



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

2nd Session

11th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report
Day 22

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1988

Pages 825 - 866

Speaker: The Hon. Red Pedersen, M.L.A.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

The Hon. Red Pedersen, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Coppermine, N.W.T.
XOE OEO
(403) 873-7629 (Office)
(403) 873-5788 (Home) (Yellowknife)
(403) 982-5788 (Coppermine)
(Kitikmeot West)

Allooloo, The Hon. Titus, M.L.A.
5024 - 57th Street
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 1Y6
(403) 873-7113 (Office)
(403) 873-4813 (Home)
(Amittuq)
Minister of Culture & Communications
and Renewable Resources

Angottitauruq, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Gjoa Haven, N.W.T.
XOE 1J0
(403) 360-6600 (Office)
(403) 360-6704 (Home)
(Natilikmiot)
Deputy Chairman
Committee of the Whole

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.
XOA ONO
(819) 939-2363 (Home)
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, The Hon. Michael, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1091
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N8
(403) 873-7658 (Office)
(403) 920-2963 (Home)
(Yellowknife North)
Minister of Finance and Justice

Butters, Mr. Tom, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1069
Inuvik, N.W.T.
XOE OTO
(403) 979-2373 (Office)
(403) 979-2373 (Home)
(Inuvik)

Cournoyea, The Hon. Nellie, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1184
Inuvik, N.W.T.
XOE OTO
(403) 873-7128 (Office)
(403) 977-2405 (Tukttoyaktuk)
(403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)
(Nunakput)
Minister of Health

Crow, Mr. Charlie, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
XOA OWO
(819) 266-8940 (Home)
(Hudson Bay)

Ernerk, Mr. Peter, M.L.A.
Box 182
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
XOC OGO
(819) 645-2800
(819) 645-2500
(Aivilik)

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Fort Providence, N.W.T.
XOE OLO
(403) 873-7999 (Office)
(403) 699-3171 (Home)
(Deh Cho)
Deputy Speaker and Chairman,
Committee of the Whole

Kakfwi, The Hon. Stephen, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
(403) 873-7139 (Office)
(403) 873-8215 (Home)
(Sahtu)
Minister of Government Services
and Housing

Kilabuk, Mr. Ipeelee, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Pangnirtung, N.W.T.
XOA ORO
(819) 437-8827 (Home)
(Baffin Central)

Lewis, Mr. Brian, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
(403) 873-7999 (Office)
(403) 873-5549 (Home)
(Yellowknife Centre)

Marie-Jewell, The Hon. Jeannie, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1051
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
XOE OPO
(403) 873-7959 (Office)
(403) 872-2940 (Home)
(Slave River)
Minister of Social Services

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2637
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P9
(403) 393-2939 (Office)
(403) 393-2226 (Home)
(403) 920-3166 (Office)
(403) 873-6220 (Home)
(Pine Point)

Morin, Mr. Don, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.
XOE OMO
(403) 394-3471
(Tu Nede)

Nerysoo, Mr. Richard, M.L.A.
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.
XOE OJO
(403) 979-2668 (Home) (Inuvik)
(Mackenzie Delta)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis
P.O. Box 310
Iqaluit, N.W.T.
XOA OHO
(403) 873-7112 (Office)
(819) 979-5993 (Office)
(403) 873-2802 (Home)
(Iqaluit)
Government Leader,
Chairman of Executive Council,
Minister of Executive and Education

Pollard, Mr. John D., M.L.A.
Box 1095
Hay River, N.W.T.
XOE ORO
(403) 874-2345 (Office)
(403) 874-2600 (Home)
(Hay River)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 240
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.
XOA OVO
(819) 252-3719 (Home)
(High Arctic)

Richard, Mr. Ted, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
(403) 873-7920 (Office)
(403) 873-3667 (Home)
(Yellowknife South)

Sibbeston, The Hon. Nick, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO
(403) 873-7123 (Office)
(403) 873-6215 (Home)
(Nahendeh)
Minister of Economic Development
& Tourism

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
XOC OAO
(403) 873-7962 (Office)
(819) 793-2700 (Home)
(Kivallivik)
Minister of Municipal & Community
Affairs, Personnel and
Public Works & Highways

Zoe, Mr. Henry, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
(403) 873-7999 (Office)
(403) 873-4136 (Home)
(Rae - Lac la Martre)
Deputy Chairman,
Committee of the Whole

Officers

Clerk
Mr. David Hamilton
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant
Mrs. Rhoda Perkison
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk
Mr. Joel Fournier
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard
Ms Marie J. Coe
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Sergeant-at-Arms
Mr. Raymond Mercer
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1988

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	825
Ministers' Statements	
- 43-88(1) Western Arctic Maximum Secure Facility for Young Offenders	825
- 44-88(1) GNWT Transfer Policy	826
Members' Statements	
- Mr. Richard on Delay in Capital Funding for Water and Sewer System, Yellowknife	828
- Hon. Michael Ballantyne on Yellowknife's Caribou Carnival	828
Oral Questions	828
Tabling of Documents	831
Notices of Motion	831
Motions	831
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-88(1) Appropriation Act, 1988-89 - Department of Social Services	832
Report of Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-88(1) Appropriation Act, 1988-89	865
Orders of the Day	865

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1988

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Morin, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 22nd. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have actually several statements, with your permission.

Ministers' Statement 43-88(1): Western Arctic Maximum Secure Facility For Young Offenders

Firstly, on the Western Arctic maximum secure facility for young offenders. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important to make clear to Members all the factors surrounding the decision to build a young offenders secure facility in Fort Smith. As I have stated before, this decision was made by cabinet based on sound reasons and additional factors which had not been considered previously. The original decision to place the facility in Yellowknife was based on costs. However, in light of new factors which emerged during the new cabinet's review of the capital budget, the cabinet decided other alternatives should be considered.

In reviewing the previous decision, the cabinet considered several new and significant factors. The growth of the territorial government is already putting intolerable demands on Yellowknife's infrastructure. For example, another project of the Department of Social Services planned for this coming year will establish a northern treatment centre for troubled adolescents in Yellowknife. This new facility will require 20 new positions. It will put further pressures on an already overloaded housing market.

In 1988-89, the psychological assessment and treatment team will be expanded to provide increased support services to field and institutional staff. It will be set up to travel and can easily provide services to the new institution in Fort Smith. In addition, the department is planning to house remanded young offenders in secure facilities in communities instead of bringing them all to Yellowknife. The economic decline south of the lake is a significant factor to this government.

The Minister of Social Services had her department review the decision in light of other broader objectives including the effectiveness of program delivery, preserving existing jobs wherever possible and the importance of separating young offenders from adults in jail.

Until now, as you are aware, the plan was to build a facility on the fenced grounds of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. The young people would be sharing the kitchen and laundry facilities with the Yellowknife Correctional Centre inmates. With only a maximum of 14 young

offenders sharing facilities with over 200 inmates, the recreation area including the gym and ball diamond would be available to the young offenders only on a limited basis. Mr. Speaker, it was therefore felt important to consider other alternatives which would keep the young people completely separate from the adult correctional centre grounds and facilities.

The cabinet review revealed that psychological, legal, educational and medical services are available to Fort Smith. Emergency backup in the form of the RCMP is also available. The facility in Fort Smith already has an ice rink and ball diamond on site, as well as a summer garden. Community facilities are available on a supervised basis. We have also learned that very few young offenders are visited by families. Most of their contact is by telephone; that obviously will not change.

Considering all these factors, the cabinet proposes the following: to close the Yellowknife maximum secure unit for young offenders; and to build a replacement maximum secure unit in Fort Smith. The staff of the current River Ridge young offender facility will be relocated to the new unit. Mr. Speaker, the existing River Ridge building was originally designed as a child care building. It will once again be used for this purpose. This will permit the government to recognize a \$1.2 million future savings that was to have been used for the replacement cost of the ageing Trailcross child care facility in Fort Smith.

Which brings me to the last point, Mr. Speaker, jobs. If the facility was to be in Yellowknife, the staffing complement would have to increase significantly. This would have required the expense of uprooting and transferring our employees from south of the lake or the provision of extra training and recruitment costs for 10 additional staff.

In Fort Smith, because of the existing River Ridge facility, there are already qualified, experienced staff. Their tenure ranges up to 14 years and -- of special importance to this government -- 70 per cent of those employees are native people who will be dealing with a significant majority of native offenders.

Mr. Speaker, this government feels that the decision to relocate the Western Arctic maximum secure young offenders facility in Fort Smith is sound and based on several factors that have not been brought to light before now. Thank you.

---Applause

Ministers' Statement 44-88(1): GNWT Transfer Policy

And if I may, Mr. Speaker, a statement on the GNWT transfer policy. Mr. Speaker, during question period on March 8th a number of questions arose with respect to the recently tabled GNWT transfer policy. This policy applies to transfers, currently in progress, of programs from the GNWT to third parties such as regional health boards and divisional school boards. I appreciated the opportunity to review the reasons for instituting this policy which provides for the best utilization of support services in such transfers.

As I said at the time, the intent of this new policy is to take advantage of existing government service departments in transfers without eroding the critical decision-making authority of boards undertaking program delivery. I cannot emphasize enough that we are mindful of what is of paramount concern to boards -- the programs. Transferring program delivery funds to regional boards is the basis for increased local control over programs.

With respect to control of related support services we are striving to retain an efficient scale of operations and avoid local duplication of services, such as those now provided by Personnel, Government Services, Public Works, etc. To this end, we have arranged for GNWT service departments to contract with boards to deliver all support services on their behalf and we will fund boards for any "direct" costs involved. Thus, through a combination of these performance contracts, provision of related funds and a degree of delegated board responsibility for services, we have an approach which balances local control and realizes resource savings through economies of scale. For example, when it comes to purchasing, it is a regional board that is responsible for deciding what materials are required. The board then issues its requisition and Government Services would simply place and process the order. This provides an opportunity to have access to purchasing specialists and ensures the application of GNWT policies, such as tendering procedures or the business incentive policy. The large scale systems within Government Services can be utilized to advantage and yield savings.

We ensure local control where it counts -- for example, in deciding what materials are required -- but we retain economies of scale in our service operations. Any savings can then be used by the GNWT for program or other priority needs.

I was very pleased to see that this initiative is entirely consistent with comments from the standing committee on finance. While recognizing the importance of such program transfers the committee noted that, and I quote, "These strategies must be balanced with a concern for the efficient operation of departmental programs." I would like to repeat the three points raised by the committee:

"1) Additional costs to the government as a result of delegation be minimized through means such as the use of GNWT service departments by regional boards and adequate training for potential board members; 2) decentralization and delegation should not result in a decline in the quality of service provided; and 3) a service's potential for decentralization or delegation be evaluated based on criteria established through policy."

I am pleased to note that the GNWT transfer policy addresses the committee's concerns.

With respect to applying the policy retroactively to existing boards or other delivery agencies, I would like to assure my colleagues in this Assembly that cabinet fully appreciates there are a number of issues and difficulties and that we do not know all the answers today. As I stated, there is no intention to simply apply the policy to existing transfers at this time. We have enough on our plates now in applying the policy to transfers currently under way in Health and Education. But I did state that in the future we will, on a case by case basis, and in full consultation with existing bodies, determine whether or not to grant continuing exemptions from the policy. Cabinet has provided ample time for this retroactivity study by establishing September of 1989 as the date for its completion.

The policy provides for cabinet approval of specific exemptions from the principles of the policy where there is a sound justification. We know there are instances where the fullest application of the policy may warrant special considerations. I am sure Members will concur that where economies can be realized we must strive to incorporate them through application of the policy.

With respect to Mr. Richard's reference that same day to existing boards like the Fort Smith hospital board not becoming subject to the policy by virtue of being renamed, I would like to clear up any confusion. The issue is not simply one of renaming a hospital board but of creating a regional health board whose scope of operations encompasses all activities transferred from federal operations.

It makes good sense to apply the GNWT's new transfer policy on the provision of support services to all newly forming regional health and education boards and their constituent organizations. The current provision of support service functions by one of these existing organizations may remain unaltered for now but subject to application of the policy, as appropriate. Where we can economize, we will, but not at the expense of meaningful local control which makes a difference to programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. The Chair would at this time like to recognize in the gallery, the Deputy Commissioner of the NWT, Ann Hanson from Iqaluit.

---Applause

Welcome. Also I am sure you would all join me in welcoming back the Hon. Nick Sibbeston. We are pleased to have him back safe and sound.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Delay In Capital Funding For Water And Sewer System, Yellowknife

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago during consideration of the proposed capital budget of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, I questioned the Minister about an agreement which he had made in 1986 with the then mayor of the City of Yellowknife, which would result in a delay in the receipt of much needed capital funding to upgrade the water and sewer system in the central business district of the capital city.

The Minister stated that the agreement was reached at a meeting with the Minister, his deputy, the former mayor and the former city administrator in attendance. Subsequent to the day of the debate I spoke to the former city administrator and he has indicated to me that his recollection of that meeting is identical to that of the Minister. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to state this for the record because of the possibility that my questions of the Minister and my statements during that debate may have left the impression that Minister Wray was not being truthful to this House on this issue. While this in no way diminishes the real need of the city for assistance with this urgent project, I am satisfied that the Minister has been forthright in explaining the reasons behind the delay. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Members' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

Member's Statement On Yellowknife's Caribou Carnival

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, as Members are no doubt aware, spring officially arrived on Monday. In the South, spring heralds the arrival of rain and flowers. But here in the North it means carnival time; time to celebrate. Yellowknife's Caribou Carnival starts Friday at noon on Back Bay in the Old Town. The highlight of the carnival is the Canadian Championship Dog Derby, which will be run for the 34th consecutive year. This three-day, 150-mile race is certainly the main event of the dog racing season in this part of the world. It attracts teams from across the NWT as well as provinces and the USA. This year for the first time two teams from the Keewatin will be competing. Defending champion Richard Beck of Yellowknife North, my constituency, will be running again, having just returned from the southern racing circuit where he won the world championship sled dog race in The Pas, Manitoba.

I would like to congratulate Richard as well as all the other NWT mushers who participated on the circuit. Sled dog racing is rapidly growing in popularity in both North America and in Europe and is being considered, as Mr. Wray said, for demonstration sport status at the next Olympics. It is a sport closely tied to the cultural traditions of the NWT, and I hope that young mushers across the North will be encouraged by the recent successes of our teams in the South. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Yellowknife North, and indeed the residents of Yellowknife, I wish to extend a warm welcome to all Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in this year's Caribou Carnival. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Members' statements.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 0271-88(1): Smoking Prohibition In Government Buildings And Tobacco Tax

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am directing this question to the Minister of Finance. The smoking prohibition in government housing -- maybe the tax on smoking will be taken out. Maybe you will not be adding more taxes to cigarettes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister of Finance.

Return To Question 0271-88(1): Smoking Prohibition In Government Buildings And Tobacco Tax

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think as Mr. Pudluk remembers, having been part of the cabinet that approved the smoking policy, that it was felt by Ministers at the time, and is still felt by the present cabinet, that the no smoking policy is a very progressive one and I think all northerners

have respected the leadership taken by this government. The issue of tax on cigarettes is a separate issue altogether, and I would be prepared to deal with any specific question on that particular issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 0272-88(1): Availability Of Study On Location For Young Offenders Facility

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, the week before last, the Minister filed a return to my written Question W17-88(1) regarding the young offenders facility for Yellowknife. In that return, Mr. Speaker, there was a reference to a study having been done to consider the options for the location of the facility and I had asked, in my written question, if the Minister would make the study available. In her response she stated that she is prepared to make it available to the Members of the standing committee on finance. Mr. Speaker, I am not privileged to be a Member of that standing committee. My question is, will the Minister of Social Services make a copy available to myself? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Madam Minister.

Return To Question 0272-88(1): Availability Of Study On Location For Young Offenders Facility

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be willing to make the copy available to the Member as requested. Initially it was asked that the study be tabled and as the Minister, I would like to refrain from tabling the study although I will make the study available to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Butters.

Question 0273-88(1): Health Services Transfer

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Health will not be tabling the details of the health transfer today, could she now advise when it is her intention to lay this material before the House, sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question 0273-88(1): Health Services Transfer

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in the matter of the health transfer, on March 25th at 2:30 p.m. the Executive Council will be dealing with the health transfer and documentation. Any time after that, on the week beginning March 28th, we would be prepared to bring that information into this Legislative Assembly for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Butters.

Supplementary To Question 0273-88(1): Health Services Transfer

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister is aware that a number of professional staff and other permanent staff plus term staff have not yet received their offers of employment from the GNWT, and I believe she is also aware that a significant number of offers made by this government to professional staff contained many errors that will require amendment, and since the deadline for the return of those offers is Thursday next, that is, March 24th, would the Minister consider extending the deadline within which health staff could endorse and return their offers of employment?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question 0273-88(1): Health Services Transfer

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give special thanks to the Members, Mr. Richard, Mr. Butters and Mr. Zoe, who have been very diligent in their constituencies to bring me information of some of the problems that are arising in providing job offers to staff who are very, very much needed for the development of health care in the Northwest Territories. I very much

appreciate that. Yes, I have made a request of the Department of Personnel. I hope to deal with it before tomorrow morning, on the extension to the deadline for the nurses and the professional people to return their jobs offers. I am making the suggestion that we allow to April 15th, at the latest, to have those offers returned.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Butters.

Question 0274-88(1): Report On Meeting In Iqaluit

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I was expecting we might hear from the Government Leader a report on the Iqaluit meeting with the four federal Ministers some 12 days ago. I wonder if that report is available, or is he going to table it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question 0274-88(1): Report On Meeting In Iqaluit

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had prepared a statement today describing the results of the Iqaluit meeting but unfortunately, it was not received in time to permit translation to be complete. Anticipating perhaps some questions on this matter, I have provided the interpreters with a copy of the late filed statement and with the leave of the House, I would be prepared to provide that information now if agreeable. Otherwise, it will be ready tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader, are you requesting unanimous consent to return to Ministers' statements?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I was proposing to provide a ministerial statement now on the meeting in Iqaluit, which I suppose amounts to a request for unanimous consent to go back, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Government Leader is requesting unanimous consent to return to Ministers' statements. Are there any nays? Point of order, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. What about our agreement for rules that anything that is going to be tabled has to be translated?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk, you are absolutely correct. The unanimous consent request is merely to return to Ministers' statements. There would then have to be unanimous consent to waive the rules for translation. I have no nays to return to Ministers' statements, Mr. Patterson. The statement Mr. Patterson proposes to make was not filed in time, as he indicated, and was not translated. It would require unanimous consent to waive the rules for filing and translation to proceed. Are there any nays? Thank you. There is a nay from Mr. Pudluk.

We will return to orders of the day, Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 0275-88(1): Northern Treatment Centre For Troubled Adolescents

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Government Leader or the Minister of Social Services. The statement that the Government Leader read today on the maximum security facility makes reference to another centre, a northern treatment centre for troubled adolescents. It says it is planned for the coming year and my question is, is that project presented in the main estimates which the Assembly has before it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question 0275-88(1): Northern Treatment Centre For Troubled Adolescents

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, yes, it is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. That would appear to conclude this item.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 96-88(1), Final Report on the Recommendations from the Special Committee on Housing, in English and Inuktitut. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 184(4) of the Elections Act, I wish to table Tabled Documents 97-88(1) and 98-88(1), the election returns and declarations on behalf of Cliff Reid and Tagak Curley.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I went to Point Barrow on the break and I would like to table Tabled Document 99-88(1), entitled Education: A United Commitment, North Slope Borough School District Annual Report to the People, 1986-87 School Year. I think this will be helpful for the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 100-88(1), a letter from the Lake Harbour Education Council addressed to the Minister of Education. It expresses concerns about the Lake Harbour school. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 15-88(1): Appointments Of Alternates To Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 24th, I will move a motion that Mr. Don Morin and Mr. Brian Lewis be appointed as alternates to the standing committee on legislation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 13-88(1), Additional Sitting Hours. Mr. Ballantyne.

Motion 13-88(1), Withdrawn

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, on consultation with caucus, I withdraw my motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Does the seconder of the motion consent to withdrawing?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Motion 13-88(1) has been withdrawn. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Sir, could I have the unanimous consent of my colleagues to proceed with the motion appointing two alternates to the standing committee on legislation?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent being sought. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Richard, proceed.

Motion 15-88(1): Appointments Of Alternates To Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Rule 87(2) permits three alternates to each standing committee;

AND WHEREAS only one alternate has been named to the standing committee on legislation;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that Mr. Don Morin and Mr. Brian Lewis be appointed as alternates to the standing committee on legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Richard, your motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Richard. Secunder of the motion?

MR. PUDLUK: Question.

Motion 15-88(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 15, first reading of bills. Bill 20-88(1), Northwest Territories Energy Corporation Act. You do not wish to proceed. Thank you.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Report of Standing Committee on Finance on the 1988-89 Main Estimates; Bill 1-88(1), Appropriation Act, 1988-89, with Mr. Angottitauruq in the chair.

ITEM 17: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON THE 1988-89 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-88(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1988-89

Department Of Social Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): We are going to be dealing with the Department of Social Services. Does the House Leader have any remarks?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, Mr. Chairman. We are prepared to proceed with the Department of Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister, do you have opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to do my budget speech and then ask for my witnesses to come to the table.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Social Services provides services to individuals, families and communities, according to their needs, in a manner that promotes healthy lifestyles, protects social well-being, and furthers independence. The five program areas operating within the social services mandate are the directorate; family and children's services; correction services; alcohol, drug and community mental health services; along with community and family support services.

The department changed its organization in 1987-88 and the budget, as presented, reflects this new structure. The purpose of the reorganization was to provide for increased specialist support to community service delivery, clear lines of authority, and a more equitable assignment of service responsibilities within the department. It is anticipated that the revised budget structure will assist management at all levels of the department to manage resources allocated to their program areas. This, in turn, will enable the department to monitor the cost-effectiveness of the various programs.

Appreciation Of Previous Minister

Prior to providing you with an overview of the department's budget, I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation of the accomplishments of the previous Minister, Bruce McLaughlin. I particularly want to highlight the success of the negotiations for the young offenders funding.

I would also like to thank departmental staff in headquarters, the social service workers in the field, and staff in departmental facilities for their hard work and dedication. In addition, I would like to recognize all those community groups and contractors who carry out social service programs on behalf of the department. As most of you are aware, the front line social workers, contractors and project staff are coping with increasingly complex service demands related to child sexual abuse, spousal assault, young offenders, suicide prevention and alcohol and drug abuse, in addition to their other administrative and program responsibilities.

The proposed 1988-89 main estimate is approximately \$67.7 million: \$60.8 million for operations and maintenance and \$6.9 million for capital. There are 406.5 indeterminate and 25.6 casual person years associated with the O and M funding. The 2.0 person year growth over the 1987-88 main estimates reflects a net person year reduction in the department of 9.0 person years excluding young offenders. An additional 11 person years were provided in 1988-89 through the young offenders Treasury Board submission, which were not included in the young offender supplementary estimates for 1987-88. The department's budget in 1988-89 represents no real growth, and as well it includes no inflationary factor for other O and M. The three per cent increase in operation and maintenance funding results from a change in the accounting policy on the distinction between O and M and capital expenditures and the proposed collective agreement increase for salaries and wages in 1988-89.

Revenue for the period is estimated at \$19.5 million for operation and maintenance, with the majority of this being related to the Canada Assistance Plan and young offenders cost-sharing agreement with the federal government. Capital revenue associated with the proposed main estimates is approximately four million dollars, a recovery from the federal Justice department for capital associated with the young offenders program. Overall capital costs absorbed by this government will be \$2.9 million.

Directorate

This activity includes the person years for the delivery of the Social Services programs at the community level. Residents in communities and local authorities have expressed an increased demand for resident social workers. In addition, the increased complexity of the problems and issues facing the Department of Social Services staff, such as family violence matters, child abuse, and alcohol and drug problems have created a need for existing staff to work overtime and be on standby to deal with emergency situations in the community. In the last few years and in the proposed 1988-89 budget, the department has decreased its overtime budget due to restraints during a period when the demand for such services has actually increased.

Family And Children's Services

A major thrust being undertaken in this activity is the development of a territorial treatment centre for children and adolescents. The department is in the process of finalizing a contract with William Roper Hull Home to undertake training and start-up activities for this centre. Funds were reallocated within the accountability to fund this initiative.

Corrections

The department successfully completed the young offenders negotiations early in 1987 and this is the first year young offenders funding, provided by the federal government, appears in the main estimates. This funding is reflected in both the 1987-88 revised forecasts and the proposed

1988-89 main estimates. To the extent possible, the budget is presented to reflect the approved Treasury Board submission, although it was necessary to redeploy the headquarters resources to implement the Executive Council approved reorganization. The department has taken reductions in the corrections activity and delayed any further increase in the staff-to-inmate ratio in adult institutions, leaving the department with one of the lowest staff-to-inmate ratios in the country. I am happy to report, however, that an initiative to strengthen the community corrections program initiated in 1987-88 is being continued. Specialists in adult and youth community corrections are now in place in all regions.

Alcohol, Drug And Community Mental Health Services

Included in this activity in 1988-89 is the assessment team associated with the young offenders funding. In addition, through internal reallocations, this team has been expanded to six members to provide treatment as well as assessment services in support of residential and community service delivery across the NWT.

No additional funding has been allocated to residential and community alcohol and drug projects. This hold-the-line strategy comes at a time when there is an increased awareness of alcohol and drug related problems in the NWT and lengthy waiting periods for treatment services for alcohol and drug abuse. At present there are no treatment facilities of adolescents and there has been no resolution of the projected funding requirements for the proposed Eastern Arctic alcohol and drug treatment centre. However, the level of funding for youth initiatives to deal with alcohol and drug problems has been maintained at \$400,000.

Community And Family Support Services

The department has taken a major initiative in home support services. A review of the aged and handicapped assessment report finalized last year indicated that a base adjustment calculated by the department at one million dollars is required to meet the identified needs for home support services. An incremental approach of allocating approximately \$250,000 for each of the next four years is planned. The proposed increase for 1988-89 was reallocated from other program areas within the department. The aged and handicapped accountability has increased significantly over the 1987-88 main estimate as a result of this increased service requirement and growth due to capital.

Program Funding

Social assistance and senior citizens supplementary benefits dollar requirements have been increased only according to the projected population increases for the general population and the elderly. The department's main estimates do not include social assistance funding related to the performance of the NWT economy. This approach was based on the premise that initiatives such as the renewed economic development agreement, the employment enhancement program, the affirmative action program, and this government's substantial capital program for communities would be successful in providing considerable employment to local residents. An upward trend in expenditure levels in social assistance in 1987-88 indicates that NWT economic factors may be impacting more severely than expected. The department will be monitoring these trends closely in the 1988-89 fiscal year.

The family violence prevention program was approved for a three year period in 1986-87 and is scheduled to sunset March 31, 1989. I will be seeking the support of my cabinet colleagues, as well as the Members of this Assembly, to provide funds to this program on an ongoing basis.

In the past few months, the department has initiated consultation with the federal government on child care funding, and has been preparing for program transfers from the federal government in the alcohol, drug and community mental health area, expected to occur by late April. Once this transfer occurs, the department plans to provide more program support to alcohol and drug projects by combining federal and territorial resources and by providing additional specialist support at the regional level. An outstanding funding and transfer issue which remains is the amount of federal funding which will be made available for child day-care. My officials have scheduled funding negotiating sessions with the federal government to hopefully secure adequate resources to support a viable day-care program in the NWT. Unfortunately, the current budget does not contain any new initiatives to address day-care issues in the North.

Highlights Of Capital Funding

Planning of a senior citizens care facility is proposed in Iqaluit, with planned construction of a facility in Baker Lake. Both will be constructed in conjunction with the NWT Housing Corporation. Capital expenditures projected in the corrections program are for planned renovations to the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre. Young offenders secure custody facilities are planned for construction in Iqaluit and Fort Smith. The funding for these facilities is to be provided through a contribution agreement with the federal government.

On this subject, Mr. Chairman, I wish to indicate to the Members of the Legislative Assembly that the decision to change the young offenders secure facility location from Yellowknife to Fort Smith was based on consideration of both the economic and program factors involved. It has been determined that the department can effectively operate the maximum secure custody program in either Hay River or Fort Smith by utilizing the existing staff. The psychological, legal, educational, and medical services are available to Fort Smith. Emergency backup in the form of the RCMP is also available.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, approximately 20 jobs can be maintained in each of these communities, which are already experiencing economic decline. There is an acknowledged net increase in capital costs in constructing a stand-alone facility south of the lake. However, future capital savings are anticipated by locating the unit in Fort Smith, instead of Hay River, by not having to replace the ageing Trailcross child care facility, which was initially identified in the department's future capital plan.

Standing Committee Notified By Letter

It is unfortunate, Mr. Chairman, that I did not address this proposed change during the standing committee on finance's review of the department's capital budget. It has always been my intention to have the location change considered on its own merits. I delayed raising the issue in the committee's review to allow the departmental officials time to inform facility staff affected by the change of plan. However, once this had been accomplished, I immediately wrote to the chairman, through the appropriate process, to notify the committee of the cabinet decision. Regrettably, it took three days for the letter to reach the chairman.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that the department has, within limited resources, attempted to address issues brought to the previous Minister's attention by Members of the Legislative Assembly. Two initiatives undertaken by the department, the professional treatment resource for children and adolescents with emotional and/or behavioural problems, and the increased resources in the home support and personal care service areas for the aged and handicapped will enable individuals to receive services in the North either in, or closer to, their home communities.

These are my main estimates, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask if I may have my deputy minister and the director of finance at the witness table. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Would the Sergeant-at-Arms bring the witnesses to the witness table? Would the Minister introduce the witnesses? After the introduction we will have the chairman of the committee speak. Thank you.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is my deputy minister, Mr. Bob Cowcill. On my left is the director of finance, Mrs. Phyllis Sartor. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): The chairman of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Pollard.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister appeared in front of the standing committee on finance on January 18th this year and again on January 22nd of this year. The new programs in the department include increased services to the elderly and handicapped and the establishment of a northern treatment service. With regard to performance evaluation, the department is attempting to implement a management for results system. At the time of the interview with the Minister there was indicated a decrease of 5.3 person years and there were approximately 35 vacant positions in the department. The Minister is continuously monitoring the travel of her department.

Highlights. A complete overview of the department's reorganization, along with each division's mandate, was presented. Ongoing program issues for the coming year include child care and NNADP transfer and transfer of community mental health services resources.

Of concern to us was the proposed move from Yellowknife to Fort Smith of the young offenders facility. Members questioned the Minister on the feasibility and financial impact of changing the location for the new secure custody facility from Yellowknife to Fort Smith. The Minister indicated how the departmental restructuring has affected the department and what advantages the new structure will have in terms of accomplishing the department's mandate. With regard to young offenders in the communities, Members questioned why the RCMP detained young offenders overnight in some communities and the Minister promised to look into the matter.

With regard to day-care, in response to a concern regarding day-care initiatives and the financial implications to the GNWT of these initiatives, the Minister indicated that the department is currently involved in funding negotiations with the federal government. Departmental initiatives for senior citizens, as well as the financial implications of these initiatives, were explained by the Minister. Members suggested that the department consider supporting the creation of a representative group of senior citizens from across the NWT to provide input into departmental programs directed at senior citizens.

Some Members raised the issue of social workers working in their home communities and their ability to effectively carry out their responsibilities. With regard to custody contracts, a concern was raised regarding custody contracts to people in public housing units and the Minister said she would look into the matter. In response to a question regarding the effectiveness of locating the Fort Smith Region's alcohol and drug specialist in Fort Simpson, the Minister explained the rationale for the department's decision.

If I might add, Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that she would provide Mr. Richard with the study concerning the young offenders facility and seeing that the standing committee on finance is not meeting until tomorrow morning, Wednesday, and will not look at that document until that time, I wonder if the committee would consider or the Minister would consider giving that document to this committee now before we start analysing the department? It is just a suggestion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, yes. May I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we take a short break while I send a departmental official to obtain the document to be distributed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Yes, we will take a short break until you get the document, Madam Minister.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. Mr. Gargan.

Fine Option Program

MR. GARGAN: What is the present practice with regard to the fine option program? I know that it is implemented in Fort Providence too, but do you have a set rate as far as this program goes? A person is expected to pay off his fine, but is that up to the special committee in the communities that implements this program, and what are the rates? There must be a set rate that they use in order for a person to pay off his fine, or work off his fine. What is it? Is it \$10 an hour? What are the rates?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Currently delivery of the fine option program in the communities by community groups is determined on the amount of the fine, basically at the minimum wage rate, which is five dollars an hour in the Northwest Territories, up to the fine amount. And that is determined generally by the offender and the fine option individual who is responsible for the program delivery in the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can ask the Minister, through you. There is a review committee that was struck by the department. Has that particular committee finalized their meetings and come up with any recommendations to the Minister? I believe the committee was reviewing all the regulations, all the guidelines and so forth. Have they concluded and reported back to you? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the review committee was initiated, I believe, in January. They have met in February. They will probably meet another time and I expect conclusion of the review committee in the early part of the new fiscal year. They are still formulating their recommendations to bring forward to me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

Increase To Senior Citizens Supplement

MR. ZOE: Thank you. On another subject, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question of the Minister. I do not see in the budget a reflection of the motion that we passed in the fall session with regard to the senior citizens supplement benefits. There was a motion passed, and going through the budget there is no reflection of any increase in this particular area. Could the Minister elaborate a little on this for us? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. I have asked my department to look at that particular motion and it was difficult to be able to formulate it into the current budget and come out at a zero growth, although it is being reviewed by the department. It is going to cost this government approximately \$275,000 to implement such an increase and it will be considered by the department. The only thing is, I want to make Members aware, in the event that we decide to go ahead it will have to come in as a supplementary. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister going to be coming in with a supp, or are you going to wait another year, until your new budget comes in again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: It is currently being reviewed. I will bring it to the Minister of Finance and consider the alternatives with the initiatives that the Assembly may want to take. I have not, as of today, decided whether or not to have it come in as a supp. It may also be able to be looked at, if this Assembly so wishes, and if a supp is to come in to accommodate that, then I would be more than happy to bring in a supp.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent of the motion that was passed in the fall session was to advise the Minister and the Executive that this initiative that was voted on was one of the top priorities for our senior citizens. The motion surely indicated that you either put it in your budget or you come back with the supp, and now the Minister is not saying yes or no, she is saying, "Well, we are still reviewing it." How long does it take to review a small increase to the senior citizens supplement? I realize it is going to cost us a few more dollars, but it is crucial to our senior citizens. That is the reason the House voted on it, and it was passed. Surely the Minister would have considered this earlier on and included it in this particular budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, it appears that the indication from the honourable Member supports my initiative to have it come in as a supp, and I would be more than willing to bring in a supp in the new year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is considering bringing a supp forward. Would this supplementary be retroactive? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the supp could be retroactive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Request For Transition House, Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Concerning transition houses. The communities would like to get shelters. How big are the transition houses going to be? I received a letter from Cape Dorset. They wanted to get a transition house in their own community. Could you please update me on this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We currently have 10 spousal assault safe homes in the NWT. I know there is a need for more. As I have also indicated to the Members in my budget address, regarding the spousal assault program, there is a sunset clause to end at the end of March 1989. I would be willing to ask the Assembly for support for continuation of such a program. I think the program has been very effective. In regard to the Member's comments on the Cape Dorset transition house, I would be more than willing to consider a proposal to initiate a women's shelter in his community if the need is identified.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy about your reply. I would like to know if we can get a safe house in Cape Dorset but I do not know how many clients we will be having in Cape Dorset. They have requested a safe house and they want me to work toward obtaining this. Also I have another comment. In Cape Dorset the Department of Social Services has two social workers, one is Kabloona and the other one is Inuk. They would like to get another social worker from the community itself. I would like to know if you have done anything on this? Will we be getting local employees like social workers in our communities? This concern was given to me by Cape Dorset residents because they would like to get an additional social worker in that community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will take his request under advisement. I know funding is very tight for social workers, mainly because of the fact that there are many communities that are without social workers and have requested the department to supply a social worker in their community. I have recently looked at the allocation of social workers in the different communities and I am trying to find some equitable distribution of social workers to meet the demands. At this time I sincerely cannot make a commitment to the honourable Member but I will take his request under advisement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister indicated in her opening remarks that they had a reorganization or departmental restructuring; they restructured the whole department. What effect did this have on your department's performance when the change occurred?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, basically the restructuring of the organization gave better direct lines of authority and communication. It seemed that prior to restructuring, the department in itself did not -- I should not say that -- it did have the lines of authority but it

seemed like there were inequities in the authority of the program deliveries under certain directors, and whatnot, throughout the programs that are to be delivered. I find that the restructuring has not only balanced out the program delivery by the different directors but we also have clear understanding of the different program deliveries throughout the department. It has just recently been restructured, as I have stated in my budget address, and this has addressed many different areas in the department in regard to delivery of programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Zoe.

Pay Rates For Employees In Senior Citizens Homes

MR. ZOE: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, a further question to the Minister. I understand that a number of employees working in various senior citizens homes are not on par with government rates. I mentioned this to the Minister in the House, I believe, earlier during oral questions. I received a number of complaints that these particular individuals were not getting paid on par with what the territorial government employees were receiving and the Minister indicated that she would undertake to review this particular problem. Could she share with us as to what she has come up with? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member did express a concern regarding the rates paid. I guess the problem encountered by the department is mainly the fact that once the contract is privatized to deliver these home care services or whatever services are available, it is difficult for the department to indicate what rate they should be paid. I will further review it to see in what ways we can ensure that privatization initiates pay equity, but it will probably at some point in time result in problems that are going to be encountered by the department of the increased cost which we feel privatization now takes care of. I know it is a concern of the Member and I still have not got a thorough answer on it. I did indicate to him that I would be reviewing it and I will review it further for him. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Kilabuk.

Taxing Of Social Security Income

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have a short comment to make. I have been concerned about the rumour I have heard so I would like to ask you a question in regard to casual employees because they are given T-4 slips at the year end. Do you have to tax the social assistance cheques? Do you have to include them when you are filing your income tax return? Is this mandatory? Do you have to include it with your income when you have been a recipient of social assistance? I would like to know if you have to file it with your income tax return. Is there such a policy or guideline for that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the concern was addressed to my department earlier on. According to officials, apparently you are to file the income that is given to you under social assistance, but to my knowledge there will be no T-4s issued by this department for specific social assistance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I was concerned about this when I heard about it in my community, because the social assistance recipients have to file that with their income tax forms. I was quite surprised about it, so I wanted to know what the situation here is.

Assistance For Seasonal Workers

Also I have another concern about unemployment benefits. Some people have only seasonal jobs and do not work for four months and are eligible for unemployment insurance after working for 20 weeks. I know that we cannot change this right now because this is in the jurisdiction of the federal government, but I think perhaps we should consider the people who have seasonal jobs and work less than the required weeks. This was brought up to me before, so perhaps you could consider the weeks required before you get unemployment benefits.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am aware of the fact that there is a problem with the department's time frame, to be able to assist people under social assistance when it comes to waiting for their UIC. This is one of the things that the review committee would be looking at in trying to alleviate this problem. In regard to the number of weeks stipulated to be able to receive UIC, this is the federal government's regulatory stipulation which our department would not have any control over.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this is the jurisdiction of the federal government. I just thought I would bring it up.

Referrals Of Young Offenders To RCMP

Also I have another concern from my community. The social workers have to work with the young offenders and we have a young offenders committee to deal with these young offenders, but I have heard that some of the social workers would like to refer their clients to the RCMP instead of dealing with them. I think they have been referring their clients to the RCMP too easily, although they are capable of dealing with the young offenders. So they have been referring the young offenders to the RCMP. I think the social workers should be informed that the young offenders counsellors should take care of them. I think that you should tell them that they should take care of the young offender clients instead of referring them to the RCMP. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not aware of that concern in my department. I know that the department has recently initiated youth justice committees in the different communities. I know it is initially the department's intent to refer young offenders to the youth justice committee, who have not been through the courts prior to that. As the concern has been expressed by the honourable Member, I will take it under advisement and look into it and ensure that this type of referral from the social worker directly to the RCMP would be terminated in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Zoe.

Decentralizing Social Services In Fort Smith Region

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have been asking a lot of questions of the various other departments on the issue of decentralization. I am particularly interested in this department to see how many positions are leaving Fort Smith for the Fort Simpson area office. In other words, I am specifically requesting the Minister to provide us information as to what plans or what initiatives they are undertaking in the area of decentralizing the Fort Smith Region in Social Services. And where are all these positions going? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in regard to decentralization I am aware that the department did not have any positions to decentralize although I am aware that they have lost positions in Fort Smith under the Department of Social Services. In particular, as to how many went to Fort Simpson and how many were reallocated to Rae, I would like to ask agreement among the Members to allow my deputy minister to elaborate on this.

MR. COWCILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister has indicated, our department had a very small regional establishment in Fort Smith so really it was not possible for us to reallocate significant resources to the Fort Simpson or Rae areas through that particular process. What we have done is, with the restructure of the department and the move to have more specialists in the alcohol and drug area and the community corrections area out in the regions, we are looking to have two of those specialist positions located, eventually, in Fort Simpson and two located, eventually, in Rae, once the health transfer of the alcohol and drug program is completed. In other words, the two area establishments will be increased by two person years each.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I reading the deputy minister correctly in that he is saying there are no PYs going to the Fort Simpson area in this current budget? You are waiting until the transfer takes place?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Deputy Minister.

MR. COWCILL: In this particular budget there is an alcohol and drug program position going to Fort Simpson out of our resources. We are looking at the possibility of eventually adding a community corrections position there, basically using our overall departmental vacancy rate. In Fort Rae, I believe we have already deployed a community corrections officer out to that area. With the health transfer, it is our plan to add an alcohol and drug community mental health position to the Rae establishment as well. Assuming the health transfer occurs during April, it would be this year, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Zoe.

More Time In Isolated Communities For Social Workers

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to tackle a different issue. Mr. Chairman, I have had a number of complaints or people who have concerns regarding Social Services, especially with social workers where they are based out of the area service office. I have had a number of complaints not only from my constituency but from other constituencies. They indicated that it appears that the social workers, when they come into an isolated community, do not make an effort to stay long enough to do a proper assessment or to assess various individuals. A lot of the communities are requesting to have a local social worker right in the community but because of the restraints and so on and so forth, the government cannot afford to have a social worker in every community. I realize that. Their biggest complaint is that they never get to stay long enough. They are always in there in the morning, out the same day or out the following morning. There is not enough time spent in these isolated communities where these social workers are not living. This is one of the major issues that was brought up to me. They are saying that Social Services should make more of an effort to stay in the communities to assess individuals properly. Could I ask the Minister if she would elaborate a little on this concern that was raised to me? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

Cross-Cultural Awareness Workshops

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize the problem that the honourable Member has mentioned. I have indicated to my department that there is a problem in regard to people going right into the communities, not aware of their culture and traditions. In that respect, I have also requested the department to initiate cross-cultural awareness workshops for the social workers who do have to tend to individuals in the communities and especially in isolated communities. I really cannot indicate to the Member an answer in regard to how a social worker is going to be able to tend to these isolated communities on a basis where they would be fully aware of what happens in the communities unless the social worker was stationed in that particular community. The problem that I am encountering with the department is the lack of funds to be able to hire enough social workers for the communities. As a result, a lot of the social workers in the department do have to go into the different communities and dispense assistance or tend to the social problems that there are in the communities and then leave immediately thereafter. I find one of the solutions to the problems, maybe, is to request the department to start initiating cross-cultural awareness workshops for the workers. I would welcome more comments from the Members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: On that same subject, Mr. Chairman. I still feel that Social Services do not have enough contact with their clientele. I realize that they go into communities and dish out their welfare cheques and try to consult with new clientele and so forth, but there has to be more effort made toward going out and staying in the communities a few days -- maybe two or three days -- and, having come into the household of their clientele, to get more in-depth information. A lot of people feel that they are not encouraged to spill out everything at one particular meeting with

their social worker. If they have a one-to-one meeting, not necessarily in an office situation, but maybe in a household, I am sure Social Services would be of more benefit to the individuals where they are more at ease and more co-operative with the worker. I do not believe this is happening across the Territories, especially in isolated communities. Again, Mr. Chairman, I stress that the department has to take a serious look at directing their employees to initiate this type of contact with their clientele. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I welcome the comment from the honourable Member. I would also like to advise him that I have been emphasizing to quite a degree to my department, since being the new Minister, that it is very important for program delivery at the community levels, and whichever way we can enhance them, we will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, as you are aware, this fall the social worker was moved out of Snowdrift and transferred to another community. I was wondering when that position would be filled again in Snowdrift. It is not filled yet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I have been advised that the position is under recruitment. I really cannot indicate a time frame to the Member for exactly when we will fill it. Recruitment, as we all know, is the responsibility of Personnel, but the request from the department for recruitment has been relayed to the Department of Personnel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin.

Decentralization Of Capital Projects

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different subject, decentralization. Madam Minister, I understand it is the government's policy to try to move things into the regions and into the community levels. Is your department attempting also to do these types of things, for example move capital projects, or whatever, out of the capital city, since there is a lot of feeling in the communities that Yellowknife has away too much and always gets everything, and the smaller communities never get anything? Is your department pursuing this matter and trying to transfer positions out of Yellowknife into the communities or regions where they belong, or what is happening there? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: There has been no direction from me to my department to decentralize from headquarters to the smaller communities on existing programs. The one that I have taken on as a new initiative, the young offenders facility, was basically an existing one, but I know that some Members have expressed the desire to decentralize, and I guess the thing that I cannot emphasize enough to the Assembly is the lack of support staff that we do have out in the field, although the need is for the headquarters staff here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister a question with regard to the aged and the handicapped. There is a federal program under which a disabled person can get a pension, if they have made a contribution into a pension plan under the federal program. However, anybody who has not because of their disability, who cannot work, cannot contribute to a pension plan of sorts, and so they are in a category where there is really no program for them to tie into. I would like to ask the Minister whether for that particular age group there is anything with regard to helping these people out. I understand that they do have social services, which average about \$350 for groceries and stuff like that, but in addition to that because of their handicap they get an additional \$126, I think, a month. However, those are all done on the basis of a voucher, like a grocery voucher. They do not actually get money to put in their pocket. I know in the provinces, for example, some of these people are saying that they do need spending

money because they do not have any kind of cash income. Is the department treating them as a special case situation, or are they still treating them as a social assistance recipient, regardless of whether they are handicapped or not, and are they put in the same boat, or same category, as people who require welfare?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

No Current Disability Program

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the comment the Member made, I realize there is no current disability program identified for people in need. I recall there was a program in the earlier years; then it was amalgamated into social assistance. As a result, the funding is disbursed under the social assistance guidelines, and the individual is given funding on the basis of need. I recognize that there is a problem, unless the person is declared indigent and they are entitled to social assistance but the disabled person is really out of luck if they did not contribute to a pension. I fully understand the problem that the Member has expressed. What I have done in regard to that particular problem, in regard to the same type of problem under the responsibilities of the Workers' Compensation Board, is that if they do not get enough funding for an accident that has left them disabled, they basically fall under the social assistance criteria.

I am aware that the Workers' Compensation Board is looking at some type of universal program for disability and I have directed the Department of Social Services to work along with them so we can look at identifying a program to meet the needs of disabled people in the Territories. I do not feel that we are currently looking after the disabled persons' needs to the degree that we should be. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, maybe just to look at what the department's position is with regard to making a portion of the assistance be cash. As I said earlier, the person is entitled to a certain amount for groceries but in this case, a disabled person also gets an additional amount for their disability. I am wondering whether that additional amount could be converted into cash rather than be part of a grocery voucher. What is the department's position on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: In regard to the specific problem of the voucher system versus actual cash disbursed by the social worker, I guess this is determined at the local level. In the event that local authorities, along with the social worker with the client, feel that cash should be given to meet their needs, then it is so done. If it is not, then they generally use a voucher system. I would be willing to look into the area of concern that the Member has expressed and try to resolve that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Gargan.

Middle-Aged Persons In Communities

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another area, too, is with regard to the middle-aged person in the communities. Normally that category of people, is quite young so they are not eligible for Canada Pension Plan, but they are too old to be working as most of the work that is done is labour intensive. So you have that category of people, too, who are in a situation where, a lot of times, I think, it is the attitude of the social worker with regard to that particular age group. I believe the individual was in Snowdrift before but he is now in Fort Providence and we are having some difficulty with this particular individual again. They are told, the people who are old enough, "You still could go out trapping, you still could support yourself and you know you should do that," and so they are given that situation where they are not given assistance and are forced to try to do otherwise. That is one concern.

The other concern is with regard to the objectives of the department with regard to family support services. That is that the department usually tries its best to keep a family united. Unfortunately, that is not the case with this certain individual. He just broke up a family and is

living with the woman who was -- so there is that situation, that difficulty that you have to deal with. I do not know how you deal with an individual who does that in the community when in fact his very job is to keep the family unit together.

I also understand that this individual was also at one time living with another woman from Fort Simpson. That has not worked. I thought I would bring that to your attention in public because I think you need to deal with it in public because it is an issue that the community is puzzled about. How do you deal with this person who does that? Anyway, he is also middle-aged.

---Laughter

I would bring that to your attention, that you do have an age group of people, around 50 to 65 years of age, who are really in a situation where the government does not have a really clear policy on how to deal with those people. Again with the aged and the handicapped it is the same situation, that because of their disability -- there really needs to be a policy in place to deal with that. I believe they do have a policy in place for social assistance but they should also have a policy in place to assist the handicapped person. In other words, certain considerations should be given to them because of their situation. And then you also have the middle-aged person who might be in the category of not being able to get employment, but also they seem not to be able to get assistance because they can work. So I think there should be some rules with regard to that age group.

Cost Per Inmate In Corrections

I would also like to ask the Minister, what is the average cost -- this is getting into corrections, Mr. Chairman -- per inmate in corrections? Also, does she have the breakdown by ethnic groups? And with regard to the fine option program, has she been getting any indication, if a person is going to be working for five dollars an hour -- I think the minimum wage is \$5.50 -- how many of them would be willing to go for that program instead of going to jail? I know it costs quite a bit per day for one inmate to be kept in an institution, but at the same time, would a person be willing to work for \$5.50 an hour to pay off his fine if he could? Not only does he not have to pay his fine but on top of that he could still refuse the fine option program for just \$5.50 an hour and be put in corrections if he did not. It is costing the government more by being cheap, that sort of thing. Perhaps the Minister might like to explain.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Member's comments of identifying the way the department looks at handling individuals in the specific age group of between 50 and 65 who are unemployed and are not ready to draw any available pension, it is indeed a problem. One of the new initiatives that I have asked the department and the review committee to look at was basically to see how we can use social assistance funds to address the people who want to utilize the funding specifically for trapping or hunting, in accordance with the guidelines that are imposed on us by the federal government. At the same time I have also asked the review committee to look at the disabled individuals and one of their recommendations may be to increase the incidental allowance given to the disabled people. These types of initiatives will probably be looked at in next year's budget, but unfortunately they will be unable to be looked at this year.

The cost of keeping a prisoner in a facility varies, basically, from \$90 to \$120 a day. The fine option program that is available in the communities is very successful, to my knowledge, and individuals have avoided being incarcerated. In regard to the imposed amounts that they work for, I would have to consult with the Department of Justice to see whether or not the rate could be higher as opposed to the minimum wage that is applied in the Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): We will take a 15 minute coffee break before we become middle-aged.

---SHORT RECESS

We do not have a quorum. We have only two Members present. You do not participate. The committee will now come back to order and from the signal it seems that we are ready to go. Clause by clause? General comments. Mr. Morin.

Services For Senior Citizens

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, is your department looking at all at putting together a directory for senior citizens to let them know what programs are available for them and if they have any dental programs, health programs and things like that? Tomorrow I will be tabling this document in the House from Alberta. They have a comprehensive directory for information concerning senior citizens. It lays out in there everything that is available to senior citizens so that they do not have to go to every different department. Since your department has a lot of communication with the senior citizens of the NWT, I am wondering if you would be looking at putting out this type of a booklet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been advised by my department that in conjunction with the Department of Health they are formulating this type of booklet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to make this available to you for a guideline. It is a very good document. It would give your officials maybe a good idea of what to do. Also, right now, treaty Indians in the NWT get full coverage for everything but yet Metis -- and we do have other elders who are maybe miners or priests or whatever they are, who are retired in the NWT, if they were wanting to get assistance for dentures, eyeglasses or anything like that, they would have to claim destitute. I do not think that we should be insulting our elders, regardless of who they are, that they should have to claim destitute in order to get assistance for help when it comes to health matters, dental matters, transportation and things like this. In most cases, they can barely get along with the pension they are getting. Is your department looking at implementing any new programs to take care of these types of people? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: First of all I would like to thank the honourable Member for his assistance in being able to supply such information to the department. In regard to addressing senior citizens or other individuals, and particularly senior citizens for dentures, eyeglasses or whatever, I am currently under the understanding that the Department of Health is looking at trying to find a way to address those particular needs. Whichever way our department can assist them, I would be more than happy to. I sincerely feel that senior citizens, regardless of what status they are, should be given the best care that we can ultimately give them, as a government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

Impact Of Mental Health Act

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister concerning the Mental Health Act. During the session in Rankin Inlet, in 1985, the Mental Health Act was passed. During the discussions concerning this act, I presented a motion which eventually was put in the act, that in a case where a person has a mental disorder, that a person from the community could make testimonial in a court of law with regard to whether this individual has a mental disorder or not, or whether it is the normal behaviour of the individual. I would like to ask the Minister whether this particular section of the act has ever been used in a court of law in the Northwest Territories. Because, even before the act was passed, I am aware that a certain individual was committed to a mental institution down south, and so that brought up that concern again, where this particular section of the act has been used.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take that request under advisement and be given time to consult with my colleague, the Minister of Justice, and also in conjunction with the Minister of Health, to see in what ways that particular act did impact on the department and how it is used in today's legal society. I will take it under advisement and advise the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: The young man's last name is Crookedhand, but even before the act was assented to, this individual was sent down south to a mental institution. I would like to ask the Minister, what were the circumstances of the committal of this individual?

Transfer Of National Native Alcohol And Drug Abuse Program

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to ask the Minister whether or not the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program has been transferred to the territorial government to date, and what was the agreement with regard to the transfer, if any?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in regard to that particular program, it is not transferred as of this date. It will be in conjunction with the Department of Health transfer. As for the agreement, due to the fact that the transfer was initiated before I was Minister I would like the Assembly to allow my deputy minister to elaborate on it so that the Member's concerns can be addressed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Deputy Minister.

MR. COWCILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister has indicated, the resources currently associated with the NNADAP program will be coming across to the Department of Social Services, subject to our government agreeing to the current transfer arrangements. When that occurs, the department plans to combine the existing NNADAP resources with our own alcohol and drug resources so that we will have a fairly large contribution program which will support the projects across the NWT, including the existing treatment centres. In addition we will be combining the person years associated with our own program and with the NNADAP program so that we can provide a better system of specialized support out in the regions, instead of attempting to provide that support out of our headquarters operation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Again with regard to the NNADAP program, what is the position of the aboriginal organizations with regard to this transfer and are these organizations going to play a part in the program itself, similar to the one in Alberta where the provincial government has given the responsibility of the native alcohol and drug program to the Alberta Indian Health Care Commission?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the position of native organizations on the transfer of the NNADAP program, I am aware that when the board of management was revised they did submit names to sit on this board of management. I do not believe the department did, at any point in time, receive any concerns from organizations on negative effects of the transfer on the program. Further, in comparison to what the Member has indicated the provinces did on the transfer, I would like my deputy minister to elaborate on it, although we are all currently aware that a new board of management has been in place for the transfer or has been initiated and that there were people requested specifically to represent the different native organizations in the Territories. But the majority of the board of management to deliver the NNADAP program is of native ancestry. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Deputy Minister.

MR. COWCILL: I believe the Minister has already answered the question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have expressed concern about this area of transfer of responsibilities, where the native people who are being directly affected by the transfer programs really do not have a say in how this transfer should take place or how they might be able to improve the services. We keep referring to constitutional development in the NWT, but with regard to constitutional development there is an element of responsibility that is given to the communities. I refer to the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the Department of Social Services. These departments do not really give you an outline or a direction on where they are coming from, with regard to giving some of those responsibilities away.

Designated Program Will Be Lost

What we have here are five members on the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. I need to be corrected if I am wrong, but that is the group that decides on the funding of programs in the communities. If you also put the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program within the department that budget goes up. A program that is designated for native people will be lumped in with what the territorial government now has. If it comprises both of those moneys and the native alcohol and drug program contributes at least three quarters to that program, that does not necessarily mean that three quarters of the money is going to the programs for the aboriginal people. It gets lost in the system. There is no definition of programs going to status Indians or Inuit. It is going to eventually be something like education where there really is not a definition of the amount of moneys that go to the education of status or Inuit people. I am afraid that this is the kind of direction that this government is now getting into again.

I would like to ask the Minister whether or not, sometime down the line, a letter concerning the transfer of the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program is being negotiated and what their positions are with regard to that transfer and whether or not the department has taken any kind of an initiative with regard to the constitutional development and to establish a position in this particular area, perhaps letting the native people know that their intention is to eventually have that responsibility go to the native organizations or whatever. There must be some kind of indication by the department that the native people are going to support a transfer of that particular program. The government must have made some compromises. Or is this entirely a sort of departmental transfer and no real consultation process has taken place?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I will try to reply to the Member's comments. Just in regard to the program itself. As I stated earlier, the majority of the board members are of native ancestry. The program involves something to the tune of \$2.2 million, of which \$1.6 million is for program deliveries into the alcohol and drug projects that are recommended by this board of management. Out of that, there is basically the \$200,000 to assist with the capital furnishings on these different areas that have been identified in need by the board of management. In regard to recognizing what consultation has been taking place with the organizations prior to the transfer, I will allow my deputy minister to elaborate on that because it was done with the department prior to myself becoming a Minister. I have met with the board of management at one of their recent meetings and I sincerely feel that they have been very conscientious in trying to ensure that they deliver the best program to try to combat one of the greatest social problems that we encounter in the North. In regard to the consultation, I would like the Assembly to allow my deputy minister to elaborate on that process that did take place prior to the transfer, at the initial stages.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Cowcill.

Original Intent Will Be Maintained

MR. COWCILL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the lead role in the consultation process with regard to the health transfer has been taken, as Members are aware, by the Minister of Health. The NNADAP program is one of many programs that are coming across in the health program. With regard to the department's intent with respect to the utilization of these funds once they do come across, it is our intent and I believe the wording of the health transfer agreement does speak to the issue of maintaining the original intent of the NNADAP program. In other words, we would anticipate that just as many resources as were previously devoted directly to NNADAP projects would be continued after transfer. Indeed, by being able to combine the resources which our government already has with the resources transferred from the federal government, we believe that we will be able to deliver, overall, a better program, a more efficient program and a program with better support provided by the department by establishing the specialist support out in the regions for community service delivery by projects, as opposed to the current centralized model. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the objectives of the department, I would like to ask the Minister what she means by "implement a community based clinical assessment, consultation and treatment service for children and youth with severe emotional, behavioural and psychological

disorders." Is the Minister saying that they are going to have some kind of clinical services within the communities for those emotional behaviours? I really do not know what is meant by that. I just want to get a clarification on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

Psychological Assessment And Treatment Team

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: In regard to the concern that the Member has expressed, the mobile assessment and treatment team is a type of psychological assessment team to be able to follow up or to attend to individuals with emotional disorders. The assessment team was initiated I believe in 1984, when it had one psychologist, one child care specialist and one psychiatric social worker. In the past year there was an additional adult psychologist added on. This year they have initiated three more positions to the team which will enable the team to have three psychologists, two child care specialists and two psychiatric social worker specialists. The team would be readily available, able to go into communities in the event the need is identified and be readily accessible by whatever the department deems that this team has to attend to, for mental behaviour or any disorder that is identified.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I believe there is a need for many of these specialized areas with regard to the behavioural patterns of, I guess, children and youth in the communities. I would like to ask the Minister -- realizing that asking for the additional professionals to deal with the problem, really does indicate that there is a problem out there -- whether or not we have really addressed the issues of why these problems are occurring in the communities. Why are young children or youth or young adults driven to commit suicide or attempted suicide? What has the department done to try to maybe address that whole issue? Getting additional professional people does not really deal with the problems in the communities. It probably deals with the individual who has to deal with the problems in the communities, but it really does not address the problems in the communities that are affecting young people to commit suicide or attempted suicide. Perhaps the Minister might know, within the department, what some of those problems are that are causing those problems. Is it lack of employment? Is it alcoholism? Family breakdowns? There are a lot of factors that could lead a person to do those things, but what is the department doing to try to address it? Not all the social workers are sensitive to what is happening in the communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

Additional Support Staff

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to answer this. As I understand it, currently, in addition to initiating this assessment team who are identifying there is a need in the community, the department basically sends this team into the community and then determines whether or not follow-up has to go beyond, when the individuals have been assessed. Specifically for the area of suicide, no doubt we all recognize there are many factors probably involved and compounding such an issue in the North. There is no doubt that sometimes alcohol and drugs are one of the main factors, along with unemployment and a lot of the other social problems that we encounter. But I feel the department is trying to be able to provide additional support staff, not only in the form of this assessment team but for further follow-up. It is very difficult for the current social worker to be able to work with these individuals with these isolated problems, because of the demands placed on them.

It is the intention of the department through the social worker to identify where the needs are and that the headquarters staff be able to direct, in consultation with the department's social worker, where the team should attend, to not only look at this assessment of individuals but to recommend what follow-up action should be done. This is one of the purposes of the expansion of the team in this coming year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could have asked the previous departments this question, but I will start out by asking the Department of Social Services since this has to do with a lot of social issues in the communities. There is constitutional development in the North; what is the

department's position with regard to constitutional development and is there any intention by the department of devolving services to the communities and to the local groups? What is the position with regard to that? I believe this morning I heard on the radio that the constitutional lines are restricted quite a bit with regard to constitutional development and that maybe it is really up to the departments of the government to take a leading role in regard to the whole question of constitutional development. I believe that in order for it to work, the government has to establish some positions on that, saying to the departments, "Look, we are willing to give this to the communities as part of the process of constitutional development." But if we look through this book on the main estimates, Mr. Chairman, in the objectives of all the departments, there has not been one mention with regard to that whole issue of constitutional development. Not one department has mentioned anything about what they are willing to compromise as part of the process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

Devolution Of Programs To Communities

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the Member's comments, I know it is the intention of the department to be able to devolve community programs where the community does feel that it wants to be able to deliver the programs, providing they have community support. If the review deems that it is also feasible in regard to an overall devolution type of blueprint -- I know the department specifically does not have one. They encourage the communities that would be willing to take over their program deliveries to take on those initiatives. I am sure that that would probably fall into the area of the constitutional development that has been expressed by the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, again with regard to the objectives of the department. I would like perhaps the next time that we review the main estimates, to have this government reflect some kind of process by the departments on constitutional development. Certainly in order for anybody to support any kind of constitutional development, there has to be an objective by the government in that direction. Right now, not in any of the departments, except the Department of Justice, is there any constitutional development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. I would like to take that comment under advisement and thank the Member for his comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

Senior Citizens Homes

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just one final comment, with regard to the senior citizens home facilities in the communities. Most of the capital infrastructure on the senior citizens home facilities was built in the late 1960s and early 1970s and some of those facilities are at a point now where they need some major renovations. Not only that, but during the break I talked to a number of senior citizens and they feel that instead of having rugs or something like that they would just like to have linoleum because of the activities that they carry out in those centres.

Since the senior citizens home was built in Fort Providence there has not been really any change to the amount of furniture that they have. They have furniture that has springs popping out of them and they are having cans to support their sofas and chairs. Since I was elected we have been getting a \$10,000 budget in Fort Providence every year to replace some of the furniture. A lot of the furniture is over 15 years old and there needs to be something major done in the home in Providence. I understand that in your department there is \$10,000 for this year again, but I believe that the department should really go into the community to look at what major changes should be made.

The personal care program in Fort Providence has not been taken care of. They do have two people there who require personal care but there is no facility like bells or buzzers that they use for personal care when people need something. So those things need to be looked at. This was brought to my attention by the people who are working there. There is a need for some major changes but perhaps it is something that the department should seriously look at for next year or even next summer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I thank the Member for his comments. I will consult with the Minister of Housing. I am aware of the fact that we do deliver the programs in the facilities but I was always under the impression that the O and M costs incurred in the facilities in regard to renovations and whatnot were under the responsibility of Housing. As for furniture replacement and update, I can look to see how our department can assist in that and be able to address that specific issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask the Minister for more information about the statement made by the Government Leader this afternoon in his list of factors on this change for the young offenders facility. He referred to a northern treatment centre for troubled adolescents planned for in Yellowknife this coming year. This new facility will require 20 new positions. I think the Government Leader's point was that this will put further pressures on an already overloaded housing market. Quite apart from that, I would like to inquire about this northern treatment centre. I recall that in the last Assembly there was a motion, I think in committee of the whole, which addressed the many, many thousands of dollars which our government spends in sending children out to the William Roper Hull Home, and I think the thrust of the motion at that time was that there should be a centre established in the North somewhere.

Additional Funding Not Apparent In Estimates

I would just like clarification on the Minister's statement. There is also a reference to it in the main estimates, but I do not see any large capital dollars in the capital estimates and I do not see any increase of 20 PYs anywhere in the main estimates. So what exactly is being planned?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify the statement. It is not specified as a capital item. It is not specified as delivery of a program. It is under family and children's services. There is going to be a centre located here in Yellowknife in the building that was formerly used as a receiving home. This centre is specifically to address children with emotional problems or problems of this nature. It will be done through a contract, or privatization, which will create 20 positions. It is going to be privatized to William Roper Hull Home, which operates that particular facility in Calgary. I recall William Roper Hull Home advertising some time back for the specific needs to be filled here in Yellowknife. So it is through a form of privatization and it will be in effect I believe, the first part of July. If I am correct, the early part of July. Once the building is complete with renovations by June, the program will be delivered here in Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would explain why I do not see the PYs because they are private sector bodies. Is the Minister indicating that we are going to carry out a function in the current receiving home that has not been carried out to date and if so, are there additional O and M funds allocated for that additional function, or are the dollars replacing the dollars we are sending south to Roper?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, there is O and M funding which is to the amount of one million dollars in the budget. Hopefully this would enable the department not to send as many referrals to Roper and to utilize that in the old receiving home where the program was not delivered before, here in Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Butters.

Success Of Community Service Sentencing

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I apologize if some of my comments overlap or repeat some of the questions raised by the previous speakers. I would like to follow up on a question asked by Mr. Gargan relative to fine options. It strikes me that the objective relative to fine options,

community services orders, victim/offender reconciliation projects and alternative measures programming has been an objective of this department for many, many years. Obviously it is a worthwhile objective because many of the people who are in our jails are really not there because of some criminal act with intent. They are there because of alcohol abuse and the unfortunate occurrences that stem from such situations. I am wondering whether a serious effort has been made in this area to keep people out of jail; to keep them in their communities and to refer them to programs in which they would have to work out their penalties in the community and by community service. Does this intention really work or is it just lip service to a good idea?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. It is difficult to state if the programs really work or if we are providing lip service. I sincerely feel that the programs are addressing a lot of the problems of trying to retain offenders in their respective communities. In reviewing the amounts of funding regarding fines, where I believe it is working, it sometimes averages out to an amount of approximately \$20,000 per area for fine options. That is dealt with through the fine option programs. I know the other programs, but they are relatively new programs. I sincerely feel that the fine option program is one of the programs with major success. I would have to look at it further to see how we can enhance or introduce new initiatives to try not only to deter people from being incarcerated but to retain them near their respective communities once they have gone through the court system. In the way of trying to address their fines that are imposed by the courts, I may have to work along with the Department of Justice to be able to elaborate on this particular issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

Use Of Community Service Orders

MR. BUTTERS: I welcome the Minister's response because, with her, I feel that if we can keep people out of the institutions and out of the jails, not only do we do the offenders a service, but we do our communities a service as well. Is there any problem with the community services orders? I cannot understand why that particular alternative is not, apparently, used more than it is. Is there any legal problem with including that particular option in a sentence for an individual who is found guilty?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I do believe the option is available and I guess this particular area is deliberated by the judge in accordance with and depending on how the individual's crime is assessed. I think in regard to that particular comment, it basically depends on what the judge deems necessary for the community and then to be able to ensure that it is followed through within the community. If the judge so desires, it can be addressed in the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: One other question on this point. For this to be successful, obviously the individual who monitors or who works with the committed person is the key to the process. If an individual is found guilty and then referred for community service order work, would he be covered under workers' compensation? Would he receive all the benefits? Is there any problem there with regard to such coverage?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

Workers' Compensation Coverage

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I believe a person would be covered, mainly for the fact that the employer who does decide to take on the individual and pay, instead of actually paying the individual the premium rate, he directs that funding either to the fine option program or to the co-ordinator in the community, and then the funding would be disbursed to the court system. It is, I guess, the onus of the employer to ensure that that employee is covered under workers' compensation or whatever benefits that particular employer here would give to any other employee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I would like to have that particular element checked out. I think that as it is a government program, we would like to see it succeed. We should ensure that such coverage is extended to the individual who carries out that kind of work in the community. That is only a comment.

I would like to ask the department and the Minister relative to the management for results system which this department implemented some years ago now -- about two and a half years ago now, how it is working out. Was it worth all the agony that went into the implementation of this program, as far as the department is concerned, and as far as management systems are concerned?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. I apparently was advised of the plan in regard to the management for results system. Apparently, it was also indicated that the plan is due this month or the early part of 1988. As for the management for results system, as to how the plan was initiated and how they feel it has been working out now in comparison to past years, I would like my deputy minister to be able to elaborate on it. Thank you.

MR. COWCILL: Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Butters has indicated, the department undertook a pilot project in this area a few years back, and I can tell you that the process has not been without its agony, as Mr. Butters indicated. Having developed the model for developing a management for results system, the first two issues that the department had to face were, first, that we needed to in fact restructure the department to provide for clearer lines of authority and more logical assignment of functions, and in addition, to reorganize our budget so we are better able to see the kinds of results that we are achieving in each of the various service areas. So our actual implementation of the plan in the first couple of years has not really been fully satisfactory from our point of view.

This year we have more or less accomplished the restructuring of the department. We have completed restructuring the budget along the lines of what we think is necessary, and we are hopeful that the effort currently being concluded, to clearly outline our management unit objects for the upcoming year, and to develop indicators of our program effectiveness, will in fact pay off now that we have the first two major tasks out of the way.

Management Information System

As I think some of the Members may know, in addition to the process of clearly laying out our management objectives, the department also does have a management information system in certain program areas such as social assistance. That does assist us in measuring program efficiency and effectiveness by reporting back to us on case load statistics and whether social workers are following the rules established by our government for the administration of social assistance. In addition, we have, to complement this plan, a departmental evaluation plan that we are implementing this year to, on an annual basis, selectively evaluate a number of the services in our department so that we will have a better idea of just what is happening by way of results. So this is basically where we are at at this point, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Two questions stemming from that answer, Mr. Chairman. Has the department in its implementation of its management for results system identified areas or services or programs that could be sunsetted? If they have done this, have those programs been sunsetted?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Apparently no, they have not been able to identify any programs that should be or have been sunsetted to date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: As the department was the first department to institute the management for results system, do the senior officials now find themselves bothered by other departments who are also being required to implement the same system? Are they providing a training exercise for other departmental officials?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I would like my deputy minister to reply to this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Deputy Minister.

Manual Developed By Department Of Finance

MR. COWCILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Finance basically took the work that was initiated by our department and utilized it to, in fact, develop a training manual for all departments to utilize in establishing a management for results system, and that department is providing the support and consultation to other departments as they themselves develop a management for results system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I have some more questions but maybe there would be someone else who wishes to continue. If not, I would like to ask the Minister to advise us just where the whole matter of day-care is going, both on the federal scene and what is happening with regard to territorial programs. I realize that this government is very much a hanger-on and a swinger-to whatever the federal government puts in place. As the Minister knows, there is a considerable interest in providing adequate day-care facilities in the Northwest Territories. As she points out in the department's material here, at the present time admission to day-care programs, where assistance is provided by the government, is done by a means test, so maybe she could brief us as to what she sees coming down the pike on this one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. Yes, I realize the significant amount of pressure the department is encountering regarding day-care. I am also just able to advise the Assembly that negotiations are under way with the federal officials in trying to see what type of day-care program we are able to deliver in the North. The problem the department encountered was that until the federal government gave the announcement of what initiatives they wanted to take on, and until we can find a way to find funding to be able to cost-share a lot of the programs that the federal government has as new initiatives, we would have to look at ways of trying to overcome this.

Current Funding For Day-Care

I know cabinet is aware that day-care is going to be one of the initiatives that the department will be looking at, and I am sure my colleagues support me on being able to implement this particular program. Currently with the negotiations under way, exactly how much funding we will need to be able to deliver this program, in all equity, is still being determined. I will indicate to the Members that it is one of my priorities to ensure that it is inserted and implemented as an initiative in the coming year and addressed in next year's budget. The unfortunate part is, because the federal announcement was so late in the year and because of the fact that there were really no readily available funds to cost-share a lot of the programs, the only day-care program that we have available is done through a means test and basically given as a subsidy to people in need. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: The federal program obviously was developed, as most other federal programs are, with southern Canada in mind. The planners have no idea of the costs associated with living and operating North of 60. Has the Minister looked at the federal program and does she believe it can be pulled into shape to fit the needs of northern users? Or is there some way in which this Assembly might be able to assist her in her approach to the federal government to indicate where special consideration should be given northern users?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I thank the Member for that recommendation. As soon as the program was announced, I recognized the problems that we would be encountering in the North with no availability of funds to be able to cost-share because of our base funding. I did express this particular problem, that I knew the department would be encountering, to the Hon. Jake Epp when I met with him in the middle of December. He did assure me at that time that they would look at the North because it is unique and vast. He would advise his officials that in negotiations the North cannot be compared to the provinces. I feel the negotiations have been going well. They are still not completed. In accordance with the problem, we will be bringing forth some type of strategy paper early in the new year to cabinet, to try to address day-care.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Kilabuk.

Funding To Outpost Camp Counsellors Of Young Offenders

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question concerning minors and young offenders who are sometimes taken out to outpost camps as part of their counselling. While they are in the outpost camps, is any sort of funding provided for the outpost camp people to support the young offenders during the counselling?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the first part of the translation I did not get, but I did get the latter part. I am aware that the department, once taking these young individuals into its responsibility, does pay a per diem in the communities. I am not sure if this addresses all the concerns that the honourable Member expressed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I am not talking about young offenders being in the community, I am talking about them being taken out to outpost camps as part of their counselling and whether these people who are in charge of the outpost camps and in charge of the young offenders are given a per diem or some kind of funding to support the young offenders.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in regard to outpost camps in particular, I am fully aware that whenever the outpost camps do initiate a proposal to the department, they address this funding requirement in their proposal. I believe it is based on a per diem being disbursed, but it is in the proposal that is put forth to the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the whole issue of mental or emotional disorder, I would like to ask the Minister, maybe during your cabinet discussions on the sixth floor of the Laing Building, the Department of Economic Development did come up with eliminating the STEP program, the short-term employment program. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the department has expressed some concern over that program being eliminated, in view of the fact that perhaps some of the suicides that are taking place are because people are not getting any kind of job. Or has the Executive come up with this "You win some, you lose some" type of a situation? Because certainly those are cabinet decisions. But the Ministers must also be concerned about the implications that this would create and whether or not those things are discussed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the specific STEP program being eliminated, it was determined at that time by that particular Minister what was more appropriate for his department. I know our department does address the employment enhancement program, which is in conjunction with the Department of Education, I believe. If the Member so wishes, I will request my deputy minister to elaborate on this specific employment enhancement program that our department does support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Cowcill.

Employment Enhancement Initiative

MR. COWCILL: Mr. Chairman, our department this year, in conjunction with the Department of Education, the federal Department of National Health and Welfare and the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, collaborated in putting about \$1.5 million into what is called, employment enhancement initiative. This funding was provided actually through the CEIC delivery system to assist communities in proposing both training events and employment opportunities for local people. The program is a little late getting off the ground so we anticipate, I believe, spending in total, between the federal and territorial government, about \$1.1 million in the present year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware of this particular program, which was announced during the session of last year. I do not know whether deputy ministers are allowed to go into the discussions when the Executive meets on the sixth floor. I am not aware, when these discussions take place, what the rules are with regard to the Ministers meeting on the sixth floor. I am trying to get some kind of clarification on whether or not, when the Government Leader makes the statement concerning the government's position, it is actually the Executive that has made the decision. I can only refer to the Department of Economic Development, who eliminated the STEP program. But certainly you have been responsible for some of the social breakdowns in the communities and must have a concern over the fact that maybe 10 positions are being eliminated in all the communities with regard to STEP. And certainly that is going to have an effect on individuals who are counting on those programs. What I am asking is whether or not you have expressed a concern during your deliberations of eliminating that program and the kind of effect it is going to have on the communities. Emotionally. Mentally. And once you have expressed that concern, then maybe the government is of the opinion that it is a "you win some, you lose some" type of a situation. In this case, it is the communities that are the big losers, let alone the loss of life if that is what might evolve. I am just sort of questioning yourself as a Minister, when this intention was first announced, whether your department has come up saying that it will have an effect on the communities. Or did you mention it at all?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I recognize basically what the Member is saying but I guess in regard to determining what is in my colleagues' budget and what is put forth to this Assembly in the budget format, I would like to ask if the Assembly would allow the Minister of Finance to answer this. For me, consulting and recognizing the problems that will be encountered in my department, is -- in particular being unable to determine exactly what programs were being cut from what departments because of the fact not only of being a new Minister, but also trying to be fully aware of my department's initiatives and my department's budget, I have been unable to discuss all initiatives with all other Ministers on their budgets. I do not feel it is my responsibility or in my jurisdiction to be able to comment on my colleagues' budgets regarding whatever programs or initiatives they are taking. I recognize that discussing issues in cabinet is a thing that we have worked at and worked diligently at. But on the particular item in the budget, I feel that maybe the Minister of Finance can be able to elaborate. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): What is the committee's wish?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Finance Minister.

Cabinet Collectively Decides Priorities

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like if I could, to clarify the budget process. One thing I want to emphasize is that in no way do we look at the budget process as a win or lose situation. What happens during the budget process is that the Ministers responsible for departments bring forward on behalf of their departments, what they think are the best mix of

programs. Then the cabinet collectively decides priorities. I think it is a little bit misleading to look at one relatively small program in an \$800 million budget. I think it is \$440,000. That program itself does not make a difference between whether or not people's mental health is affected. The reality is this government is on record supporting employment programs, job creation programs, and supporting capital projects which create employment. The Minister of Economic Development felt and we agreed as a cabinet, because it was ultimately a cabinet decision, that the money could perhaps best be prioritized a different way than through the STEP program. As I recall in the Minister's budget, the Minister agreed with some questioners, in the presentation of his budget, that we would have a look at that program for future years. But I just want to emphasize that these decisions are made by the cabinet in totality and the cabinet tries to look at what is best for the widest, broadest group of northerners possible. We put forward an overall budget. If you just concentrate on one small part of that budget, it distorts the picture. So I think we are very much aware of the concerns of Mr. Gargan and we are very much aware of the necessity for employment opportunities, for job opportunities and this government has made that a major priority. We thought that money could perhaps be better spent to achieve those ends than in this one program. Mr. Sibbeston said he would review the program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman. Based on the Minister's statement and Mr. Ballantyne's statement, am I correct in assuming then that any kind of direction that has been taken by the individual departments is not really questioned by other Members and that they do go along with whatever the department's direction is? Also, Mr. Chairman, again just concerning the STEP program, the Minister did say \$400,000 is not very much out of an \$800 million budget but it is the communities that are directly affected by this cut. The cut in the 41 teaching positions, too, affects the communities directly. We cut the training programs from CEIC and that is a direct blow to the communities. Those are programs that the communities really depend on. It is like the Minister is indicating that the kind of direction taken by the Executive Members is a uniform position. It is up to us then as ordinary Members to question some of those directions that are being taken by the Executive. Again it is like I said, maybe we are going to have to be the conscience of the Executive too. If the Members are making a statement saying that they are one for all and all for one, then so be it. Certainly I will be questioning them on it at every opportunity I get, as to why those directions are taken.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I thank the Member for his comments and will take them under advisement, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. What is the committee's wish? General comments? Detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Directorate, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We are in our main estimates books, page 15.10. Directorate, total O and M, \$7,877,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, in the directorate there is a line that says "decentralization of specialist support to community based delivery systems". What does that mean in simple terms?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Basically this means in simple terms that new initiative of placing community health workers in the different regions. Being able to have them in all appropriate regions is looked at as a way of decentralization. It is not taking the positions out of the headquarters into the regions, but actually initiating new positions in the regions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Mr. Butters, is that adequate?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, I see it relates to the sentence that follows, and not the sentence that precedes it, or the sentence of which it forms a part. Just one other question on the directorate. I wonder if the Minister could indicate, since one of the objectives of this

particular section is to encourage and assist community councils to establish integrated social service committees, what type of progress has been made on that objective? Do such committees exist in the communities and how effective are they?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are a number of committees existing in the communities. They are, I believe, quite effective in the way of trying to address some of the social problems encountered in the communities. It is basically a co-ordinated effort at the community level with different agencies. Where they are not initiated, they would probably be by the department recommending that they be initiated in the communities where they are not addressed currently. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Directorate. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Okay. So I understand that they are supported and encouraged by the Department of Social Services and communications have gone on with the various community councils to set up these special committees. Once they are established, who do they relate to? Do they relate to headquarters or do they deal with the regional office?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Basically the committees, once they are initiated, not only report to the department but also consult with the local authorities. They consult with the department but relate to the local authorities. This particular approach certainly speeds up the process and alleviates a lot of the problems encountered with all different committees basically trying to achieve some of the common goals of the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Just a comment. I think it is a valuable objective and I think a lot more work could be done on this particular item, not only by this Minister, but also by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you.

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Directorate, total O and M, \$7,877,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Family And Children's Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Family and children's services. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I wonder if the Minister would indicate relative to the last paragraph, or the second line of that paragraph, if legislation is expected to be proclaimed in January 1988 and will come into effect during the fiscal year. I guess it was proclaimed and I guess that is the legislation that was passed a year ago.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mashí cho. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: It has been proclaimed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I understand it has, Mr. Butters. Family and children's services. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under this particular division, is the support for the various spousal assault programs. I wanted to make a comment or an observation or a statement today about this topic. It arises, Mr. Chairman, out of an incident that happened last month. I should say at the outset that I am not aware of the recommendations that are going to come out of the recent conference that the Minister's department sponsored just a few weeks ago. I do not believe the recommendations are available yet, so I say that with that caveat. I am not aware of what is coming out of it. But there is an aspect of our addressing of this issue since the task force, that I think needs some stressing.

Attitude Toward Spousal Assault

There was an incident last month, Mr. Chairman, that was a shocking, appalling incident. I think it warrants the attention of the Assembly and of the public. The public should already be aware if they read the newspaper. And I am referring, Mr. Chairman, not to a particular sexual assault itself, although this incident arises out of a very brutal, savage, sexual assault; it is not the assault itself but rather something that happened in court afterwards just last month. I am referring, Mr. Chairman, to the attitude of some community leaders about spousal assault. What was said in court by a community leader about an incident is just shocking, that in 1988, that should happen. I think, Mr. Chairman, that some community leaders need to be educated about the unacceptability of behaviour, in this case in particular, certainly.

In this case, Mr. Chairman, a community leader came to court to speak on behalf of an offender who had been found guilty by a jury of his peers of a very, very brutal and savage sexual assault in one of the communities, and that community leader -- there is nothing wrong with him wanting to speak on behalf of one of his people -- indicated to the court that he not only did not want this individual to go to jail but he admitted that he had spoken repeatedly to the woman and tried to talk her out of going to court to testify and said that he would do anything to keep this individual, the offender who had been found guilty, he would do anything to see that he did not go to jail. In the community leader's testimony -- and this was a case, Mr. Chairman, where the woman who was savagely attacked had earlier been drinking with some men including the offender -- and the chief or community leader stated that she cannot go partying like a man can and she has to be put in her place.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in the context of what this Assembly heard a few years ago from the task force chaired by Mr. Bayly, that this attitude still prevails is disturbing to say the least. I think the community leaders need to be educated. This is not the first time community leaders have come to court and spoken these things. Mr. Chairman, I have been in this room several times in the last few years where Members of this Assembly have bad-mouthed the courts or administration of justice, that the system is wrong. Mr. Chairman, thank God for the courts in this instance. This individual was sent away by the courts to four years in jail. I say, thank God for the courts and not for the community leader in that case.

Task Force Recommendations

The task force made many recommendations and the government, to their credit, responded with an action plan and just earlier this session there was a report tabled, I believe by this Minister, on the status of the three year action plan. There was, in Mr. Bayly's report, some reference to this attitude in some communities but the task force comprised of Mr. Bayly and others clearly concluded that that was a wrong attitude and had to be changed. The various recommendations, Mr. Chairman, address the need to have the police be more understanding of victims; have social workers be more understanding of victims; have medical personnel be more understanding of victims. Looking at the action plan I see there was a recommendation that the police and others provide physical protection to victims, to consider all complaints as serious and to advise victims that batterers should be prosecuted. The report indicated that the action they plan to take arising out of that particular recommendation was that the police were prepared to comply with that recommendation and under the current status of the report it states that the RCMP are laying charges but are finding that women are not calling up for fear of reprisals to them for laying the charge.

Mr. Chairman, my point is that the police are doing their job arising out of this action plan. The prosecutors are doing their job. The courts are doing their job. But, are the community leaders doing their job? Why is it that such an appalling thing should happen? Mr. Chairman, I wanted to make that observation about that recent incident for the record because we are dealing with spousal assault. I thought it would be timely to bring that to the attention of the Members but perhaps I can conclude, Mr. Chairman, by making a motion.

Motion To Consider Educating Community Leaders On Unacceptability Of Spousal Assault

My motion, Mr. Chairman, would be that this committee of the whole recommend that the Department of Social Services consider implementing a program to educate community leaders about the unacceptability of spousal assault. I would make that motion, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Richard. May I get a copy of your motion? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: A point of order, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the motion might be circulated to Members and translated. I have some comments to make on this subject and I intend to amend the motion but I would like to see it first.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Before I make a ruling on it I will get it translated and distributed. I will take a five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

I would like to call the committee back to order. I have a motion on the floor: I move that this committee of the whole recommend that the Department of Social Services consider implementing a program to educate community leaders about the unacceptability of spousal assault. Moved by Mr. Richard. Mr. Richard, your motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you. Well, I think the motion speaks for itself. I simply want to bring attention to the fact that even in this day and age there are still community leaders who feel that it is acceptable behaviour to beat spouses and women generally. I think that in the context of the task force report and particularly with the fact that there have been steps taken by the government implementing the recommendations there, there is still, I think, a target group outside of the social workers and the police and the court workers and the medical personnel and the batterers and the victims. There is a target group of community leaders who quite frankly and bluntly have to shake their heads. I think if the government with its resources has been doing all these good things in other areas of spousal assault, particularly in education information, my motion simply asks that the department consider specifically addressing that target group so that the unfortunate incident of last month that I referred to is never repeated. So I ask the Members to support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Richard. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

Response To Instances Of Family Violence

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Member has touched on one aspect of the problem. In the particular section under which he put the motion, there is a sentence and I read it in part, "This activity is also responsible for the support of locally based programs designed to reduce the incidence of family violence and assist victims." I think that by limiting it to spousal assault we ignore a number of victims which fall under the general wording of "family violence" which are young people who are also involved in this type of situation.

I would like to ask the Minister if she feels that people in the community who have responsibility -- civil servants -- for carrying out various programs are responding to the extent they should when implications or suggestions of such family violence is communicated to them. Does she think that people tend to turn their backs on a suggestion of some type of untoward family activity in which there are victims and in which the wife may be a victim or children may be victims? Are we addressing these tragic situations in the family? When I say "we" I mean not only the community leaders, the chiefs my colleague referred to, but every one of us. In government. In municipal government. Are we actually responding to the need to the extent that we should? Or are we too often turning a blind eye and passing by on the other side? I would ask the Minister if she would address that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. I assume you want the Minister to speak to the motion? Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe the communities are starting to turn a blind eye. I think they are basically becoming very much more aware of family violence and the awareness programs out in the communities are making people more conscientious about it and

collectively putting forth their efforts together to try to address these types of violence and put in place preventive measures. I know there may be a few community leaders, in isolation that maybe are not encouraging full participation from the community. They are not enhancing different programs regarding family violence. I sincerely feel the North has come a long way in recognizing the problems of family violence and the government has come a long way in being able to implement family violence programs, addressing the issue of family violence. I certainly recognize the need of continuing programs but as I stated in my budget speech, it was a sunset clause type of program. I feel the Assembly has to determine whether they want this type of program on an ongoing basis because I feel that social problems of this nature are going to continue in future years no matter how educated we make the communities or what educational levels we bring to the communities to try to address and deal with the concerns. It is still such a problem in respect of the whole scenario that it is going to be continued on. I just feel that the sunset clause is addressing the need. The government, I feel, has done an excellent job in looking at it but there is still further work that could be done on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I wish I were as confident as the Minister in the progress that has been made. I would agree with my colleague that the courts and the RCMP are attempting to respond to the problem but I would suggest that other officials in our communities, other individuals in our communities are not really taking the effort or taking the time to pursue what may be cases of family violence. Obviously the victims are not going to shout their problems on the streets. You are not going to hear from them. They are going to tell you their problem in a whisper or by suggestion. Unless somebody is willing to check into this situation and encourage that individual to take the case to or even suggest they go to the police, it is not going to happen. I think a lot of family violence is not being dealt with today and the victims are becoming victims without anybody to share their pain or understand the condition in which they find themselves.

Motion To Consider Educating Community Leaders On Unacceptability Of Spousal Assault, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Family And Children's Services, Total O And M, Agreed

Family and children's services. Total O and M, \$9,013,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Correction Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Correction services. Total O and M, \$15,393,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just with regard to correction services. Last week during our break I had an opportunity on two occasions to hear statements on CBC with regard to the judicial system. Mr. Richard did indicate that some of the Members have a negative attitude toward the system. There was an incident on March 17 in which a native was shot due to mistaken identity and the Manitoba judicial system was going to conduct an inquiry into this particular incident. March 18 there was an announcement by the Assembly of First Nations with regard to jail terms of native people. On a per capita basis, there are more native people in jail, they spend longer terms in jail and there are more of them pleading guilty to charges. The Assembly of First Nations is doing a review on this particular issue. It is a concern that I have. Certainly if you look at the services here in Yellowknife or in the Baffin you are going to find about 99 per cent of them are aboriginal people.

I do not know how you address that issue although you might say it is 50:50 populationwise. I do not have a negative attitude toward the judicial system, I just have a concern on the type of statistics that come out of the system right now. It is not only in the Territories that this is a concern. The national organizations also have a concern nationally. I thought I would mention that regarding this particular section because I wanted to set the record straight. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Correction services, total O and M, \$15,393,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Alcohol, Drug And Community Mental Health, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Alcohol, drug and community mental health, total O and M, \$3,566,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Just one brief question before you pass over this. I realize that Mr. Gargan again raised some questions with regard to the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council but I am wondering what type of influence the Minister may have over the board of management for the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council? Is she a passive player or is she able to put before the board of management the recommendations of the Executive Council in this particular area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the board we are well aware that it is a newly formed board. When the board was being formulated it was first of all my intention to have in place board members who were very sincere and interested in being able to try to combat the abuse problem that we encounter in the Territories. The board does put forward recommendations to me. I have met with the board as I have stated to the Assembly. I did outline to them that I would fully support their initiatives that were brought to me but I also stressed to them the importance of them taking on such a serious responsibility. I would not consider in any way overruling the board's advice unless it was out of their jurisdiction or mandate or their parameters of authority. I think the board fully realizes the responsibility they did take in hand and I did advise the board that, as Minister responsible, I fully support them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Is there any requirement that the members of the board should not use alcohol?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes. I did not specifically outline a requirement of not using alcohol but in my deliberations prior to appointment, I did take that particular concern into account. I know that when the board did meet they did think that they would not use alcohol or drugs during their board meetings. I was under the impression and I still believe that the majority of the members on that board are total abstainers from alcohol. They are very conscientious in trying to combat the abuse of alcohol substances in the Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does that also apply to drugs too?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Well, I can quite see the requirement to refuse to take drugs because it strikes me as being an illegal act but we live in a society in which alcohol is part of our environment. I realize some people are unable to use alcohol and I recognize that for them the only solution to deal with alcohol is to refuse it. But for most people the use of alcohol enhances the environment in which one lives, the personal environment and the societal environment. I guess I am just disturbed that we would choose people for this board who do not partake of alcohol or choose people who are teetotallers. I see nothing wrong with alcohol used in moderation. I have another question and that relates to "programs and services directed specifically toward youth". What programs are being referred to in this connection?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Programs For Youth

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Out of the grants and contributions, as I have stated, \$400,000 is identified for youth initiatives regarding preventive measures for the alcohol and drug problems related to youth. There are many different youth initiatives that have taken place throughout the Territories, probably mainly initiated collectively, with recreation, to keep the youth occupied in the smaller communities and to try to implement preventive measures against utilizing alcohol and drug substances. If the honourable Member wishes me to state specifically what youth programs were initiated in the past year, I would be happy to advise him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I guess my question was posed because I hoped to have an indication as to whether the program was a program that was put on by the department or whether the money was for youth to use themselves through applications and various other youth activities. I understand that the programs are programs that the department institutes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Do you have any further comments, Madam Minister?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Just to reiterate that the youth initiative programs that are being implemented in the communities are through the application proposal route that the youth so desire to take advantage of. The program is on the basis of application through the department, identified under the alcohol and drug program delivery.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I stand corrected on that. How are people informed of the existence of such programs? Do notices appear on CBC or are they advertised in the newspapers? How does the department communicate the fact that young people can apply for money under this program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am aware that the department at one point in time did have youth initiative officers who were able to go into the field and to enhance this program delivery. At the same time I am aware that since there has been no identified funding for the continuation of such a program, it is basically through the appropriate department at the community level and in conjunction with the initiatives of the adult board of management for alcohol and drug program delivery.

Alcohol, Drug And Community Mental Health, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Alcohol, drug and community mental health, total O and M, \$3,566,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community And Family Support Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Community and family support services, total O and M. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Under the objectives, the department is required to determine the need for further adjustments to the social assistance food allowance based on the results of the food cost survey completed in the fall of 1987. Is that review still going ahead? Is there any thought of increasing the existing food allowance?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the food allowance increase, there currently is no consideration looked at to encourage the continuation of meeting the food allowance needs at the community level regarding the disbursement of social assistance, although overall I believe the

department has fallen back approximately five per cent from the required needs identified in the consumer's index of the food scale that is determined. There is no specific mechanism in place in the department to automatically increase the food allowance as deemed necessary according to the year's food price index unless it is identified in the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Would it not be a good idea to put some kind of a mechanism into this particular program so that the department would not have to come around after the fact and seek retroactive increases? Then the Minister could indicate that she might be adding additional funds in her 1989-90 budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I welcome that suggestion and I believe the mechanism suggested would be useful to the department, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Community and family support services, total 0 and M, \$24,948,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to get clarification on the fourth paragraph: "Emphasis in both programs is placed on assisting individuals and communities to develop or restore self-sufficiency and to maintain their traditional lifestyle. Priority is placed on preparation for entry or return to the work force of persons who are employable." Can I get a clarification on exactly what this means?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Encouraging Independence And Self-Sufficiency

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is trying to identify a mechanism to avoid having social workers in the field on a continual basis trying to address the problem of enabling an individual who has been a recipient under social assistance to enter the job work force. Regarding the first part of the sentence, emphasis placed on both programs, on assisting individuals to restore self-sufficiency and to maintain their traditional lifestyle, basically it is in the area of the department trying to enhance programs -- specifically what programs I cannot recall right offhand -- for individuals to be more independent. The elderly home support services would be one example, the department basically addressing needs that would encourage people to be more independent. As I have stated in my address, we are looking at trying to address this over a four year period with the enhancement of somewhere in the area of \$250,000, basically to encourage individuals to maintain their current and traditional lifestyles as opposed to encouraging them to utilize institutional programs. That, overall, is what it is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I thought this particular little section was referring to assisting hunters and trappers, assisting them before they go back on the land, or else I thought they meant summer camp programs. This is not the case, is it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That is one way for our department to encourage traditional lifestyles and this is where I had asked my department upon their review to see how we can address the needs of individuals who may want to utilize the funding for their retainment of traditional and cultural values.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: On the last portion of the sentence, what is the department doing with regard to encouraging people to go back into the work force?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, this is the area that was addressed earlier regarding the employment enhancement program, along with the Department of Education and CEIC, the job re-entry program being one, identifying ways to steer individuals who are able to work away from social assistance, and ways to alleviate the steps that they seem to encounter in re-entering the work force.

Community And Family Support Services, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Any further questions, Mr. Gargan? Community and family support services, total 0 and M, \$24,948,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Detail of grants and contributions. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I believe there has been some problem in the past of covering individuals who take advantage of these camping programs. Has this problem been worked out now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, if I may allow my deputy minister to reply to that. I am not aware of what specific problems were encountered in the past.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Cowcill.

MR. COWCILL: Mr. Chairman, we did have quite a problem, in helping groups that wanted to operate camping programs, to get liability insurance. I understand that that problem has been overcome.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: How?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Cowcill.

MR. COWCILL: I am not sure of the specific insuring agency, but one of the agencies that provides this kind of insurance has in fact agreed that they are prepared to provide coverage based on appropriate documentation provided from the project to show that safety measures, and so on, will be properly observed with the administration of the camping program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Detail of grants and contributions. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, the \$1.4 million down on the bottom of this page for the family violence prevention services programs, I take is the total provided to the safe shelters in Yellowknife and Iqaluit. I wonder if there are other safe shelters or other programs within that \$1.4 million. What is the breakdown of the \$1.4 million?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, not only does this initiate the transition houses here in Yellowknife and Iqaluit but also there is a transition house in Fort Smith. There is a women's shelter in Tuktoyaktuk, and spousal assault safe homes in Rankin Inlet and Hay River. There are a number of spousal assault safe homes done on a contract basis through families. There is also a crisis shelter in Spence Bay, a couple of areas where they have counselling services for women, and there are two areas that have counselling services for batterers; a men's support group in Yellowknife and in Inuvik.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Richard.

Increased Usage Of Transition House In Yellowknife

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I wondered how that is allocated. The reason I am asking is I know that the Yellowknife transition house has put a submission in to the department for a budget that reflects a need for more funds based on an increased level of occupancy or usage in the transition house. Can the Minister indicate whether a decision has been made on that particular budget, or whether that is still under consideration? And will she be taking into consideration the increased usage that has been experienced since that transition house opened? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I know currently the transition house in Yellowknife basically allows for the occupancy of eight beds and I am aware that the demand is increasing somewhat. I am also aware that the department, in reviewing the initial contracts that we had out in the field, basically because of the no-growth budget did not allow for enhancement of many of the contract services available, in addition to the basic index of inflation rate. I believe this would probably be looked at, that the department be able to review it, but the current budget basically just looks at the inflation rate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The time being now 55 seconds after six o'clock, I will now rise and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister and her two witnesses for appearing before our committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: This House will come back to order. Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON THE 1988-89 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-88(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1988-89

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Report of Standing Committee on Finance on the 1988-89 Main Estimates and Bill 1-88(1).

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Kilabuk. Thank you. To the motion. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the ordinary Members' committee at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions

6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Report of Standing Committee on Finance on the 1988-89 Main Estimates; Bill 1-88(1); Ministers' Statement 13-88(1); Tabled Document 71-88(1); Tabled Document 80-88(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

Available from the
Publications Clerk, Department of Culture and Communications
Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.
\$1.00 per day; \$30.00 for 1st session, \$20.00 for 2nd and 3rd session; or \$50.00 per year
Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories