Canada to work out an arrangement and we were informed of that a number of months ago.

I also sent a letter to Members to inform them as to the situation as it is today and my deputy met with the board last week and tried to clear some of the issues that have gone on because there were a number of letters that have been written, and unfortunately, put the shadow over what was ongoing and we have tried to clarify that situation. At present we are aware that the board is continuing to try and secure a contract with Justice Canada and ourselves as the Department of Health and Social Services have been looking at reprofiling our existing facilities that we have existing to us to try and ensure that no one is left out in the cold when it comes to receiving services when it comes to alcohol and drugs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 220-13(7): Closure of Northern Addictions Services

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time I walked or drove through the streets of Yellowknife at night I could see dozens upon dozens of people staggering around that were either drunk or on drugs or both and that is just one community. What I would like to know,

Mr. Speaker, is what was the department planning on doing with all the people that normally go through Northern Addictions if they were going to reprofile that to a youth facility bringing people back from the south. Obviously, all those children have different afflictions and maladies and things that are bothering them where you need all different kinds of specialists for those kind of people, but that is another question. What would they propose to do for all those people who would normally go to rehabilitation? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 220-13(7): Closure of Northern Addictions Services

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, we are ongoing with the reprofiling exercise that was started some time ago in trying to better utilize our facilities and provide the level of service that is required to residents of the territories. We were looking at a number of initiatives, for example, gender specific programming that would be available at different times of the year. For example, at a facility out of Yellowknife we were looking at providing women's treatment for a number of months and then switching to men's treatment and providing a service to that level of degree.

Unfortunately, when the NAS board informed the department that the Dettah facility was no longer available for what was ongoing in the reprofiling exercise we have had to do some shuffling within our existing resources and facilities to try and come up with that and it has delayed somewhat what we are hoping to implement, but the work is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 220-13(7): Closure of Northern Addictions Services

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am getting a little bit confused here. I thought the Minister had indicated that they had planned to use NAS to repatriate children from the south. What facilities were to be

used for this gender specific rehabilitation for adults for drug and alcohol? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 220-13(7): Closure of Northern Addictions Services

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are

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a number of facilities that the department uses in the city of Yellowknife that run existing programs. There was the detox centre on Franklin avenue. There was the Rycon Building, I believe it is, that was used for a group home and I think there is a territorial treatment centre and we are hoping to reprofile those facilities to take on different workloads that we could better support those people who are in need of treatment programming. Mr. Speaker, to add to this, this was not an initiative that was started by the department on its own. There were concerns that initiated this from the boards that used the services of the Dettah facility. There were some concerns and we tried to work through those and unfortunately to this date we have not been able to come to a successful arrangement. Needless to say that we are still open to opportunities of working with them if they would like to revisit their decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question 221-13(7): Fort Resolution Sawmill

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. There are approximately 50,000 logs sitting in the community of Fort Resolution in the sawmill yard. When will you be sawing those logs? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 221-13(7): Fort Resolution Sawmill

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been having discussions with the community as well as some private sector people to see if there is any substantive interest in advancing proposals to us in how to go about that. We have currently received two and we are trying to clarify some of the different elements in the two proposals. One which seems to have received favourable support from some of the community members. I am not sure if we can get that reflected officially. We are missing some information on the different elements of the proposals. I met with the president of the Development Corporation yesterday and he is seeking to meet with members of the community sometime this week trying to get further information to then be in a position to advise myself which proposal he may be supporting. He would then probably go to the board of directors for approval. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 221-13(7): Fort Resolution Sawmill

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister provide to me a briefing note of what you are doing to date, what will happen, the schedule, and what the proposals are? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 221-13(7): Fort Resolution Sawmill

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Yes, I can provide the Member with a letter that would inform him as to what we have been doing with the operations in Fort Resolution and what state we are in at the present time and what we are proposing to do during this week to try to conclude the efforts we have been making in regard to the milling operations. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 222-13(7): GNWT Addictions Treatment Policy

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. My colleague from Yellowknife North has just referred to the thousands of people in the territories that are addicted to drugs and alcohol. Besides the provision of drug and alcohol treatment after a person is already addicted, what would the Minister indicate is the primary focus of this government in their efforts to prevent alcohol addiction? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 222-13(7): GNWT Addictions Treatment Policy

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member has raised a very good point and we as a government need to refocus on what we are doing. We have been doing some work in prevention. We have worked with some groups, for example, one group out of Yellowknife with FAE/FAS and trying to target that in information and educational side. Along with the Minister of Education, the Department of Health and Social Services, we have been working at trying to come up with initiatives that could see us cooperating to try and develop a program that we could reach more people. Something that we are looking at is to try and come up with more ideas on prevention and preventing it because, as governments have shown that we have dealt with things at a crisis level. When we get to that level the costs go through the roof so to speak. We are trying to refocus that and hopefully as the health forum gets underway and starts to visit communities they will get suggestions on how some of that can be done as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 222-13(7): GNWT Addictions Treatment Policy

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the obvious ways in the past that has been used in some communities to address the issue of alcohol addiction has been a community initiative to have, I guess, prohibition or have the community be a dry community. Out of the 33 communities in the Western Territory right now, does the Minister know how many are by choice and by referendum, dry communities?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 222-13(7): GNWT Addictions Treatment Policy

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**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that information available and I would have to check with my counterparts to see how many have dedicated themselves or voted to become totally dry communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 222-13(7): GNWT Addictions Treatment Policy

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister would know, do we as a government offer any incentives or any promotion to communities pursuing this as an avenue to address prevention of alcohol addiction?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 222-13(7): GNWT Addictions Treatment Policy

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Member asking if we provide any support or funding for communities who want to become dry communities? If that is the question, then right now as a department we do not have funding available to allow communities or the process, I guess, to vote to become to dry. That is a

community initiative that is voted on by their population and they require, I believe, a majority vote to declare their community is dry. Right now I am unaware and I do not believe we have any assistance through this department to go through that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 222-13(7): GNWT Addictions Treatment Policy

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be interested in knowing why this government does not have a program in place that would encourage communities to take this step and also, I would be interested in knowing what statistics are available to the department as to the effectiveness, the effective reduction of alcohol consumption in communities that do vote to be dry. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland, two questions.

Further Return To Question 222-13(7): GNWT Addictions Treatment Policy

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been much debate in communities that have either tried to become dry when they go to their electorate to try and cause a motion to be successful or a plebiscite to be successful in declaring their communities dry. Some would argue the fact that by making a community dry, you only increase the events of bootlegging in a community, and there are some other negative side effects to that. I could not give you a very definite answer as to why we as a government do not support that, but I think it all comes down to an individual choice. A previous Member mentioned that there are thousands of people and seeing a lot of people on the streets that are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Our programming is set up for those who would come and seek the service to try and repair the damage that has been done by the abuse that has been ongoing.

We do not openly recruit people from the streets. We know it has to be a decision of their own, and I think

that would be the same for each community, a decision of the community to decide if they would like to go dry or not. I think myself personally that it would probably be a great thing, because we are as a government spending a lot of dollars, not only in the Department of Health and Social Services but in Justice and other areas, to try and deal with this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 223-13(7): GNWT Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services. It is back to the old argument of negotiated contracts. From my reading of negotiated contracts, especially in my riding, I have written several letters to the Minister, the department, supporting negotiated contracts in my riding. At the end of the day I am told that there will be no negotiated contracts. I would like to ask the Minister exactly, is it the position of his department or people within his department that there will be no negotiated contracts?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 223-13(7): GNWT Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I indicated earlier in my response to Mr. Morin that the department is still honouring and responding to the question of negotiated contracts. We still review each application on its own merits. All the reviews are based on the guidelines put forward by the Executive Council. The department does in fact respond, and my direction to the department has been to clearly indicate to the department that they will continue to respond to the question of negotiated contracts. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 223-13(7): GNWT  
Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is great to say they are going to respond, but when you continue to get the same response that there are no negotiated contracts, that has to be coming from somewhere. I would like to ask the Minister again, in the case of Inuvik region, there have been several contracts put out by Public Works, who basically use architects from Yellowknife, Calgary, the southern part of the Northwest Territories, but they will not use architects in Inuvik region. Why is that? Is that because the department or regional staff are saying there are no negotiated contracts in this region,

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that we are going to import everybody in from the south? So I would like to ask the Minister again, who has taken the initiative that there be no negotiated contracts on any jobs within this department?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 223-13(7): GNWT  
Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is getting more specific on exactly what form of negotiated contract he is talking here. I would like to remind the Member that there is a policy in place whereby an architectural contract, \$25,000 or below, is not required to be tendered. It can be sole-sourced. As far as I know at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, the regional offices have been and I do not understand it at all why they would not be following the direction as set out by Cabinet. If there is in fact a specific situation here that the Member is aware of, then I suggest the Member should contact me and arrange a meeting in the office about this. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 223-13(7): GNWT  
Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly the point I wanted you to hit on, the \$25,000 usage of public funds and not going through a contracting or public process. I believe that, that is being abused at the Inuvik regional office and that your department should look at it.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I did not hear any question there, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 223-13(7): GNWT  
Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was, will the Minister and his department look at the misuse of public funds at the Inuvik regional office by the Department of Public Works?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 223-13(7): GNWT  
Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Mr. Speaker, I will commit that the department will review how the regional offices in fact handle architectural contracts. If there is in fact any abuse, as the Member suggests here, we will put our efforts into correcting this. But, again, I will commit to the House that I will respond and look into whether in fact this allegation has merit. Again, the original point here, Mr. Speaker, was whether or not this department is still responding on negotiated contracts. I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that at this point in time, percentage wise from 1998 to 1999, five percent of our overall contracts were negotiated. Up to now, in 1999, 26 percent is being negotiated. So there should not be any suggestion that we are not responding to negotiated contract requests. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue question period.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. You have unanimous consent, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 223-13(7): GNWT Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I ask the question is there is a reluctance in the department to approve negotiated contracts. It is in regards to a letter that you sent, Mr. Minister, to Mr. Bruce Rattray, stating that in an open letter, which we all have. I would like to ask the Minister, where is the idea that there is a reluctance to approve negotiated contracts?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 223-13(7): GNWT Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. VINCE STEEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the letter does not specifically suggest that there was a reluctance anywhere. It very clearly indicates to the department and all the regions that we will continue to negotiate contracts and respond to the question of negotiated contracts. I would like to clarify that there were some suggestions that the department is expected to in fact solicit negotiated contracts. What we clarified is that I do not expect my department to solicit negotiated contracts. However, we will respond and assist, if necessary, to proposals. That is the difference. But we will not do the initial soliciting. It has to be an effort on the part of the communities, on the part of some business group in the community to request a negotiated contract. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. We have unanimous consent to continue with question period, so we will take a 15 minute break.

--Break

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The House will come back to order. We are still on item 6, oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Oral questions 224-13(7): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Funding

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services in regard to the lack of alcohol and drug programs, in the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister, as we know, we receive certain funds from the federal government to carry out different alcohol and drug initiatives. I would like to ask the Minister how much money have we received to date from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in regard to the native alcohol and drug programs to carry out on behalf of the federal government for aboriginal people? Can the Minister tell me exactly how much funding we do receive and how is that money being allocated to the aboriginal community?

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 224-13(7): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Funding

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information available at this time but I will have the department prepare that and I will be able to respond to the Member at a later date before the end of this week. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 224-13(7): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Funding

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister see exactly how much of the non-insured health benefits that this government gets and exactly how much of that money also has been spent on

alcohol and drug treatment facilities or paying for beds in facilities on behalf of aboriginal people?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 224-13(7): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Funding

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes I will have the department look that up. I am not sure if the non-insured health benefits would go toward drug and alcohol treatment programming, but I will check with the department. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 224-13(7): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Funding

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister also tell me how much money has been spent on alcohol and drug programs in my riding especially for the Ti'oon dih Healing Program? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 224-13(7): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Funding

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will endeavour to get that information for the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 225-13(7): Reprofilling Northern Addictions Centre

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Just to continue along the lines of the questioning on the

Northern Addiction Services Rehabilitation Centre, the Minister had indicated that there was some type of a master plan that had been drawn up to reprofile the Northern Addiction Services Rehab Centre. I am assuming that there were other facets to this plan. What I would like to know is, who drew up this master plan? Because it is very difficult for me to envision that the Northern Addiction Services would agree to give up a building that they had worked so hard to achieve. For years and years they had worked to save money and all kinds of things to build this building out there. So who was it that came up with this master plan? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 225-13(7): Reprofilling Northern Addictions Centre

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reprofiling that has been ongoing for a time was initiated back before I was in this role. I am aware that, as an ordinary Member in the Social Program Committee, that the drug and alcohol treatment reprofiling had started. This particular area was undertaken in conjunction with health boards across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 225-13(7): Reprofilling Northern Addictions Centre

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate to what extent the Northern Addiction Services Board was involved in this plan and if they actually agreed to it? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Roland, two questions.

Further Return To Question 225-13(7): Reprofilling Northern Addictions Centre

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Northern Addiction Services Board was involved in particular with the facility that was in Dettah. That facility, the board was directly involved with, the department and with health boards at times as they worked through trying to develop what avenues we could work towards providing services for residents in the territories. There is an ongoing history that I could provide for the Member at a later time if he wants a briefing. This can go back as far as 1994, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 225-13(7): Reprofiling Northern Addictions Centre

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information that I received is that the board and staff are basically presented with a plan that has already been drafted by some group, staff persons, or whomever, but that they really had no input into the formulation of this plan, whether or not they actually wanted to shut down their rehabilitation centre and turn it into some other type of facility for children. Would the Minister indicate whether this is actually true or what actually occurred there? Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 225-13(7): Reprofiling Northern Addictions Centre

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department along with health boards did work on trying to develop a plan and how we could reprofile the existing facilities that were available to us in the territories to see if we could use them and, those that we already had agreements in place with to try and reprofile programming so we could meet the needs of all residents in the territories. As I am aware of today, there was involvement through the health boards, as well as the department, and NAS or Northern Addiction Services Board, were involved to a number of different degrees through this whole process of trying to come up with a positive solution to what had

come about. As I said, unfortunately, we were not able to come to an agreement on what the facility could be used for. When they went towards the area of trying to secure a Justice contract for treating inmates, that is when the department had pulled out of the discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question 226-13(7): Renovations to the Yellowknife Correctional Centre

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. In the past, capital plan of this government had allocated funding for renovations to the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. Does the Minister still plan on implementing those renovations or what is his plan to solve the long-term over crowdedness of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 226-13(7): Renovations to the Yellowknife Correctional Centre

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Minister of Finance has just taken the question about this capital project on notice. It is my intent to do the same because I think it is important to just make sure that the authority to proceed with the capital projects, renovations, and major new construction....

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Member for Tu Nedhe raised a point of order. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a point of order. The Minister took the question as notice. I do not need an explanation why he is taking it as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

If the Members will read carefully or have been listening or paying attention, there was no response regarding taking the question as notice because the



question was ruled out of order with reference to it being in the committee. It does not stop the Member from asking questions regarding what the future plans of the Minister are regarding the corrections. There was no point of order. The Minister of Justice is still responding. Mr. Kakfwi, are you still responding to the question?

Return To Question 226-13(7): Renovations to the Yellowknife Correctional Centre

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice since it is going to be dealt with in committee of the whole. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 227-13(7): Consultation on Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. It is in regard to this new initiative that has been taken by the department on negotiated contracts and basically establishing new criteria in regard to consideration of negotiated contracts. I would like to ask the Premier, has he consulted with the Gwich'in Tribal Council or the Inuvialuit in regard to the economic chapters of their land claim agreements, which clearly state that the Government of the Northwest Territories shall consult the Gwich'in Tribal Council when developing, modifying for its preferential contracting policies, procedures or approaches? Has this government made any attempt to contact or develop with the aboriginal groups, the Inuvialuit or the Gwich'in, when they changed or established this new criteria for this negotiated policy?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Premier.

Return To Question 227-13(7): Consultation on Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government is still following the Negotiated Contract Policy. Maybe, just for clarification, you would allow

me, since we extended question period indefinitely here, that a little background information just to get into focus here. In May, 1997, this Legislative Assembly passed a motion calling upon the then Premier to specifically clarify the government's position on government-wide non-competitive contracts by providing a draft policy on non-competitive contracts to the standing committees by August 15, 1997. In June, 1997, the Cabinet referred a draft negotiated contracts policy for the standing committee to review. This is where it is at.

Carrying on, in December, 1998, an intergovernmental review team was established to review the government's negotiated contracts. The review team recommended several improvements to the decision-making processes for negotiated contracts as well as public disclosure and reporting practises. These recommendations were accepted by Cabinet and FMB recently in May, 1999. In June, this last month, myself and the chair of FMB distributed a package to MLAs advising of the review team's progress and plans for further work. The same package contains copies of relevant procedures approved by the Cabinet and FMB, as well as a copy of the report prepared under the direction of the review team, Mr. Speaker. With that little bit of background, there has been a lot of work since 1997 that we have gone through upon questions of honourable Members in the House to this government of negotiated contracts. We know there is a lot of scrutiny that we are going through in this whole area. What we are trying to do is comply

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with the direction of this Legislative Assembly to come out with some clear guidelines on how to deal with negotiated contracts. We have not changed the policy, we are just trying to clarify some of the input that goes into reviewing negotiated contracts as they come forward as proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 227-13(7): Consultation on Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is great to get the review, but my question is, exactly what role did the aboriginal organizations, such as the Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in,

who have land claim agreements on economic sections that also clearly states that if there are any revisions or basically development or modification on preferential contacting policies or procedures, that they were supposed to be consulted. From the group that you mentioned, I do not hear the Gwich'in or Inuvialuit or any of those groups. I would like to know why were these land claims agreements were overlooked during this review.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 227-13(7): Consultation on Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again this is not a new negotiated contract policy. It is still the same one that we have been working on. Therefore, we have not had the opportunity to inform the different claimant groups that the honourable Member is mentioning. Actually, there is no change in the policy at all except we are just clarifying what issues must be considered in looking at these negotiated contracts. This information was forwarded to the MLA and hopefully, eventually, it will get circulated to the respective organizations and First Nations that the honourable Member is saying that we are supposed to consult with in regard to their claims. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 227-13(7): Consultation on Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the whole process of consultation usually happens prior to making a decision. In this case, basically Cabinet has already approved the new criteria for negotiated contracts. So you guys have already made a decision without consulting a large portion of the population who have a constitutional right to be consulted, yet it did not take place. I would like to ask the Premier again, in regard to the changes that you are saying, you are saying it is not that drastic. From my reading of it, it is drastic. I depend heavily on negotiated contracts in my riding for social and economic benefits and also to stimulate the economy, what is left of it, and yet there was a motion passed in this

House. The motion that was passed in this House was one way to kill the negotiated contracts. I would like to ask the Premier exactly why was this consultation not taken prior to the decision made by Cabinet?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 227-13(7): Consultation on Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the honourable Member's constituency, I think there have been a lot of negotiated contracts and other honourable Members' ridings. This policy is to clarify the direction of this Legislative Assembly in 1997 that said "Clarify the government's position on government-wide non-competitive contracts by providing a draft policy on non-competitive contracts to the standing committee by this August.". We did that, we gave it to the standing committee in June, 1997. At this date, the standing committee has not responded to the draft policy. As a result, we did an intergovernmental review team by all the departments that deal with negotiated contracts, and we came out with some clear guidelines to do that. Cabinet needs to set out for ourselves what we would like to look for in making these decisions. It is not change to the policy at all. We are just looking at kind of clarifying what are the input that needs to be looked at in considering these negotiated contracts. We are continuing to looking at negotiated contracts in the honourable Member's riding as well as other ridings. It is important to consult with the different organizations that are out there, but at the same time, we are following the direction of this Legislative Assembly to get clear direction and inputs into how we look at these negotiated contracts. We are going to continue to negotiate these contracts. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 227-13(7): Consultation on Negotiated Contracts Policy

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, at the most available time, is it possible for the Premier's meeting with the Inuvialuit,

the Gwich'in, the Sahtu Secretariat, the groups that have land claim agreements which have an economic section attached to them that they sit down and clearly look at the economic benefits, also the whole changes that have taken place in this policy without the consultation of those groups in which the land claim agreements clearly spell out that they were supposed to be consulted and involved in any modification of any policies or programs in this government, yet that did not happen? Can the Minister commit to meeting with those organizations, the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu Secretariat which, at the present time, there is a real problem in regard to program delivery by this government? I would like to ask the Premier to give me assurances that, that will happen.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 227-13(7): Consultation on Negotiated Contracts Policy

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been continuously meeting with the different organizations that the honourable Member mentioned, the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu. The chapter of the respective Gwich'in final agreement, as well as the Sahtu final agreement, there has been work in the last months in trying to address the economic measures that are mentioned in there. It is an ongoing process

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that we have undertaken with the Government of the Northwest Territories in respect of organizations in the federal government in trying to get to a common interpretation of these economic measures. In that discussion, we are dealing with it. At the same time, the honourable Member from the Sahtu, the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, is undertaking an economic strategy that will look at the western territories and the resources we have. He has undertaken a process where he has a panel that will be looking at these things. He has told me that he has met with the Inuvialuit organization, the Gwich'in as well as the Sahtu to talk about how we, as a government, could do things better.

There are ongoing discussions and yes, I commit to the honourable Member that we will undertake to sit

down with the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, and the other First Nations like the Dogrib, the Deh Cho, and the Akaitcho territory to explain this policy here. Once we explain it thoroughly, I think it will clarify where this government is and when we are considering looking at negotiated contracts. As the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services indicated, the respective communities and organizations will have to come forward and state their case on the benefits of negotiated contracts in the communities. I think a lot of them have done that. They just explained to us what the benefits are going to be and will be supportive of helping communities grow and so forth. I agree that we should be meeting with these organizations and we have been and we will continue to do that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Erasmus.

Question 228-13(7): Consultations with Northern Addictions Services Board

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It is a continuation of earlier questions on the Northern Addictions Services Rehabilitation Centre. The Minister had indicated that as far as he knew, the NAS board had been involved in drawing up the plan. He also indicated that the plan had included reprofiling the Northern Addiction Services Rehabilitation Centre to a centre that would work with children. What I would like to know from the Minister is whether the NAS board agreed to no longer provide alcohol and drug rehabilitation in their own building? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 228-13(7): Consultations with Northern Addictions Services Board

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, they were involved in the discussions that took place up until the time they notified the department that they were choosing a different avenue to proceed in. The reprofiling of the NAS facility, the one out in Dettah was chosen because of its size, to be used as

a repatriation initiative for youth. We were informed at that time that they felt it was not in the best interest of the NAS board in that facility and, therefore, informed us that they were pursuing the other avenue we spoke of earlier. They notified us that they did not want to be involved in the reprofiling as we had tried to pursue. That was in consultation with other health boards in the territories. So they were informed in telling us they did not want to proceed. When it came down to the specific alcohol and drug programming, if we had reprofiled, we would be doing drug and alcohol treatment at other facilities that are available to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 228-13(7): Consultations with Northern Addictions Services Board

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has indicated that there would have been alcohol and drug treatment being done out of other facilities. What would the NAS board's new role be since they would have been basically kicked out of their own building? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 228-13(7): Consultations with Northern Addictions Services Board

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reprofiling that was being discussed and worked on by, as I mention again, other health boards and the department and included NAS's board was not to kick them out of the facility. They would have still been there. The facility is held by the board. They would have still been involved in that delivery. There would have been some training of the staff there to make sure that they were able to continue with employment and dealing with children, but unfortunately, that did not come about. There was involvement. They would not have been kicked out of the facility. That is their facility, that the board holds, and we would have entered a new contribution agreement or contract to them providing a different type of service, but they were unwilling to go there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 228-13(7): Consultations with Northern Addictions Services Board

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Basically, they would have still been involved in their own building. Presumably, that is so they could pay off their mortgage before the government took it over or something. Could the Minister commit to providing us with some information on this master plan, perhaps a briefing because it just does not seem to be quite right that other people could dictate to a non-profit organization that they should change their focus from being an alcohol and drug addiction organization to one that deals with children no matter what is wrong with those children, whether they are schizophrenic or whether they are dealing with drug and alcohol? Could the Minister commit to this, please?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 228-13(7): Consultations with Northern Addictions Services Board

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will commit to writing a briefing to the Member, maybe the Social Programs Committee as well and go through this. There is a lot

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of history that goes with this and I may remind the Member as well when I was a member of the Social Programs Committee, that was the direction of this government that was to initiate the repatriation and to try and do as much as we can in the territories instead of sending our people south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Erasmus.

Supplementary To Question 228-13(7): Consultations with Northern Addictions Services Board

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember well the discussions and I also remember very well that never, ever did the Social Programs Committee ever direct the government to put the Northern Addictions Board out of their own business and make them start doing some work in the area of children, which may not even be related to alcohol and drugs which has become the speciality of this board. They were the first board that provided these type of services. Now we are asking them go do something else, become an expert in another field. It is beyond me how anyone could go to a board like that and tell them to do that. My final supplementary question is, where are these facilities from which the gender specific programs were going to be and I suppose are still going to be run out of? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 228-13(7): Consultations with Northern Addictions Services Board

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The facilities that would be used, our existing facilities that are in Yellowknife at the this time being and if everything went according to the plan that was being worked on, the Dettah facility would have been a treatment facility for youth who needed the treatment and children as well, the territorial treatment centre would have been the women and children's programming to be used, the detox facility on Franklin Avenue would have been a men's program and, using existing treatment expanding a bit to deal with some longer programming, the Rycon Group Home would have been used as a children's clinical assessment facility so those are the facilities that were all involved in this reprofiling, which would have seen services, maybe better programming happen but, unfortunately that could not happen, but, as I have said before, I will provide a briefing and in that briefing I will be able to provide a long history as to what happened here and the reasons why things didn't work out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions, Mr. Morin.

Question 229-13(7): Changes to Correctional Centre Renovation Project

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. When did the Minister's department with the concurrence of the Minister, make a decision to change the Yellowknife Correctional facility to a renovation project to build in a brand new building? What day was that decision made? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 229-13(7): Changes to Correctional Centre Renovation Project

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member wants to know exactly what day such a decision was made. I will check the chronology, I guess, from the Minister of Justice's office because I think it was made before I was the Minister of Justice and perhaps even while the good Member was still Premier. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 229-13(7): Changes to Correctional Centre Renovation Project

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I would have remembered this decision. So the Minister is saying that this decision to change the Yellowknife Correctional Centre from a renovation to a new building was made before he was the Minister, so that must have been before we considered capital projects in this House. But yet, in the capital projects it is a renovation. Last time I checked renovations were different then new buildings. Was that decision made prior to the Minister defending this budget in this House? Was that in this budget in this House? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 229-13(7): Changes to Correctional Centre Renovation Project

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said that I would review the record of decisions of the previous Cabinet. I know that the previous Cabinet in June of 1998 had approved the location of a young offenders facility here in Yellowknife and that it also approved the major renovations to be made to the adult facility. What has happened since then and I do not know exactly what dates all these happened, but I know it is now being considered that we would propose to just do major, set up major renovations to the existing facility, is eventually just replace the existing facility with a whole new facility and that the existing building would be replaced with a new building and that it would be done in a way that would save us some capital money plus operations and maintenance money by planning it in conjunction with the construction and operation of the young offenders facility so that is really where we are. As I said, decisions to look at changes to the plan as to when they were made, what basis for the change in approach was made, I can provide that to the Member so that part of the question I will take as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 229-13(7): Changes to Correctional Centre Renovation Project

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He only took a small part of the question as notice. Now, Mr. Speaker, it is a little more clear to me so there has been, according to what the Minister has just said, has been no decision made on a new facility. I knew already that there had been a decision made as well as all the public know of putting a young offenders' facility in Yellowknife and renovate the existing Yellowknife Correctional

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Centre. That is public knowledge and I understand that, but the Minister made it very clear that they are considering or they are looking at, instead of renovating it, to build a new one to save money for capital costs and operations and maintenance. Is that correct? Am I understanding it right now?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 229-13(7): Changes to Correctional Centre Renovation Project

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members are aware, we are a government that is increasingly under pressure to save money in every way possible and it has come to light that by combining the two facilities we could propose to save money by actually constructing a whole new building for the adult offenders here in Yellowknife and that by looking at sharing the facilities such as recreational facilities, some of the administration staff that we can save money, both in the construction of the young offenders facility and the adult facility by putting them in the same general location and by planning it that they can share some of the services, some of the facilities and it is the view of officials that this is still in line with the original Cabinet decision of June, 1998. This is where we are, I think, the supplementary appropriation will address some of the financial implications of going with this particular approach. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 229-13(7): Changes to Correctional Centre Renovation Project

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just so that I do understand this process, so then the Minister says they are looking at how to save the dollars and that is good government to do that and they are looking at how to combine these facilities to save operations and maintenance dollars that maximize the use of money, and that is another good government, but there has been no final decision made as of yet, as we speak today on combining these facilities and building a new facility. There is no file on this as Members have not been consulted in this major change in capital projects money. I am just wondering if that is correct? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 229-13(7): Changes to Correctional Centre Renovation Project

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker. Again, the original Cabinet decision was to do renovations to the adult facility. There was never any intent to considering other locations but I have looked at that. The original Cabinet decision contemplated that only renovations were required in order to maintain the adult facility here in Yellowknife. The original Cabinet decision also indicated very clearly that the young offenders facility would be located here in Yellowknife.

It is the suggestion of the officials that major construction of a new facility for adults is the only viable option and that renovations are simply not in the public interest. It is also the view of the officials and my view as well, now that it is time that is the right way to go but also we should locate the adult facility and the young offenders facility in the same area since the lands are available and we can save considerable amounts of capital money and operations and maintenance money by planning to have these two facilities in the same general area and planning to have the integrity of these two intact and yet complementary to one another in regard to the sharing of services and some of the facilities. The supp will be dealt with by this House and I suppose that would be the final approval by this Legislature to proceed with the plans as I have just indicated. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 230-13(7): Correctional Rehabilitation Policies

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. Is it the practice of governments to rehabilitate people that we have adults and youth in the same facility? Is that normal practice across the country? It sounds, from the horror stories you hear in the hostels and the inquiries that are going on across the country in regard to the history of having people in school facilities, hostels, and whatnot and now basically putting two groups in one facility just does not feel right. Can the Minister expand on where else this practice happens and how often does this occur?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 230-13(7): Correctional Rehabilitation Policies

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That has been a concern of myself as the new Minister of Justice when this was suggested. I have asked for information. I have visited facilities in places like Red Deer and Lethbridge in order to see for myself how you can plan to have facilities that are in the same vicinity and still ensure that young offenders do not come into contact with adult facilities. That is required by law.

The concern that the Member is expressing is a concern that I have had from the first day. I have looked at it, and I have also looked at the suggestion that perhaps Yellowknife is not the only location, perhaps we could look at locating this facility or facilities elsewhere, although it is not my prerogative to move it because this has already been decided by Cabinet last year. I have taken the liberty to ask these questions. I am of the view that it is in the public interest to continue the approach that we have taken of planning the two facilities in the same area. By planning it, for instance, we cannot afford two gymnasiums, but we can afford one. We can, by planning properly, have that part of the facility shared by the young offenders, as well as by the adult offenders without any contact made, and the administration, and planning, and the staff will ensure that. I see that happening in other facilities, so I know that it can be done. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 230-13(7): Correctional Rehabilitation Policies

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the process that the department used to consult when coming up with this decision, was it done unilaterally by Cabinet? Because

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I believe that this decision, in light of the financial restraint that we are under, I think an ounce of prevention is probably a waste of spending \$30 million on a brand new facility and putting money back into the system in regard to alcohol and drug

programs being shut down, we need more money for education, we need more money for health care.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary question, please.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know exactly who made the decision and what consultation took place in spending \$30 million for a brand new facility?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 230-13(7): Correctional Rehabilitation Policies

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That part of the question, I will take as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 231-13(7): GNWT Tendering Processes

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. There have been concerns raised today in this Assembly about many different things. Mr. Premier, has there been any change in direction by your government in the tendering process of the Northwest Territories Government before the territorial government tendered in the Northwest Territories and looked to support businesses in the Northwest Territories. Has your tendering process changed at all to encourage southern businesses to bid in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Premier.

Return To Question 231-13(7): GNWT Tendering Processes

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you. No, we have not changed the tendering process as far as I know. We have not made any

decisions at all to change the way we do the public tendering process. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 231-13(7): GNWT Tendering Processes

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally, when you go out to tender, you have your money approved from this Legislative Assembly. I guess I have a concern, Mr. Speaker, because last week in the Globe and Mail, on July 21st, a southern-based newspaper, this government is paying for huge ads in there now. What are they paying these huge ads for? Because we do not have people qualified in the Northwest Territories. We do not have architectural firms qualified. We do not have contractors qualified. We have to look for them in southern Canada now. What are they tendering? The Government of the Northwest Territories intends to construct a new North Slave Correctional facility complex in Yellowknife and a correctional facility in Inuvik. That is how we find out about it, Ordinary Members, that a decision is made. Is this your normal way of doing business, Mr. Premier? Is this a normal way this government does business? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 231-13(7): GNWT Tendering Processes

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice. I did not look at the Toronto Globe and Mail of that particular date the honourable Member is talking about. I have to talk to the honourable Members and the Ministers on this side about that. Perhaps there is a very good explanation for doing it. I will get all that information and get back to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is taken as notice. Also, again to remind the Members that the normal way of conducting question period is to ask your preamble and then your question. Not your question and then



your preamble. Oral questions. New question, Mr. Morin.

Question 232-13(7): Cabinet Discipline Policy

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again is to the Premier. When one of your Ministers deliberately misleads Members, what are the ramifications of that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 232-13(7): Cabinet Discipline Policy

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you. I guess if there is a real deliberate attempt to mislead the Members in the House and there are very serious circumstances, we will have to know the nature of it and the background of it. All previous Premiers know that if any Members of the Cabinet are doing that, then it is your responsibility to make sure that any accusations or hypothetical accusations are there have to be really substantiated before you consider what kind of action you are going to take. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Question 233-13(7): Consultation Process on Capital Changes

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. It is in regard to major capital changes where we have a capital item, which is identified as a retrofit, then we find out it is a new facility. What is the process to consult Members of this House that there is such a major change in capital plan and also when are we notified that this change has taken place?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Premier, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 233-13(7): Consultation Process on Capital Changes

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this particular project that the honourable Member is questioning

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me about was approved in the Main Estimates. I think the suggestion here was that originally in the Main Estimates, it was suggested that we do major renovations to the existing correctional facilities in looking at how it could be done cheaper and how could it be more efficient and effective. The Minister responsible has been talking about different ways of doing it. It was even suggested that it be a P3 process. There are these different ways of how we could do a major project. Now, the suggestion is that instead of doing a major renovation, it may be a lot more cost-effective and efficient. In fact, it might be a lot cheaper to build a whole new stand-alone facility. These are the considerations that we are looking at. I am told that it is in our prerogative, as a Cabinet, to consider the best way to do this project, and this is what we are doing. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 233-13(7): Consultation Process on Capital Changes

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the process that we use in this House for developing any capital items is usually the five year capital planning process, which we all take part of and we approved an annual budget in this House of some \$700 million. Also there is the use of the supplementary appropriation process, which we have seen in the past where it has been misused and also that there has been a Deficit Elimination Act established to avoid the practises of the past. I would like to ask the Premier again exactly at what stage in any major changes to the capital plan or basically to the budget that Members at this side of the House are notified and also what is the process that is used for notification?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 233-13(7): Consultation Process on Capital Changes

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this item here, I am not too familiar on the chronology of events. The Minister responsible has been dealing with this area here, and I am going to have to take the question as notice. I think what the Member is talking about is, were the Members notified and so forth? I am not too familiar with that. He is asking about a process on how we do things. I think that any time there is a major initiative, the Members should be informed. I need to know the chronology of events. I will take the question as notice and get back to the Member with all the information. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Again, to remind the Ministers that once their question is taken as notice, that is all that needs to be heard. Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question 234-13(7): Cabinet Reconsideration of Correctional Centre Project

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was also to the Premier. The scope of work of this project, the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, has changed drastically. It has changed from a renovation of a building to a brand new facility with no footprint on the ground, nothing holding it in this town. The money voted in this Legislative Assembly was voted to renovate an existing building for Yellowknife. That is what it was voted on. Now, you are looking at a brand new building. I understand that the Minister made a short comment on looking at moving it in other areas.

This government has the responsibility not only to keep its costs down, but it also has a responsibility to the people of the Northwest Territories to look at economic diversity in the Northwest Territories. We cannot put all our money in Yellowknife for the simple reason that is the cheapest place to do it for now. We should also be looking at the South Slave. We should be looking at other regions in the Northwest Territories that are harder pressed with our hardship right now, our economic times, than Yellowknife is. I ask the Premier if he will consider going over this with his Cabinet colleagues and his Minister of Justice to consider the other people in the Northwest Territories besides Yellowknife and consider putting it in another community outside of this community because there is nothing holding that capital project to this

community anymore. It is a new facility. You can build it anywhere. You can build it in the South Slave cheaper than you can build it in Yellowknife.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Premier.

Return To Question 234-13(7): Cabinet Reconsideration of Correctional Centre Project

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member is absolutely correct that we, as a government, should look at all the places where we could look at and sharing the little bit of money that we have in the government here. The question there is that will I sit down with my colleagues on this side of the House to reconsider this initiative here. This is an initiative that has been ongoing for some time now and we could certainly look at it again and discuss with Cabinet the merit of this proposal. I do not really think the scope of the work, being a major renovation into being a stand-alone new building that has to be considered and I think that is what we are trying to do here. Certainly we could sit down and discuss this again. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question 234-13(7): Cabinet Reconsideration of Correctional Centre Project

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you change drastically the scope of work on any project and you are changing to a brand new facility, you are changing the whole intent of how those dollars were presented in this House and how they were voted on. I do not know how Members of this Legislative Assembly would have voted on this specific item. Nobody is going to know that, but what I do know, is that this government has a responsibility to other communities in the Northwest Territories other than our capital city of Yellowknife that is getting all of the diamond facilities, investment into both gold mines, paved highways, highway projects, millions and millions and millions of dollars going into this city during an election year. What I asked the Premier is not only to consider moving this project to one of the other communities, after all there are other communities that live outside of Yellowknife. There are other

communities. Look at moving it out of the capital city into one of the other regions that need an economic boost as well. Will the Premier consider that prior to us passing

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the supplementary in this House?

Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, it takes a bold move on government and it takes a move on the government other than just to think and agree with your briefing papers, it takes a move on government to make a political decision that is best for all of the public interest, not only the public interest of Yellowknife that Mr. Kakfwi is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Again the House consent to extend question period is now concluded. Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 234-13(7): Cabinet Reconsideration of Correctional Centre Project

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was a Cabinet decision of some time ago to do a major renovation to this facility. In looking at the facility we are determining that the best course of action is to do more than doing major facility renovations. The record of decision is still to have this facility here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question period is over. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to extend question period.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question period is over. The hour is up already. I have already said that question period was over before Mr. Morin asked his supplementary question. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 6. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Member for Tu Nedhe is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 6. Do we have any nays?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Nay.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

There are some nays. Mr. Morin, you do not have unanimous consent. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return to Written Question 4-13(7): Decentralization of Human Resource Functions to Departments

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a written question asked by Mr. Krutko on April 27, 1999. In response to this question, at the appropriate time I will be tabling the document which will include information that compares and relates the delegation of human resource functions from the existence of the Department of Personnel to the present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return to Written Question 5-13(7): Cost of Paper for Legislative Assembly Operations

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a written question asked by Mrs. Groenewegen on April 30, 1999.

The office of the Premier is not responsible for the operations of the Legislative Assembly. The following information was provided by the office of the Legislative Assembly to enable my response to the written question.

Analysis of expenses incurred for paper products during 1998/99

Printed forms	\$	6,720.00
Stationery		7,964.00
Xerox Supplies		765.00
Other forms		35,147.00
Promotional material		67,838.00

Printing	12,713.00
Promotion	134,156.00
Total	\$ 265,303.00

Disposing of paper products: Document security systems 7,000.

Cost of storing documents (\*) 0.

This cost was paid by Public Works and Services for whatever storage space the Legislative Assembly used at the government warehouse.

Cost of binding documents is included in the cost of the printing/promotion. There was no stand-alone cost for binding paid by the department during 1998/99.

Return to Written Question 6-13(7): Remuneration and Benefits of Cabinet Ministers

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a written question asked by Mrs. Groenewegen on May 11, 1999.

At the appropriate time I will be tabling my response to the question of remuneration and benefits to cabinet Ministers. The documents will include the policies that detail the remuneration and benefits that Ministers are entitled to, total annual costs to this government, and detailed statements by fiscal year indicating by Minister the amounts received directly and indirectly since the beginning of the 13th Assembly and until March 31, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a written question asked by Mrs. Groenewegen on May 14, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, the Forest Management Act, which was proclaimed in 1988, authorizes forest management officers to inspect and make copies of books and records in the course of determining that the activity is in compliance with the act and regulations. The forest management regulations require that a timber operator keep records of timber cut, transported, processed, sold, etc., under the authority of a licence, permit or agreement. One use of this information is to

verify deductions an operator may be eligible for with regard to timber cutting charges. For example, operators are allowed a deduction of \$3.00 per cubic metre for processing raw logs into rough lumber. All information obtained is kept in strictest confidence, recognizing the sensitivity to the businesses concerned.

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Forest inventory concerns the process of determining the vegetative structure and makeup of forests. Forest inventory is a structured process of classification of the vegetative cover from aerial photographs, followed by field verification of the classification and determination of timber volumes and other factors of interest to forest managers. Data collected in the past supplemented with updated information about past impacts (such as forest fires and harvests) and information about forest growth and yield over an entire land area are used to determine the structure and composition of northern forests.

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is continuing to inventory northern forests. In 1999-2000, inventory work will include completion of updated forest volumes information and a timber supply analysis for the Cameron Hills area of the Northwest Territories and commencement of forest inventory programs in the Slave River lowlands (Fort Smith and Fort Resolution areas). Other projects of a minor nature will also be considered.

Forest inventory work is conducted under the Forest Development Program as described in the Main Estimates. In 1997-98, the department reallocated a portion of the unexpended forest fire suppression funds, following the quiet forest fire season, to address some of the backlog of work. In 1998-99, the forest suppression budget was exceeded. However, supplemental funds were approved by Cabinet to cover suppression expenditures. Therefore, forest inventory work was not affected by forest fire suppression budget overruns. In both 1997-98 and 1998-99, approximately \$500,000 was expended for forest inventory contracts.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10. petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, and I wish to report that Bill 19 is ready for consideration in committee of the whole and Mr. Speaker I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) and have Bill 19 move into committee of the whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Member for Tu Nedhe is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) and have Bill 19 moved into committee of the whole. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Morin, you have unanimous consent. Bill 19 is moved into committee of the whole for today. Report of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Resource Management and Infrastructure has been reviewing Bill 20, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, and wish to report that Bill 20 is ready for consideration in committee of the whole and Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) and have Bill 20 move into committee of the whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) and have Bill 20 moved into committee of the whole. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you have unanimous consent. Bill 20 is moved into committee of the whole for today. Report of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has been reviewing Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, and wish to

report that Bill 15 is ready for consideration in committee of the whole. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Report of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 52-13(7): Decentralization of Human Resource Functions to Departments

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two documents to table, if I may be allowed to do both of them. Further to my return to written question 4-13(7) earlier today, I wish to table the following document entitled, Decentralization of Human Resource Functions to Departments. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 53-13(7): Remuneration and Benefits of Cabinet Ministers for the 13th Legislative Assembly

Mr. Speaker, another tabling of documents. Further to my return to written question 6-13(7) earlier today, I wish to table the following documents, Remuneration and Benefits of Cabinet Ministers for the 13th Legislative Assembly, November, 1995, to March, 1999, and excerpts from the ministerial administrative procedures manual. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Tabling of documents, Mr. Kakfwi.

Tabled Document 54-13(7): Report and Recommendations of the 1999 Judicial Remuneration Commission, July 12, 1999

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Report and Recommendations of the 1999 Judicial Remuneration Commission, July 12, 1999. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 55-13(7): Responses to Petitions 2-13(7), 3-13(7), 4-13(7) and 5-13(7)

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

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with rule 42(10), I wish to table responses to the following petitions. Petition 2-13(7), presented by the then Member for High Arctic and responded to by the Minister of Finance. Petition 3-13(7), presented by the Member for Hay River and responded to by the Speaker. Petition 4-13(7), presented by the Member for Yellowknife South and responded to by the Minister of Finance. Petition 5-13(7), presented by the

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Member for Sahtu and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Tabled Document 56-13(7): Tender Published in July 21, 1999, Toronto Globe and Mail Regarding Expression of Interest - Correctional Facilities

**MR. MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a tender that was in the Globe and Mail on Wednesday, July 21, 1999. It is a tender that the Government of the Northwest Territories intends to construct a new North Slave correctional facility complex in Yellowknife and a correctional facility in Inuvik. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 23-13(7): Setting of Hours by Speaker

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

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

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker after consultation deems fit to assist with doing the business before the House.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. 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 23: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999-2000

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, July 28, 1999, I will move that Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999-2000, be read for the first time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 16: MOTIONS**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to deal with the motion for the setting of hours by the Speaker today.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Dent, did you seek consent or unanimous consent?

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion for today. Do we have any nays?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Nay.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

You do not have unanimous consent, Mr. Dent. Motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Dent.

**ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999-2000.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Frame Lake is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Bill 23. Do we have unanimous consent?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Nay.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

You do not have unanimous consent. First reading of bills, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to go back to item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Again, to go back to an item, you need unanimous consent, not consent.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I trust that all Members will support the request of unanimous consent to go back to item 15. It is a very mundane procedure. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Sahtu is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 15. Do we have any nays?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Nay.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

You do not have unanimous consent. First reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, Tabled Document 31-13(7), Bill 19 and Bill 20.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

I call committee of the whole to order. On the agenda before us today we have Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, and Bill 20, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, and tabled document 31-13(7). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Erasmus.

**MR. ERASMUS:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):**

Thank you. The motion is in order, and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion to report progress? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you. We will now rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering tabled document 31-13(7) and Bill 19 and Bill 20 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Government Operations Committee immediately after adjournment this evening. At 9:30 tomorrow morning there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, July 27, 1999:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. 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)
  - Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act
  - Bill 20, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

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

--ADJOURNMENT

**MR. SPEAKER:**