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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Lewis, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Pollard, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

Statement Of Sympathy To Mr. Kilabuk And Family From Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): On behalf of all Members of this House the Chair extends our deepest sympathies to Mr. Kilabuk, to his wife and family on their recent tragic loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Kilabuk and his family in this time of need.

To orders of the day for Monday, February 20, 1989.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Behalf Of Mr. Kilabuk On Death In Family

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a statement prepared by Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk which I will read on his behalf: "Mr. Speaker, I apologize for having to leave the House during this session. You probably have been informed by now that my son passed away on the evening of February 18, 1989. I have gone to be with my family during these difficult times. I know that your thoughts will be with me and my family during this difficult time and I thank you very much for that. I am also thankful for the arrangements for having me flown home on such short notice. I will stand strong with my wife and family; we will remain a family. I will return when God allows me to. God be with you all." Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Members' statements. Mr. Ernerk.

Member's Statement On Sympathy To Mr. Kilabuk And Family And Problem Of Suicides Among Youth

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise under this item to express my, and my family's, deepest sympathy to Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk and his family, and all others who have had such tragedies in their lives with their family or friends.

Mr. Speaker, what we need in the Arctic is more caring and understanding of our youth problems. Mr. Speaker, this is such an important issue to me and I would like to see it addressed

immediately. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, this Legislative Assembly should set up a mechanism such as a royal commission to listen to the people, to our youth, to try to resolve the tragedies of suicides. Mr. Speaker, our youth is our future. Without them where are we going to go? Together, let us do all we can to help. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Members' statements. Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Sympathy To Mr. Kilabuk And Family And Problem Of Suicides Among Youth

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also concerned with this topic that we are talking about. I sympathize very much with Ipeelee because he had to hear this very unexpected news. The Baffin and Keewatin Regions are perhaps the regions where there are the greatest number of suicides being committed. We are even saying, "Am I going to be next?" When you are thinking about that it is very difficult for people. So now I am thinking about those of us who have to spend long periods away from home and I know that our families need to be with us. This also causes marital stress.

Perhaps this House should not always be meeting in Yellowknife. I think that those of us who have to travel for long periods of time would have an easier time. Even though we want to be with our families, we cannot always spend time with them because of our other duties. I am not trying to say that we should break this House and that we should stop having our sessions, but after seeing or hearing about another suicide, this is very hard for people. I think we have to address the problem and do something about it in the near future. Thank you.

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

At this time the Chair would like to recognize in the gallery a former colleague in this House, and former Member of Parliament, Mr. Nickerson. Welcome.

---Applause

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O133-89(1): Education About Suicide Prevention

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Education. In all of the northern part of Canada, from the elementary level to the secondary level perhaps, would the schools be open to giving more information for educating the children about suicide prevention? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question O134-89(1): Residence Requirements For Caribou Hunting

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. The non-natives who come to the North, how long do they have to be in the North as residents before they can hunt caribou? What is your department's policy regarding the non-natives who have recently moved to the NWT? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O134-89(1): Residence Requirements For Caribou Hunting

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When non-natives move to the NWT they have to be residents for two years before they can hunt caribou. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Whitford, just in the nick of time.

Question O135-89(1): Health Hazard From Humidifiers

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question directed to the Minister of Health, I think. In this case I will test the question here. I wonder if the Minister is aware of the health hazard posed by a certain type of ultrasonic humidifier, quite commonly used in some of the office buildings of the territorial government here in Yellowknife? The report to the environmental science and technological review points out a health hazard that is not found in traditional humidifiers, those that operate by heat or impellers. This is an ultrasonic one that can put particles of mineral into the air and has, in some cases, caused problems in closed and confined areas to the people working in these offices. I wonder if the Minister is aware of that and whether she will take it as notice or do something about looking into this potential problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O135-89(1): Health Hazard From Humidifiers

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the information that has just been released on this potential problem but up to this point in time I have not done anything about it since this information is just new. I am sure that the government will be taking the necessary steps to analyse the information and the health hazard that might be caused from this equipment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Question O136-89(1): Student/Teacher Ratio

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Mr. Speaker, during the Kitikmeot Divisional Board of Education meeting there was a question forwarded and a discussion on the student/teacher ratio, 19 to one. The principals are included as teaching staff and this is a question to the Minister of Education. They were wondering if in the future the Minister's department would look into the possibility of changing from 19 to one, to 17 to one because the principal is added on as teaching staff and he does not have the time to teach. He cannot teach, he has to do the administration.

There are a lot of students mixed up in the same class due to the shortage of teachers. I am wondering if the Minister would look into that situation to see if the 19 to one ratio could be changed to 17 to one ratio?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O136-89(1): Student/Teacher Ratio

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, when the workload of staff in small communities is looked at -- for instance, I will just give you an example. In Kakisa where we just put a teacher, if we try to do that, I guess there is really no room for a teacher, there is only room for a principal there. In some of the smaller communities as well, the job of principal is not really warranted to be full-time.

There have been suggestions from some quarters I guess, through the years, that principals should be part of management. They should not be a part of unions. Informally those ideas have

been thrown around for a number of years. There is no thought at this time from the department to do anything about that. There are always suggestions that -- I mean ideally you could have one teacher for every student that goes to school. You could drop it below 17 to one.

The fact is, some communities I think would warrant getting more support than others. In small communities for instance, the quality and the grade level that the students in the small communities receive is generally lower than those received in places like Yellowknife and Inuvik and Hay River. This is probably due to a whole number of factors. For instance, in a community like Snare Lake, I understand we provide grades seven, eight and nine in those communities but it is in largely a multiple grade classroom setting. I am not certain that the students in Snare Lake are receiving the same level and quality of education and the amount of attention that they would be receiving as students let us say, in a Yellowknife classroom. I am looking always at specific situations that come up when I travel. I am not so mechanical as to say I am going to try and draw up the arguments as to why it should be 17 to one. But I understand what the Member is saying.

The intent is not to create more jobs for teachers. I think the intent is try to arrive at a way in which our students get the best quality education that we can provide, that the number of graduates that we have coming out of elementary school and high school has to be improved significantly. This I think is going to take a lot of work on the part of many people, not just the department. Pumping more money into education is not going to do it. Possibly changing the student/teacher ratio may or may not contribute to that.

As I have said many times before, the quality of education and the success we have, is going to depend largely on the communities and parents and the amount of responsibility and involvement that all of us accept in supporting our children and getting involved in the education system and making it a part of us. It is a long response to the Member's question, but I think he drives only at one part of a possible remedy.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O137-89(1): Review Of Educational Program Services

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After that long answer by the Minister of Education, could he indicate to this House whether or not the issue of financing for additional teachers, or for that matter, a review of the educational program services, is under consideration or being reviewed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O137-89(1): Review Of Educational Program Services

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Not in the department, just in my head.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O137-89(1): Review Of Educational Program Services

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, it is kind of odd that the Minister could respond to a Member asking a very serious question when that particular item is not under consideration, in light of the request by Members in this House. Could the Minister give some indication that he will ask the department to review all aspects of programs and services with a view to improving those programs and services to the people of the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O137-89(1): Review Of Educational Program Services

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I guess there is really no answer to it. What I know is that there is a preoccupation, from the department's point of view, to make sure that the amount of money that we spend building schools, paying teachers, generally running the whole education apparatus in the NWT, has some returns. Right now I would say that for our investment over the last 20 years or whatever we have not been getting very good returns. As a department the concern is there, and there are ways in which we are trying to turn that around. Historically it was the church and the federal government that educated people initially. More recently the territorial government took over that responsibility. Again it was a system that was delivered from the outside. It had some measure of success a long time ago, but more recently it has been rather dismal. What we find is that the emphasis now is on turning over more and more responsibility to communities, to regions, so that they can take over the management and the direction of education. It is my hope, and it is the hope of the department, that this will make some significant improvements to the overall success rate of, say, graduates that come out of elementary and high school. Right now, there is no overall review going on to bring up all these minute little questions. I understand the suggestion being made, and all I am saying is that as the suggestions come up from Members they are being looked at and recorded. If there is a multitude or significant number of good suggestions made, then something will materialize out of that. Other than that, we will continue to do only the things that we have said we are doing.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W6-89(1): Big Game Hunting And Outfitting Regulations

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a written question to the Minister of Renewable Resources.

- 1) Is the Department of Renewable Resources considering changes to regulations that allow for big game hunting and outfitting in the Richardson Mountains southwest of Aklavik?
- 2) If so, has the department consulted the communities, including meeting with the hunters and trappers associations, community or band councils?
- 3) Has the department considered recognizing aspects of the Dene/Metis agreement-in-principle when developing such regulations and, further, was there any recognition and consideration for the present process of land selection prior to the development of big game hunting or outfitting regulations in the area under consideration?
- 4) Further, was the Minister or staff of the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat consulted in such regulation development?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Lewis's Reply

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this item remains on our agenda for the whole duration of this session, I would like to spend a few minutes today making a response to the Commissioner's Opening Address, largely because this week we will have a chance to meet the new Minister for DIAND and we will have a chance to talk to him. It is in that context that I would

like to use a few minutes today and I will promise, Mr. Speaker, not to be lengthy. It will be, hopefully, to the point and it will address the major issues that were raised by the Commissioner in his address to us.

In opening, Mr. Speaker, I first of all would like to pay tribute to Commissioner Parker for his long years of service in the NWT, originally as part of the private sector, eventually as a mayor of this city, subsequently as Deputy Commissioner and finally, for the last 10 years, as Commissioner. I have known him as our leader in the days before this political evolution that has brought us to the stage where we are today. To me, he characterizes all the things that we expect to see in somebody who is dedicated to the idea of public service. I am sure if he were to check with many of his classmates, people that he went to school with many years ago, he will find they have taken themselves in different directions. Some of them have probably gone on to be multimillionaires. Some have taken jobs which have given them a great deal of joy and which made them very little money whatsoever.

All of us make choices about what we want to do with our lives. In the case of the Commissioner, he has spent the vast part of his life dedicated to the idea of public service. People have different ideas about what is meant by that. It really means that you have looked at yourself and you have looked around you and, in the case of the Commissioner although he was scientifically trained, and the more scientifically trained people are seen not to be those types who go in for helping people, he has helped to build social institutions. Strangely enough, even those people that spend their lives as businessmen, as entrepreneurs and who become multimillionaires, strangely enough those very people who spend their lives building up a huge business empire, when they die they leave their money for the benefit of mankind. If you look at the money that exists throughout the world, the building of parks and libraries, public buildings, much of that money comes from people who have been businessmen; who have built huge fortunes and their joy was, in fact, not just to make money so that they could enjoy life but simply by building something, creating something that in itself was a source of joy.

They were able to build something in the same way as an artist could create something and it is not out of any sense of selfishness, of wanting to grab all the wealth yourself, that many of them behaved in that way. I cannot claim to know very many very wealthy people, but the ones I have known have been quite simple, quite straightforward and, in fact, enjoy the work they do very much. They have built up businesses which result in thousands of jobs being created and very often we do not get that picture of people who donate not only their lives to building up something but leave some kind of residual so that mankind can benefit from it years later.

Kind But Tough Individual

Mr. Parker, then, has dedicated himself to public service. He is known as a very kind individual but also a very tough individual. Those people who have known him very well will attest to the fact that he is very fair, very straightforward in dealing with people and would think very carefully about what was right and what was wrong, and it is those qualities that have gone to the building of our public service, as I recall it.

Many of us who take on jobs in the public service have very difficult things to do. For example, I know that after a career of 20 years in the public service, you make friends and you make enemies. Very often you hire somebody you do not particularly like but you know that they can do the work that you want to get done. Sometimes a very good friend you have to be very rough with because they have not done what they should be doing. It takes a certain kind of individual to do that kind of work in order to be fair and just and honest. It is those qualities, I think, that have gone to the building up of a government and a public service in our Territories of which we can be justly proud.

In examining, and I will be very brief about this, in examining the more recent years between our former Commissioner and our current Commissioner, we have a period of time, a phase when we had what I called, the bread and circuses approach to government. I do not mean that in any demeaning sense. I also had a lot of respect for Mr. Hodgson because he really worked hard.

People did not see that side of him. He really put a tremendous amount of time and energy into what he did. But he was more like a promoter. I can recall very often comparing him to somebody who at the turn of the century would have a road show all over the United States and all the villagers would show up and enjoy the show. That was his particular style and approach during those years in the 60s and 70s. However, when he left there was a development of political growth which saw more elected people taking on the same kind of responsibilities. Many of us wondered whether in effect instead of having one Stu we would have maybe eight or 10 or 12.

Anyway, what we have today is a government which is fully elected. I took advantage of some of the statistics which Mr. Parker provided me with some time ago on these various steps that have taken place over the last several dozen years.

If we go back to 1921, Mr. Speaker, we find that the first move toward developing responsible government, which had lain dead, really, ever since the turn of the century, was the discovery of oil at Norman Wells. We know that in the past, great political events have come about because of major discoveries like that. It happened in the Yukon with the discovery of gold. That really helped to promote more responsible government in that territory. In this part of the world the signing of Treaty 11 was very much related to the discovery of oil in Norman Wells. Although today Western Canada is seen as being a great oil producing part of the world, in 1921 when oil was discovered in Norman Wells, it made the news all over the world, because the only oil that was known about in Canada at that time was in Petrolia in Ontario. It was the first discovery of oil in Western Canada.

Straightaway everybody got excited and everybody knew that some political accommodation had to be made. That resulted in the signing of Treaty 11. In 1921 when all the chiefs all along that great river valley assembled and said there would be some understanding for the future development for this part of the world, development seemed to be just around the corner. As it turned out, although there was a small government established, a small council which had lain dormant for some years -- it was quite a small group of people that met now and then, as far as I can understand, a small group of public servants -- and this system continued until 1947 and had no northern input, nothing at all; it was just a little group of people that seemed to me like a club that met every now and then. Then in 1947, a well known name in this part of the world, Jock McNiven, was added to that group.

First Federal Member Of Parliament

Everybody who talks about this government not being their government -- I agree, in those days we had no real government. It was not our government. I suppose McNiven could be considered the first input into the government that eventually became the government that we have today. In fact it was not until 1949 that we had our first federal Member of Parliament. So if people felt disenfranchised, that the Ottawa government was not their government, they had good reason to feel that way. They had no Member of Parliament, even. So when we talk about what is our government and what is their government, it is very clear why people had those feelings, that people now of my age and older had those feelings about what their government was, because it was not until after World War II that we had our first Member.

In our own territorial Council it was not until 1951 that we had our first elected Members added to that little club. They were all from this side of the world, the Mackenzie District. In 1954 this was expanded by one elected Member and five appointed people. Yellowknife was the only organized community at that time in all of the NWT. It was not until 1963 that we had our first full-time Commissioner. Previous to that it was the deputy minister of DIAND that carried that as a little part-time job that he did when he had some spare time. In 1963 when Ben Sivertz was appointed -- and again he did not live here; he lived in Ottawa -- Ben Sivertz became the first person who could pay all his attention to one job, which was the development of government North of 60, outside of the Yukon.

In 1964 all of the people who were on this Council were appointed people and every one of them came from outside of the NWT. They all lived in the South, except for our Deputy Commissioner. In 1965-66 Mr. Parker became part of probably the most important growth of government in this part of the world when he joined the Carrothers Commission. In 1966 all parts of the NWT, only 22 years ago, became fully represented when we had three Members from the Eastern Arctic elected to join this group of people. We remember them well, old friends, Duncan Pryde, Bobby Williamson, and Simonie Michael from Iqaluit. It seemed now as if we had a government that had broad representation North of 60.

In 1967 Yellowknife became the capital and we saw the establishment of the beginnings of government, with our own administration and the transfer of major responsibilities from the federal government in 1969 and 1970. In 1975 major changes took place because the Northwest Territories Act was amended. This is a federal act, which is our constitution. A Speaker was appointed and we recall it well; it was David Searle, who became our Speaker. There were no longer appointed Members and our House was increased to 15 Members, with an Executive Committee which had two, and eventually three, elected Members to add to the Executive, consisting at that time of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners. In fact at that time, when I came to Yellowknife from the East, there were four mandarins, or top shot administrators -- a Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners. They exercised the authorities of Ministers. This changed with the addition of elected people to the Executive Council.

Development Of Native Organizations

During the 1970-75 period, in parallel with this development, we found the development also of native organizations, which, with the assistance of the federal government, began to advance many of the causes which native people had wanted to have addressed during that period of time. The Dene Nation, originally the Indian Brotherhood, was established. ITC was established and became active. Land claims talks began, and the whole issue of Nunavut, which had been dormant since the 1960s, suddenly became a major issue again.

I would like to point out that it was probably during this period of 1975 that we saw a development which again called into question what is the right government, what is the right kind of government? I recall in 1975, maybe some Members even in this Chamber saying this is not our government. I remember going around communities and seeing on the walls in many offices the Dene declaration. The press, by the way, for some reason always wanted to call it the Dene manifesto. It was not a manifesto inciting people to communism; it was a declaration where people said, we have some things to declare. The two things that that document declared were that the Government of Canada is not the government of the Dene, and this government is not the government of the Dene.

One of the focal figures during that period was Georges Erasmus. One of the things that cannot be denied about Georges Erasmus' contribution is the fact that he has not really changed in something like 15 years. He still has that cause, if you like, that there is something else somewhere; and there are many people that are still working on the development of those ideas which began in the early 1970s.

At that time -- and I will, in fact, mention some names perhaps a little later in this session. There were some people at that time who were saying to many young native people, "Do not join the government; do not take a job with the government, because that is not the government. Do not do it; stay away from it." There are all kinds of recorded instances where many responsible people told young people, "Do not take a job with that government because that is not the right one."

I will not go into great detail of that era, of the 1970s, but it was the time of the Berger hearings when there was great unrest in the river valley; but it was an unrest, I think, which has resulted eventually in an accommodation and a coming together of people which I had not thought possible during those years of the Berger hearings. There were people at that time threatening

to throw themselves in the way of heavy equipment, of stopping any kind of development, and so on. I think that that was a phase that, in the long run, probably did us an awful lot of good because it brought the issue of aboriginal rights, and the declaration that people wanted to make, very clearly in the forefront of people's imagination.

In 1979, with the departure of Stu Hodgson, we saw the expansion of this Legislature to 22 Members, with five elected Members on the Executive. At that time there was still great uncertainty in the Eastern Arctic about whether people should join. There was a tentative feeling as to whether this was the thing to do. Although there was room for seven people to be added to the governing body, to the Executive Committee, only five people joined and there were two seats left open so that the Eastern Arctic eventually could take its place in the Executive Committee of our government. Of course, that eventually did happen; first of all, with the addition of Mr. Patterson and eventually Mr. Curley. But that was a time of uncertainty for people in the Eastern Arctic as to whether they should take that big step or not.

Elected Leader Of Executive Committee

In 1980, the next big move that took place was the choice of the people to have their own elected leader to conduct the business of our Executive Committee. In 1981 the Eastern Arctic Members joined our Executive Council. In 1984 our Legislature was expanded even further to 24 Members, with an elected Government Leader and eight elected Members on our Executive Council. The Commissioner withdrew from the committee of the whole of the Legislature, and in 1985 Mr. Pilot, at that time Deputy Commissioner, left our Executive. He no longer sat in those meetings.

I have several pages of these kinds of developments, Mr. Speaker, but that gives, I think, the flavour of the huge developments that have taken place over the last 25 years. I think that we should be proud of what has been achieved. There is still a lot to do, and I think that it was symbolic, when the Commissioner arrived to make his announcement, that he arrived in the garb of a lieutenant-governor. He no longer came with his business suit. He came in the attire that was suited, I suppose, to a new symbolic role which has been achieved by our Commissioner in the development of our House toward the stature that we have today.

The whole story of the development of the Northwest Territories, ever since 1870, Mr. Speaker, has been a move toward responsible government. The words "responsible government" appear in all the literature.

In everything I have read about the Northwest Territories, the words "responsible government" appear there, even 100 years ago. I think it is appropriate today that we give recognition to the work that Commissioner Parker has done, because he has been the major architect, I think, of what has been accomplished. He is a humble person and probably would not want to have the whole House spend as much time as I have on just dealing with these facts. I am interested in history, Mr. Speaker, and that is why today I have decided to lay those brief facts in front of the House to remind us of what has been achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I will not dwell at great length on the alternatives that are still open to us. I leave that to other people that are far wiser than I am, that have far greater knowledge and understanding. I would like to make one comment, that in the massive amount of work that has been done since the late 1960s and early 1970s, the incredible stature and visibility that has been achieved has been due to people like Georges Erasmus and other Members in this House. Georges has become a national figure. He has been able to show that, even from this isolated part of the world, we can produce people that can make the national scene in the same way that our Firth people did in sports, as Max Ward did in aviation. We can make a mark. We may not always be right, but we always seem to be able to emerge with some great credibility and conviction. I think that although we may want to spend more time in developing this major responsibility of government, we should pay some tribute to those people -- many of them in this House -- who have tried to come to an accommodation so that we could continue to live together and work together.

Battle To Overcome Differences

Mr. Speaker, one of the big barriers in my reading and understanding of people coming to live together and to work together has been the continual battle to overcome our differences. When I grew up, for some reason all the books I read in school told me how terrible English people were, because I came from Wales. I was born in London, accidentally; it just happened that my dad was working there. I always felt terribly guilty that I had to be born in this centre of the English speaking world. It is a badge that I had to wear all those years, something that I just cannot erase. It is a fact. It seems to me that one of the ways in which people overcome their differences is to recognize that there are more things that people have in common than keep them apart. Although I grew up with a school system and a whole history, and a literature, which says that English people are bad and they cannot be trusted, and so on, in the long run the only time that I really got mad at English people was when I had to play sport against them. So you find ways of containing your animosity to other people by saying, "Well, I showed them how good I am at this; I showed them how good I am at that." Because the whole history of our civilization has been the way in which we have overcome our animosities and our differences, and that has been the lesson that I learned in growing up, in many cultures, in travelling in many parts of the world.

Civilization depends upon our overcoming our differences, whether it is religious, racial or anything else. If we cannot do that, we do not have a civilization. From what I have been able to observe in the last 25 years, we are moving toward what I would call a northern civilization, which hopefully, even if I cannot enjoy it in its fullest glory, perhaps my kids will. I know that some of them will continue to live here. I do not know if I will, but I know that my children will and I hope that they are going to be able to enjoy the fruits of our labour.

I believe that the course that was begun in 1965 has been the correct one. I think there is all kinds of room for the North to develop its distinctive style of government. I believe that even in the South we have Quebec; even though it is part of the system, the mosaic has now been recognized by at least our federal government as a distinct society; there is something different about it.

If you look at legislatures across this land you will find that they have something rather distinctive about them, about the way they go about their business. They are part of a tradition of parliamentary democracy but each one of them is distinctive. You go over the Rockies into BC and you find something that you know is not the same as what exists in Alberta or what exists in Quebec or what exists in Nova Scotia. Each one of them has a certain kind of flavour because they have different origins, different sources in history. That is what makes them what they are and makes them acceptable to the people they serve.

I make these comments today, Mr. Speaker, and intended to go at great length about other issues that are of importance to us as they relate to our social development and to our economy but since we are going to meet with Mr. Cadieux sometime this week, I thought it would be a good idea at least to remind ourselves of what we have accomplished together and also at the same time, to take advantage of the opportunity to thank John Parker for his many, many years of service.

Although he is going, I know he is not going for good. He will be coming back a lot and I hope that when Mr. Parker leaves, you will consider this as a gift, that he will be always welcome and always will have a role to play in some form in the deliberations that take place in this part of the world for the next 25 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The Chair would like to recognize in the gallery at this time, the Arctic College Board of Governors. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, replies to Budget Address.

Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Ernerk.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of The Standing Committee On Legislation, Committee Report 2-89(1)

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present the report of the standing committee on legislation. The standing committee on legislation and the standing committee on finance met together for the first time in March, 1988 to review energy matters related to the development of the NWT Power Corporation and to the introduction of the new Public Utilities Act.

Committee Members, legislative staff and the government have spent considerable effort in preparing, reviewing and amending this legislation. Public meetings were held in Rankin Inlet last summer and in Yellowknife this year. The public utilities bill has gone through many revisions and has been reviewed for comment by interested parties who have submitted written responses, as well as appearing before the standing committee on legislation and before the joint committees of legislation and finance. Every effort has been made over the last year to prepare legislation which is thoughtful and relevant to the needs of the people and to the development of the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee on legislation has also reviewed several other bills. The Electoral District Boundaries Commission Act was reviewed with the Minister, Mr. Ballantyne, on January 18, 1989. The Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act was also reviewed on January 18, 1989 with the Minister responsible, Mr. Butters.

Motion That CR2-89(1), Report Of The Standing Committee On Legislation Be Received And Moved To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by Mr. Angottitauruq, that the report of the standing committee on legislation for the fourth session, be received and moved into the committee of the whole for discussion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Reports of standing and special committees.

Item 12, tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motion.

Item 14, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Motion 3-89(1), Tabled Documents 23-89(1), 24-89(1), 25-89(1) and 26-89(1) to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion 3-89(1): Tabled Documents 23-89(1) To 26-89(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My previous seconder is not here but if I can get unanimous consent, the Member for Mackenzie Delta will be my seconder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Tabled Document 23-89(1), Tabled Document 24-89(1), Tabled Document 25-89(1) and Tabled Document 26-89(1), be moved into the committee of the whole for consideration.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Arlooktoo, would you like to speak?

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a short comment in regard to my motion. I think we all know that we are elected representatives of the NWT residents and we have to help our people in the NWT. They are seeing us as elected representatives and that we have to deal with very important issues in this House. Our people are expecting from us some assistance in regard to the people that are committing suicide in the community. We have to help out in preventing suicides in the future. We also have a lot of things to deal with that have to be corrected. We also have some people that could deal with those things. If we can assist them we would like to assist them as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo, as seconder.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to indicate that I will reserve most of my comments to the time when we speak on this particular issue in committee of the whole. It is a serious issue and requires much consideration by this House, not only in terms of a discussion here but suggestions with regard to other programs and services that can be provided to address such an important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 15, motions. Motion 4-89(1). The mover of the motion is not in the House, we will stand it down until tomorrow.

Item 16, first reading of bills.

Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 1-89(1), Appropriation Act, 1989-90; CR 1-89(1); Bill 8-89(1), Public Utilities Act, with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

ITEM 18: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE REPORT 1-89(1), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1989-90 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-89(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1989-90

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will come to order. Mr. Minister, are you prepared to bring in your witnesses at this time?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee is dealing with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. General comments. Member for Baffin South.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my constituency area we do not have very much activity regarding economic development but we deal with a lot of quarrying of soapstone and we have to get funds from Economic Development to do the work. We want to see that continuing so that we get funding every year for this activity. I am not too sure how much assistance Economic Development will be giving us so that we can continue with the quarrying of soapstone. I am aware that communities have to request funding if they want to borrow money from the department. I would like some information on how you are going to handle this project in 1989-90. Will funds be available for this activity? Sometimes we can get funds through EDA; is that going to be continuing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, there is money available for soapstone supply. We have not got it broken down by community, though.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) There are some courses or seminars conducted for tourism in some communities. Most of the communities have tourism representatives who have taken part in these courses. Even though there are some trained tourism people in the communities, there are no funds available or no assistance to start their own outfitting or guiding businesses because they have no funds to obtain dog-teams or boats, even though they are holders of permits and licences to operate in their areas. We should be looking at further assisting these people who may be holding licences or permits for such businesses. I am concerned about these people for my constituency. It seems to me that these people should be given more assistance. If they ask for assistance from your department, I think that the criteria should be simplified. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: There are several programs available, with regard to the Member's comments. EDA is one, assistance to industry is another. We have several loan programs, several grants and contributions programs. I think the Member's remark in terms of simplifying the criteria is probably a reflection on the EDA part of the money that is available. Unfortunately that is a joint federal/territorial program, so it is not a case of just simplifying the criteria. That is a decision that would have to be made by the federal cabinet, as I outlined in my opening remarks. There are a number of programs available and in addition to that there is a guide training program available through CEIC, the federal Manpower. If the Member has some people in his constituency that are having a difficult time or do not know where to go, if he would, perhaps, afterwards or by letter, advise me of who they are and let me know what kind of problems they are having, I can certainly direct them to our people to assist them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Arlooktoo.

Not Enough Assistance

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not just talking about my own community. I know that some people have had problems in other communities and they do not have economic development officers. Even though there are people living in those communities who have taken these courses and hold permits, they have difficulty on where to go, who to contact. Also I was talking to the MLA for Baffin Central and some of the economic development officers do not have very many resources. This is a continuing problem and concern, that there is not enough assistance for these people. Following your response to my question, I will keep that in mind.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of comments to make, after which the Minister will probably respond. In terms of economic development and tourism itself, there have been pointed out by the Minister a number of deficiencies that are being addressed in a number of ways, such as recognizing some of the regional and community differences and also the opportunities and advantages that those particular regions and communities have that would improve their ability to participate in the economic growth of the NWT. I think we are talking more than just development; we are talking about natural participation and the economic growth of the NWT.

I think historically some of the decisions that have been made by government, including some of the ones I probably have been a party to, have really not been done with a lot of forethought and consideration for the consequences of those decisions on the communities. I think the Minister has pointed out quite rightly some of the decisions that we have made in the past where we have placed in private hands some of the businesses that were extremely successful, or could have been more successful had we done a better job in terms of providing expertise in the area of marketing and probably in the area of better skill development. I could probably point out one particular area that my constituency was a party to and developed some very good skills, and that was in the fur garment industry.

We did a lot of work in terms of establishing those facilities and with, it seemed, very little thought or the concept of private enterprise as the only way to succeed. We forgot that those communities, including Tuk and Inuvik, are located a long way away from the major market areas that we are trying to service.

Factors Other Than Access To Market

We sort of forgot that in terms of private enterprise they had to deal with a lot of factors other than just access to market. They had to deal with the question of transportation. They had to deal with the question of availability of the supply of product and the design of product as well. They needed people that had those skills. I think one of the sad situations that we have had to deal with in that particular area is that we did have people that were awfully skilled in that area and we left them in a position of trying to go on their own, with the government sort of cutting all its ties to that particular area; cutting it to the extent that we did not consider additional marketing support, whether it be financial or human resource. We did not do a very good job in terms of providing them even with agreements with other major corporate structures. I recall when we were dealing with, for instance, the Inuvik fur parka group, we left them at one time with a serious commitment and, for that matter, an agreement with the Hudson's Bay at the time we sort of got out of the deal. I always thought that had we done that in the fur garment area and all the other products that had been produced, we probably would have been further ahead in terms of the production now in those areas in the Mackenzie Delta.

Probably the same situation could be said with many other communities throughout the NWT. We just did not recognize, or at least take into consideration, the need for better marketing strategies. I note with some interest that the Minister and the department seem to be embarking on that direction. I think I have to congratulate the Minister for at least taking that initiative.

It also requires the department to re-look at those other historical projects that we had in the NWT that could have made us in fact, very unique. Unique in terms of our own ability to produce products from fur to the extent of looking at other opportunities. What are the opportunities in the fur industry? The question keeps coming up not only here in this Assembly but throughout the NWT on the issue of the tannery. What opportunities do we have in the tanning of our hides and the fur that is being harvested in the NWT? Who, in fact, will gain employment as a result of taking a risk, a chance in getting into that area? The other thing is, what markets can we service by establishing such a tannery in the NWT? Is it possible, for instance, to take advantage of a major area such as the Yukon, northern BC, northern Alberta -- even, for that matter, other areas throughout the country that might be able to utilize such a facility? I think that in terms of our own review that certainly has to be considered in the development of a facility to probably respond to the needs, or at least the wishes, of the people of the NWT.

I do not say it in the context of only responding to the wishes of the native people, despite the fact that they may be the majority in terms of fur harvesting, but there are non-native people in the NWT that are harvesters and hunters and trappers as well. Whatever is done has to recognize those particular individuals.

I just had an opportunity most recently, within the last week, to be absent from this Assembly. I think that it was a good thing that I was absent because I did run into a number of major concerns in this particular area. I think that the Minister himself pointed very clearly to the lapsing, or underutilization, of programs under the Economic Development Agreement.

Economic Development Agreement Rules And Process Should Be Simplified

I am not sure if it is a question of whether or not it is underutilized, but the question might be whether or not the rules under which it has been established are, in fact, addressing the needs of the communities. I think that probably, more than anything else, it seems that -- maybe not to undermine the intent of the federal government -- as we get into agreements with the federal government there seem to be more and more rules, and more complicated rules. In terms of the government, and certainly the Minister, I would really recommend to him that they review the Economic Development Agreement with a view to trying to simplify, firstly the process, and secondly the rules under which those agreements are signed. My feeling is that the simpler the rules are, the more advantageous they are to the people of the NWT. We will at least then be able to take advantage of moneys available to, not only the business community, but those individuals that are interested in pursuing certain types of business development in the NWT.

We all hear the Minister, and probably also the federal government, saying that we want to encourage economic development in the NWT. It seems that in trying to do that, the rules get more complicated. I think at this particular time, hopefully, with the new Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, we might be able to raise this particular issue with him and try to ensure that the rules are changed to at least recognize that in the communities which they are intended to serve they are not as complicated.

Again, as pointed out quite clearly by our Minister, we do not have all the skills that are requested under the agreement. We do not have people in the communities to provide the bookkeeping; we do not have the people that are, what you might say, educated in the area of business. I say this in the context of having a business diploma or some business education that has been provided to them formally. I do not think that we should underestimate experience or suggest that experience is not a good thing for people who are interested and willing to take a chance in developing a particular business. All we have to do, probably, is look at some of the more prosperous business people in Canada, probably in the world, and find that many of them started

out with very little or no education. They themselves, because they were interested in developing good businesses, in taking a chance on some business, were successful because they had the desire to make a success of what they were doing.

I just wanted to, Mr. Chairman, point out a couple of other areas. In terms of renewable resources, I wanted to point out to the Minister, and probably the Members of this Assembly, that we sometimes have a tendency to allow others to take advantage of an opportunity for renewable resource development that we should really take advantage of.

Opportunity In Fisheries

Maybe I could point out one particular area, and that is in the area of fisheries. Where we can have an opportunity that is probably available to every community in the NWT, in the fishing area, I cannot understand, for the life of me, why we do not develop a hatchery process in the NWT. I know that other jurisdictions, such as the Yukon, probably other businesses or those people interested in hatcheries, are interested, in southern Canada, in the development of some very unique species of fish, in particular char. We have a unique opportunity in char, probably in lake trout and grayling, whitefish, some of the herring, and probably the coney -- inconnu is the usual word. It seems that in this particular area, because of the location and because of the access that we have in the area of fish, we should seriously look at the advantages of certain types of hatcheries throughout the NWT.

My feeling is that, I do not know whether or not we will be successful, but it is important that we at least look in that particular area to see whether or not it is an advantage to us to develop that particular area and not allow -- and I do not mean this in a very negative context -- others to take advantage, or at least to utilize, a resource that in the NWT we can take advantage of. We can develop the skills in the NWT, and we should not be allowing ourselves to sign agreements that take that opportunity away from us. I think we have done that on a number of occasions, and I hope that in terms of economic development, and probably the development of economic opportunities, that we look at ourselves at least initially, when projects are being proposed, to see if we can provide an opportunity for people of the NWT in those particular areas. I thought, in particular in terms of the renewable resource sector, that at least in our smaller communities -- and in fact our aboriginal people who have some expertise, whether or not it is just on the basis of harvesting, have at least some knowledge of locations and how these resources adapt or provide the nutrition to our families -- we can at least try to address that particular area.

I wanted also to point out that I know our own government is pursuing the area of the fishery development in terms of commercial utilization, and I support the efforts of the government. But one of the areas I do have concern with is this idea of overharvesting and the question of reproduction, and whether or not we are keeping up to the harvesting. That is probably why I raised the issue of hatcheries, because I think that in order for us to respond to fishery developments we have to have some scientific knowledge and at least some expertise in the area. If the natural habitat cannot reproduce fast enough, then we should at least try to play a role in providing that assistance to the natural habitat.

I wanted to raise a couple of other concerns. In the area of fine arts, I notice that the Minister has already indicated that he is intending to improve the profile of the arts and crafts industry -- and let me say that I commend you for taking that particular initiative. One area that we heard a lot of, not only in terms of the craft area -- but let me first deal with the arts.

Concern For Fine Arts

One of the areas of concern was in the fine arts area, where we had a lot of people that had skills in dealing with such things as paintings, such things as pastel, water colouring, those kinds of areas that we have really not addressed in terms of a long-term strategy or, for that matter, historically we have sort of left that and said that is sort of an area that should be left up to the galleries and all those kinds of things.

The problem that we have not dealt with is the skill development in the communities. There are a lot of people who are very capable artists. The problem is that we have not really provided them with some way or some method of improving that skill. I really feel that in order for us to keep people who are very capable and probably, as well, versed in the area of fine arts and developing that skill, we have to find some mechanism to do it, whether or not it is some school or some training centre or whatever it might be. That has to be developed and I think that we have to do as good a job in that area as we are doing in the area of arts and crafts because many of the skills that are used in arts and crafts development, including the wall hangings that we do and many of the things that we do on paper or, for that matter, on canvas, are a result of that skill development. I think we have to recognize that.

The other area in terms of crafts, and a point that has always been made to me, is that a lot of people want to take advantage, particularly -- and I will point to them from my constituency -- where they want to take advantage of the tourist industry, one of the problems that they have had all along is access to raw materials. I am not sure how we can develop that craft industry without recognizing the importance of the raw materials that are needed to provide to the various craft shops or those people that are interested in crafts.

How can we possibly ask them to produce all the products that are necessary to be on the shelf when the tourists begin to come North when there are no materials available to them? I think that if the department could at least review that situation, even with the view of looking into that matter with Government Services and trying to find out what is the best way to deal with that situation, either in providing the products quickly to a centre, like in our area, Inuvik, or in the Keewatin probably to Rankin Inlet, or to a regional centre or wherever, to a regional centre where they could be distributed. I think you will be able to find that people will respond, and I say this not only in terms of things like woven material. I also mean in terms of fur material which could be made available and, whenever it is purchased, could be sold directly to the individual who wants, to utilize it.

Responsibility For Employment Creation

In terms of employment creation, one area that we have to deal with, I think, as a government and probably as a Legislature and probably yourself, Mr. Minister, is, what are we going to be doing about manpower development generally, and the question of labour responsibility, and where does it fit in our government? It seems that you have a responsibility for employment creation, finding jobs, but then we forget that there are other aspects to employment creation such as the skill development which is actually in education. The question we have to deal with is, what are the ties and how do we improve the relationship or at least look at trying to bring together the question of employment creation and the question of business development and the question of education? How do we tie those together? I think that in future we are probably going to have to look at even the role of the responsibility presently held under Public Services and Safety and, for that matter, Justice, on the question of labour responsibilities. That has to be worked out, I think, in our government and probably developed in terms of a long-term strategy and whether or not we are capable of at least trying to bring together that particular responsibility. Because each time we try in the communities at least to address those areas, it seems we are running from one department to the other trying to bring a focus on long-term development. Because of the different responsibilities and different departments we have, there is really no tie or relationship.

In terms of general comments -- and probably I will be asking questions more specifically as we get to them -- I just wanted to make you aware of those issues and if you wanted to respond in some area, please feel free, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Any comments, Mr. Minister?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have a number. I think the Member was absent last week. He was in his constituency and he missed my opening statement. In my opening statement I made mention of the fact that there has been a lot of talk of EDA and people are looking at who they could blame because people did not seem to be able to get anywhere.

One of the first things I did when I took over the department was to direct that a really detailed study and close look be done on EDA, and the Member is correct when he says it is not so much the layers of bureaucracy, it is the fact that some EDA programs just do not fit; the criteria do not apply to our communities. I said in my opening statement it was like trying to fit the proverbial square peg into a round hole.

Third World Economy In Communities

Now to a certain extent that is a problem in terms of when you are dealing with federal government and federal policies. They tend to be much more reflective of the southern situation and not essentially of the northern situation in which, by and large, in a lot of cases, particularly in the communities, we are dealing with a Third World economy. The problem we have is that we have to be careful in crying foul to the federal government too much because we negotiated that agreement. While we may be able to point fingers a little bit, to a certain extent we have to assume some of the blame because we are the ones that sat down and negotiated it. But it is a major problem because so much of our money and so much of our programs were tied into EDA. I think it is more than a third of our budget. We have about 18 months left to go and I think the Member has been around long enough that he knows that when you go back to the federal government to renegotiate something like that, that, by and large, the agreement will be finished by the time they finish the renegotiation.

While I have instructed the department to try and make some alterations in terms of the process, I am really concentrating on, hopefully, the new generation of agreement, whatever it may be, in trying to make sure that we do not repeat the same mistakes twice; but it is a major problem. Just to highlight the problem, for example, the largest single chunk of the six agreements is money within the small business development agreement. Now that has \$2.5 million in it. To date, as of February 7th, there was \$1.9 million unexpended. We have spent only \$600,000 out of that \$2.5 million and of the money that we have spent, there were no applications from the Kitikmeot, two applications from the Keewatin for \$78,000, no applications from Baffin, one application from Inuvik for \$5700, one application from Deh Cho for \$16,000, and three applications from the Fort Smith Region for \$55,000.

In terms of the regions where we have the worst economic problems, there were seven applications totalling \$150,000. But then you look at the North Slave region, which is essentially Yellowknife. There were six applications totalling \$400,000 and it is because the criteria that we negotiated under the EDA and small business fit Yellowknife. All the conditions that you need to access the money exist in Yellowknife. You have short-term profitability. You have business expertise. You have a viable market. You have lots of proponents. Sure those conditions exist here. I think we cannot throw the whole program out because we have got to recognize that yes, there is a place for this type of agreement but I think the mistake we made was assuming that the conditions and criteria that exist, perhaps, in Yellowknife or in some of the larger centres exist in other places. They simply do not. That reflects on the applications and the amount of money and where it is going.

Arts And Crafts

Again, in the arts and crafts EDA, the Member talks about arts and crafts. You are right. Arts and crafts was worth, in 1987, almost \$22.6 million to the northern economy. Now that is the official figure. As the Member well knows, there are lots of people who sell carvings or prints on the street and that is never recorded officially but officially, anyway, arts and crafts was a \$23 million a year industry. Well, that was twice what fish, lumber and fur added together were in terms of our economy. Fish, lumber and fur in 1987 put about \$10.5 million into our economy. Arts and crafts was double that and yet arts and crafts seems to have been -- I do not know if it was a

conscious decision but we seem to not think it was very important or that it was not a very important part of our economy and yet it is the single largest part of, if you want to call it, our traditional economy, if you want to use that word.

Yet in the arts and crafts EDA, again the Member has put his finger on it, we can get money for marketing. We can get money for marketing, we can get money for training but we cannot get money for production. What are our problems in arts and crafts? Nearly all production problems. Setting up and running these operations and producing.

When it comes to marketing, to a certain extent our products sell themselves. The Member touched on relying on galleries and people, like when they say the industry is in a slump, I really have to disagree with them because the statistics I have seen say that we are only tapping something like three per cent of the Canadian art market alone. We have not begun to market our products yet. We have not begun to market them in the United States. We have not begun to market them in Europe and we certainly have not begun to market them in Asia. You cannot tell me that there is no market for our products. I say BS to that.

There is a lot of market for our products. We just need a way to get out there and hustle and sell them. I think the Member saw the products that we had displayed downstairs last week. If you look at the quality of those products, you cannot match that quality. We are talking about high quality products. Our people are capable of producing arts and crafts, whether it is fine arts or crafts for tourism, as good as anywhere in the country. But again through EDA there is no money for production, which is our biggest problem in the arts and crafts market.

Renewable Resources

When it comes to renewable resources, again there is a large chunk of money, a total budget of \$1.7 million. No applications from the Kitikmeot; no applications from the Keewatin; three applications from Baffin for \$128,000; no applications from Inuvik; no applications from Deh Cho; one application from Fort Smith for \$60,000; no applications from North Slave. The bulk of the money went into headquarters, into other renewable resource related fields.

The reason I did this work was to see where the problems are, and what it points out to me is more than just a problem of too much paper to fill out. There is a fundamental flaw in our EDA agreement. While we can complain about it, the fact is that we negotiated it so we cannot complain too much. We have to take some of the blame. At least having the experience of EDA has brought us to a much better understanding of the fundamentals of our economy in the NWT and where our weaknesses really are. If anything, it has been an educational process for us to make sure that we do not repeat the same mistakes.

The Member made the comments about the government-sponsored projects and to a certain extent he assumed some of the blame and I have to assume some of the blame because we were a part of the ones that said we should privatize them or close them down. We cannot keep pumping government money into them. I guess we were hoping -- not that we thought there was no place for those activities, we just thought that the private sector could do it better; that maybe if they took it over they would be able to run it more efficiently, smoother, and the government would not have to pump in all kinds of subsidies, which we were doing.

The problem was, and the flaw in our thinking was in assuming that there was a private sector out there willing to take these projects over and spend the kind of developmental money that is needed to bring these projects into the black. That was a mistake. There was a flaw in our thinking. The fact is that there is some private sector, for example Cape Dorset, where the co-op has done a very good job, by and large, by themselves without any government help, which have been able to do it, but there are not too many success stories around. The problem was that we embarked on the closure of all these projects and we had no alternative set aside so all we ended up doing was putting people on welfare.

When I took over the department last year, and this is of particular interest to the Member, there was no money in the budget for the Fort McPherson canvas shop. It was decided it was going to close and the government was not going to spend any money. So the first question I asked was, "Why are we going to do that?" Well, we cannot keep subsidizing it, and I said, "Just hold on a minute." Forgetting the philosophical question about government-sponsored projects versus private sector projects for the moment, what is the financial implication to the government?

Financial Implication Of Closing Canvas Shop

The financial implication was this. There are twelve full-time jobs, three part-time jobs and a full-time manager, 14.5 full-time jobs. If we close that place down, then these 14 people end up on welfare. On the other hand, what does it mean to us if we keep subsidizing it? Well, what happened was, in the first six months of 1988 the net government subsidy to the Fort McPherson canvas shop was \$26,000 over a six month period, which translates into \$1800 a job, which translates into \$300 a month per job. We were subsidizing those jobs at \$300 a month. Well, even from a fiscal point of view, I proved to the department, and they agreed with me obviously, that it was much better for us to subsidize a full-time job to the tune of \$300 a month than it is to subsidize somebody sitting at home on welfare to the tune of maybe \$1500 a month; or between \$1000 or \$1500 a month is what they would have pulled down in welfare, besides the fact that they are not working. They are sitting at home.

So I think there is a point where it is in the government's interest, financially, philosophically, politically and economically to subsidize employment. It just makes sense. I mean now you have 16 people who are working. They have full-time jobs. They are earning their wages. They feel that they are a part of society. They feel that they have been able to support their families, their children and it is costing us \$300 a month. The alternative is to throw them on welfare and spend \$1200 to \$1500 a month subsidizing them and also to end up spending money on the social costs and the social problems that accrue from people being on welfare, and not being in charge of their own lives. I think there is a case, and a very good argument, to be made for getting involved at that level. Fort McPherson, I think, is the proof of the pudding. Nobody has been able to come up with an argument contrary to what I am saying at this point in time.

Yes, we made a mistake, and I think that we have to look at it. I do not say that we go back in and start doing things the way we did before, where we had a whole bunch of projects and we had superintendents running them out of regional centres, and we had places like Fort McPherson having to go to tender for their materials, and stuff like that. I think that if we get involved again, then we have to be much more businesslike, and we have to leave these operations the freedom to act like a business. We have to change our approach, I think, but in terms of the fundamental question of whether we should be doing it or not, I do not think that is any longer an argument, as far as I am concerned. I am convinced that we should be doing it. What I am working on now is figuring out ways of improving how we do it.

In terms of the hatchery, just out of interest, we are currently looking at a proposal to establish a hatchery in the NWT. In terms of the development, as you say, in terms of our quotas, we work in terms of a fishery with quotas that are laid down by federal fisheries. Just for your information, in almost all cases we are not meeting our quota; our quotas are underutilized.

In terms of any other development of wildlife, we work strictly under quotas laid down to us by Renewable Resources. It is a check on the commercial development of wildlife by Renewable Resources.

Department Cannot Work In Isolation

In terms of your comment on the role of the Department of Education, you are right. One of the things that is becoming more and more apparent to me and the department as we get involved in looking at the long-term economic development of the NWT, from the government perspective, is that Economic Development is only a small player in the whole picture. We cannot work in isolation of the Department of Education, of Public Works or the Housing Corporation, because

everything we are doing obviously affects what other departments are doing. Because government is such a large part of the economy, it would be suicidal for Economic Development to venture off on its own little course. You are right, there is no point in me, as the Minister of Economic Development, pouring money into creating jobs if there is nobody there to take advantage of those jobs, if those businesses turn around and go south to hire the people that we are creating the employment for. The linkage between Economic Development and Education is strong, and we have not done what we should have done.

We talk about arts and crafts being a priority, and yet in the Eastern Arctic, at least in the Keewatin and Baffin -- in the Central Arctic, for example, there are four communities, Holman, Pangnirtung, Cape Dorset and Baker Lake, which to a certain extent survived on arts and crafts as the mainstay of their economy. Yet, as a government, we do not have an arts curriculum in the elementary school. So what is the problem now facing those communities of Cape Dorset and Baker Lake? All the printmakers, all the artists, are getting old. Many of them are dying, and there are no new young people coming up through the system. If we do not, for example, put an arts curriculum into the elementary school, we will have no artists five or 10 years from now. There have to be linkages between what we do and what other departments do.

Within the government we did, within the last few months, take a look at all the areas of labour that this government is involved in. You are right. I think we discovered that in one way, shape or form, there were 12 or 13 government departments involved in labour, in job creation, in employment, in training. What we obviously have to move to now is trying to consolidate as much of that as possible in one area, so that there is no duplication, so that the left hand knows what the right hand is doing. You cannot escape the linkages. The Member is absolutely correct that whatever we do has to be paralleled by other government departments, or it does not work.

Past Experience Has Given Knowledge Of Problems

I think I have covered most of the points that the Member has raised. I cannot argue with anything the Member has raised. I have raised a number of the issues myself. What gives me hope is that at least now people are talking about economic development, and we seem to be all saying the same thing. Our experiments in the past, and our history, have given us knowledge of the problem, and it is helping us now to look to the real solutions.

While on Friday I may have painted a little bit of a picture of a bleak future for some of our areas -- and it is not to be denied that we have a large problem -- I am more hopeful now than ever that at least we will be able to do something, because now at least we are prepared to tackle the problems, and tackle them in a meaningful way, and tackle them in a long-term planning frame instead of just finding money every year and throwing money at the problem. We have begun to realize what economic development means to our society as a whole, as it relates to our social issues, as it relates to our political development; that economic development is closely tied to all of those.

We have to move forward on several fronts. I am very hopeful because I think that we are going to improve things, and I think that this Legislature, and the government, are in tune in terms of where we are going, and I think that we are beginning to recognize our problems. I think we will be able to convince the federal government, because we are now coming at it in a much more professional manner. We are coming at it with data, we are coming at it with hard evidence, with facts, and we are showing that we are prepared to put money into it. I am hopeful, actually, that things are going to improve quite a bit, particularly over the next five to 10 years.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to one of the Minister's remarks on Friday, February 17, 1989, and that is the important matter of education. Actually I said it first, but he got the credit from CBC this morning. But that is all right. Do not worry. Mr. Wray indicated to this House on Friday, "The education levels of the population

of the NWT are somewhere in the neighbourhood of, I think it is 90 per cent of all non-native people complete at least a grade 10 education; 60 per cent of Metis complete a grade 10 education; 40 per cent of Dene; and 20 per cent of Inuit."

Mr. Chairman, when he was talking about jobs he estimated that 1500 to 2000 jobs right now are filled in the NWT by people who come here for a relatively short period of time, a two to five year period, and these are almost all government jobs. The Minister went on a little bit further and he said, "Almost all of those 35 per cent are government civil servants, and almost all of them are non-native people from outside the Territories who traditionally do not stay up here long." Since we are going to take this issue of education very seriously, I feel that we should be able to do something about it.

Training Natives By Southerners

A number of years ago, when I was still the president of the Keewatin Inuit Association, a similar situation happened with economic development, where a southern Canadian from Winnipeg was hired to be an economic development officer and his spouse got a job right away even though a native person applied for that job. The native person was also qualified to do the same kind of job as the spouse. We put together a resolution from the Keewatin Inuit Association -- and I am pleased to see that my old colleague from the Keewatin Inuit Association, Bob Lyall, is sitting behind me -- in which we said, if we are going to get really serious about this issue of training people to move into government positions, then let us take a look at putting southern Canadians into term positions to train the native people and put them in these term positions for however long it takes to train a native person, so that this native person will be able to eventually take over that particular position. I still maintain that this is a good idea.

On Friday when the Minister said that education is, one, the single biggest factor in this whole issue of economic development, or something to that effect, I really believe that we should be able to train the people at the community level to take on important areas of economic development in whatever career they wish to make in terms of economic development. I totally agree that education has to be encouraged to all people in the communities. But looking at these percentages, in terms of completion of grade 10, 20 per cent among the Inuit, the people I represent, is not enough. It has to be more. It has to go farther. These people, as I said last year, my people, my fellow Inuit, will not want to make a move to southern centres or other places like Yellowknife to look for jobs. Although this is what the Minister said again on Friday.

I would like to see that the people in the communities be given the opportunity to be trained, to take on more education, to further their grade levels at every opportunity that is available to them. So I would like to make a motion and after that I would like to switch to the issue of renewable resource economy.

Motion To Recommend Encouragement And Enhancement Of Educational Standards

I move that this committee strongly support and encourage the youth of the NWT to take advantage of the education system as a means of enabling them to eventually compete and take part in the economic future of the Territories. And further, this committee recommend to the government, that it enhance and encourage further educational standards and excellence at the community level so all residents can benefit in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ernerk, your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I actually spoke about it before I moved it, so I will just leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: I support the motion. We are talking about economic development and people who will be involved with our economic development in the NWT. The youth are supposed to be our future. Many of the job opportunities have a minimum of grade 10 and my

belief and understanding is that some of these students, if they were going to school in southern schools like Yellowknife or Edmonton, many of them would have been in grade 12 by the time they got out. Many times they stay in one grade for two to three years. There are many today who went to school in the 1950s and 1960s and who are capable of doing grade 10 or 12, but they are classified as grade five and grade four. I guess it is because when they drop out and get a test, their grades are lower than what they actually know. It is because they have not used their learning skill.

If we are going to help our students today, that is the route we are going to have to take, to have them trained and have people to fill these jobs be on a term position. That is a small part of the solution. Hopefully it will begin to provide proper economic development for our native people. When I say native people I am not saying to leave the other race out, but it is those people in the communities that are suffering in not finding jobs at their own communities. For that reason I will support the motion and I hope that is one small step to really start to recognize that this is one of the many ways to go, to encourage education and tell the people of the NWT, especially the people in isolated communities, that the government is trying to do something about their problems. I will support the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Mr. Minister.

Responsibility Of Parents

HON. GORDON WRAY: I wanted to make a comment. I will not vote on the motion because the recommendation is to the government, but I think what we, as leaders, have to do is continually emphasize that when all is said and done, no matter what this Legislature does or says, no matter what the government does or says, no matter how much money we put into it, ultimately it is the parents who are responsible for ensuring that their children get an education. Because Mr. Ernerk or myself cannot be in every house in the NWT at 8:30 in the morning saying to the parents, "Get your children out of bed and get them to school" or at home at nights telling them to do their homework. What has distressed me a lot in terms of this whole debate on education is that people seem to want to point to the government and somehow it has become the government's responsibility to get children out of their beds and get them dressed and get them into school and get them an education. Every time we look around, everybody points fingers at the government or the Legislature or the MLAs. It is always somebody else's fault that little Johnny dropped out of school in grade six or seven or that he did not get an adequate education.

While to a certain extent the government has to assume some responsibility, the fact is that it is the parents of the NWT that are responsible for ensuring that their child gets an education. We, as leaders, have to keep hammering home that message to the parents of the NWT, that while maybe an education is not going to help them, the fact is that their children have to get an education and we have to continually remind the parents. There have been too many community meetings I have been in where everybody always wants to blame somebody else. It is the community education society's fault, it is the government's fault, the MLA's fault, the federal government's fault, it is everybody's fault but their own. We have to start getting the message back to the parents, "No, it is your responsibility and ultimately you must take responsibility for what happens to your child, not the government. The government does not live with you, and it does not live in that house, and it is not responsible for little Johnny getting an education. If you are willing to send your child to school, and you keep your child in school, and you provide that child with a good environment to do his homework, and you provide that child with the support, then, yes, we, the government, will be there with our programs, with our schools, with our money, with our teachers. But ultimately you, the parent, must take responsibility."

I think Mr. Ernerk recognizes that because he and I have talked about this subject many times; but we as leaders have to keep giving that message to parents. Too many times the government gets blamed for things that they just cannot deal with. When it is all said and done, we cannot force kids to go to school. We cannot be in the houses with those parents; they are the ones responsible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to give the impression of opposing the motion, but just to indicate another aspect that is as important in terms of dealing with -- particularly if it is our intention to encourage the people of the NWT to participate in the economic future and economic growth of the NWT -- we have to recognize that it is also the older people, those who have gone beyond being young people and having the opportunities that are available to young people, programs available to them in the area of education, whether or not it is for business skill development or whether or not it is for improved formal education, to have them take part in a training program -- we have to recognize that they themselves are, in fact, examples by which young people develop their impressions about the northern society. The older people and the middle-aged people are the role models for young people, and I think that whenever young people look around they look to see who is doing well in their community. Most of them are, in fact, people like Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Butters. That is basically who they look at and say, "How did you get where you are today?" I could say that for every Member in this House, including Mr. Whitford probably, who is smiling at me. I could say that for every business person in the community.

Role Models For The Young

Whenever we look at the question of education, and particularly with regard to the issue of how people look upon those individuals who have been successful in the NWT, and those role models that they have, it is always the middle-aged people that have gone through either some educational program, or for that matter through the area of business development -- whether or not they have grade four or whatever -- but those have been successful.

I think we should continue to encourage our young people to participate and take advantage of the educational system and to recognize how fortunate they are. We can all talk about the idea of the educational system in this Assembly, encouraging those people to participate, but they have to recognize how fortunate they are in comparison to us; the advantages in terms of opportunity in education, not only in elementary school or secondary school, but the opportunities they have for post-secondary education that we did not have. I think that at some time we also have to recognize our obligation, as I mentioned earlier, to the middle-aged people and the older people who were not that fortunate and really want to set that example for those young people. I just wanted to make those comments, because I do not think it is the intention of this Assembly, and certainly the people moving the motion, not to recognize the value of our elders and the middle-aged people that we have in the NWT. I just wanted to make those particular comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I would like to get the Minister to recognize the fact that I was not trying to blame the government when I made the motion. I would like you to be aware of this. I would like to further assist the people in the Keewatin and the NWT, which was the reason I put this motion forward. This represents 20 per cent of all the people who are in the category of being trained, and this is a little too small. The Inuit are capable and enjoy the environment. When it is going down, we should encourage the training using the English language. I would like to encourage the people to try and complete their training and their education. Once you have completed your education, then it will be more possible for you to get your own business or employment.

Mr. Chairman, this is the reason why I pursued this. The children that we have in schools are our future generation. So that they will be able to pursue their careers and whatever their interests are, is the reason why I made this motion. To try and better the lives of the parents, and for the students and for the government to consider this. Thank you.

Motion To Recommend Encouragement And Enhancement Of Educational Standards, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Could you ring the bells please?

Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Before we go on we will break for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): We are on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, on general comments. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to touch briefly on the issue of a renewable resource economy again. From a point of view of wanting to see a long-term economic development strategy for the purpose of creating jobs from renewable resource economy, I really think that for so long and for too long we have depended upon the Hudson's Bay Company to market our furs, to market what we have caught. I think we should begin to find our own markets within Canada and within the international community.

I am aware of some international names, especially the people that I have dealt with and the honourable Minister of Health dealt with when she was a Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Red Pedersen, Mr. Peter Ittinuar, when he was a Member of Parliament, William Anderson, who was and I think still is the president of Labrador Inuit Association. From a management point of view the Inuit subsistence hunters have gained a lot of respect in terms of managing and serving the wildlife that we catch. I am aware of names like Eugene Lapointe, who is the secretary general to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. I am aware of names like Mr. Jack Herscovici of Herscovici Furs in Montreal. I have met people from the London fur group and I have met Finn Lyng, who is within the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and who has been one of the main spokespersons for the management and conservation of wildlife from the Greenlandic point of view.

I think we should move from promoting management, promoting conservation, having established the fact that the world population has developed a lot of respect for the Inuit in terms of managing their own wildlife resources. I really think we should be able to move to establish our own private entrepreneurships. Call it what you would like; Keewatin fur group, Kitikmeot fur group, Baffin fur group or whatever you might wish to call it. Once these companies have been established, we should be able to begin to sell our own finished products to the national business community as well as to the international community. I think that would be a step in the right direction.

Tanning Hides In NWT

I am aware, for beginners, in our own region, the Keewatin Region, that a group of women in Coral Harbour want to start a tannery. I support this initiative because it is the initiative by sewers, by a businessperson such as Leonie Duffy, who will be assisting this group of women who want to establish their own private company and start tanning in Coral Harbour.

Tanning is something, it was told to me back in 1976-1977, that is somewhat impossible to do by the government, because, they told me, you have to know what you are doing in terms of wanting to start your own tannery. And yet, I see a lot of our native people up here, whether they are Inuit or Dene, Metis, having the ability to tan their own furs, to tan wild furs such as caribou, moose, sealskin and other furs that are available to us.

Instead of supporting southern companies, in our case in the Keewatin Region a Winnipeg-based tanning company, we should take the tanning issue and do it right at home in the Keewatin Region, which should be able to provide so many jobs at the community level, from hunters to tanners to sewers to people who would want to design their own clothing.

I think when we are talking about tanning companies, a tannery in the Keewatin Region or in the Baffin or in any other part of the NWT, our objective in the end analysis should be to sell finished products within the NWT, within Canada, then take a look at the international community.

Having taken a look at some of the international communities such as West Germany, who buy a lot of our furs from Canada, and other European countries within Europe, I also feel that, having reached that certain portion of the market, we should take a look at other countries. We should be able to take advantage of the Soviet Union's glasnost because Mrs. Gorbachev, whenever I see her on television, is the biggest promoter of furs. She wears furs all the time and she gets a lot of international audience as a person and secondly, with what she wears. We should be able to

take a look at the Soviet Union as one of our markets. Maybe they might want to buy furs, finished products from the NWT.

The other company that promotes international stars is a television program that I talked about last year, Mr. Chairman, Wheel of Fortune. They give away probably millions of dollars worth of fur coats in their program and they do promote fur during that program. It is a half hour program and millions of Americans, millions of Canadians, and millions of western people watch it. It is a game but it promotes fur. If we are able to go back to the idea of tanning your own, designing your own clothing, designing your own coats, vests, or whatever, then I think if we can reach out to those markets, we should be able to sell our goods from the NWT.

Imaginative Designing

I also know that for years, up to this point in time, we have thought of ourselves as too small. I really think we have to start thinking big. Again I go back to the issue of finished products. This is where we start talking about ourselves. In the NWT we are a people of unlimited imagination. We have a lot of imagination going for us. I can remember when we were talking about amautis, a girl from Baker Lake who lived in Rankin Inlet up until a couple of years ago introduced this type of amauti; it has no hood; it has a zipper; it goes down as far as your waist and it has a little pouch on the back. If we can take that kind of an idea and sell it to Canadians, introduce it to Canadians, introduce it to other parts of the world, I think something like that should be able to work providing we have the proper design for it and we find the right markets within the national and international community. I think the world population would go for something like this because it is summer-aimed. It is made by a lady from Baker Lake that I know. It has room for the baby on the back and I tell you it is better than those snugglies that you buy from Sears and Eatons. It is made in the communities, it is made in the Keewatin Region, and I think it is an idea that we should take a look at for sometime down the road, if not now.

On Friday I talked about Nunasi Corporation's products and I saw that they were good. One of the things that I was taking a look at over the weekend are these briefcases made by Dunhill, especially designed for people with a lot of money. They are costing from \$1000 to \$1350. But if we want to sell our goods, I guess what I am trying to indicate is that we have to go for quality, well-made briefcases, handbags, wallets and products of that nature.

I guess my idea contains two items. One is establishing your own company with regard to renewable resource economy, by establishing a tannery and selling your furs as finished products and making other items, such as briefcases and things like that. I know this because these people that I talked about are fully supportive of native people designing and selling their own goods, finished products from the NWT. One thing that I did have recommended to me is that these items that you make from the NWT should have a label, "This product is made by Inuit from the Northwest Territories", just so that animal rights organizations do not get on our backs again.

Impact Of Animal Rights Organizations

Speaking of animal rights organizations, Mr. Chairman, animal rights organizations will support that kind of initiative. They are not going to go all out and oppose a move by Inuit themselves who want to establish their own businesses with regard to renewable resource economy. What they did say to me on a number of these trips was that they did not realize that their campaign to stop the sealing in Newfoundland had so much impact on the native people. I know that if we decide to do our own thing, we should be able to reach the international market with regard to the products that we make.

From the job point of view, I would say that the jobs that would be created through the renewable resource economy would be for a hunter, trapper, fisherman -- because you might want to think about making fish products as well. I saw it here the other night when Economic Development had that meat product downstairs in this building.

All these people, from hunters to fisherpersons to trappers to tannery workers to factory workers, we are talking about quite a large number of employment opportunities that could be created by such a program or a company if it could be established right here in the NWT. And just to think about it excites me. When you take a look at the amount of money that we shipped out up until late 1988, it was something like three million dollars a year from raw furs alone. It was three million bucks, which meant that when we sent out these untanned, undesignated fur products, things that we did not sew ourselves, it means that we were losing \$27 million a year up until late 1988.

In other words, if we do our own thing here, if we start to make our own products here, then the money would be able to remain in the NWT, remain in the communities and at the same time be able to create jobs at the community level. It is an idea but I know it could be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister, do you have any comments?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Just brief ones. We agree completely with the Member. I think I stated on Friday that at least for the smaller communities, the traditional economies, renewable resources, arts and crafts, and tourism have to be the background of our economy because it is all we have and we have to build on it. So we agree there. We agree with the scenario that instead of shipping raw products out, we have got to start shipping finished goods.

I believe the ratio is last year we shipped out about \$5.6 million worth of fur. If that was translated into finished goods, it would be worth perhaps something like \$55 million to the territorial economy as opposed to just the five million. It is the area that we are moving on. That is where the bulk of the emphasis within the department is taking place right now. Hopefully over the next two or three years we are going to see a fairly large movement in the whole renewable resource traditional type economy.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First a comment and then a question to the Minister. Earlier when I was commenting with regard to concerns about the EDA, I just wanted to indicate that I recognize that there is need generally for long-term planning with regard to negotiations. I recognize that any changes that we make obviously are going to have to be a part of the ongoing negotiations with the federal government and cannot necessarily be changed immediately. The concern I raise is to indicate that there are some problems and that the Minister should be aware and the department should be aware that those changes have to be made in our future negotiations.

The question I would like to ask is, has the department reviewed the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Act with a view of possibly utilizing an agency of that structure in the NWT? It was at least indicated to us, and I know that Mr. Butters, who is now a Member of the Executive Council, was made aware that it took no longer, I believe, than six weeks for the opportunities agency to respond to a request for financing for individuals who were wanting to get into business ventures. I was just curious as to whether or not an assessment has been done with a view of maybe taking, not necessarily that structure, but at least the elements of that structure into consideration?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Northern Opportunities Agency Would Be Useful

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, part of the direction given to the department from Snare and Brabant was to attempt to negotiate with the federal government an Atlantic type or a western diversification type fund for the NWT and, in fact, when we met in Iqaluit about a year ago with the Minister of Department of Regional Industrial Expansion and two or three other federal Ministers, it was broached with them that we would like to get a northern type agreement. Their

answer at that time was particularly enthusiastic or optimistic. The Minister, Mr. Valcourt, indicated to me that they had attempted to negotiate something similar in the Yukon where the federal government consolidated their programs and the Yukon consolidated their programs in one pot and cut down a lot of the bureaucracy. What he said to me was, "The furthest we got was getting them all working in one building." I guess there was so much turf protection between the federal departments that it was difficult to get them to agree to give up their mandate, which he said was an ongoing problem.

I guess our EDA is something akin to the Atlantic and western programs but it is something we are attempting to do. We have had several meetings with officials of DRIE. The problem right now, of course, is the federal government has consolidated DRIE into their Industry, Science and Technology Department and in the last meetings we had with the assistant deputy minister of DRIE in Inuvik just before Christmas, they were still unsure as to where they were going and how the new federal government was going to address economic planning and disparities. They were not quite sure themselves what was happening, but we will certainly put it on the table.

In fact, I have encouraged our department to come up with a proposal rather than depend on the federal government, because it is much easier to negotiate if we have something to try and replace the EDA. We are looking at something like a northern opportunities agency. The one thing that we have to be cognizant of is that a lot of the money targeted to the NWT is specifically targeted to the native people. So we have got to make sure that funding does not get lumped in with all the other programs. We have got to be clear. There are going to be programs available to everybody, but then there are programs exclusive to native people, so we have to make sure that we do not mix the two up. That is something that we are working on right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Any further general comments on this department? Does that committee agree that we go through details of the estimates? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Directorate, total O and M, \$1,587,000. For your information, we are on page 18.10. Total O and M, directorate, \$1,587,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Policy And Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Policy and planning, total O and M, \$851,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Tourism and parks, total O and M, \$6,994,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Business development, total O and M, \$11,306,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Economic Development Agreement, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Economic Development Agreement, total O and M, \$11,560,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Finance And Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Finance and administration, total O and M, \$1,433,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions

Total Grants, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Detail of grants and contributions. Grants, tourism and parks, business development, \$60,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total contributions, \$15,212,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Grants And Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total contributions. Total grants and contributions, \$15,272,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Business loans and guarantees fund. This is an information item. Any questions? Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Department of Economic Development and Tourism, program summary, \$33,731,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, total O and M, is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Capital

Tourism And Parks

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Now we go to capital. We are on detail of capital, page 18.09. Tourism and parks, buildings and works, headquarters, \$105,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total Fort Smith, \$449,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total Inuvik, \$408,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total Baffin, \$990,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total Keewatin, \$20,000. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Just a very simple question. I just noticed that Baffin is \$990,000, and Keewatin is \$20,000. Why is there such a big difference in the amount of money that is set aside for the Baffin Region, compared with the Keewatin Region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Well, if anything, it shows that I am not biased. The vast bulk of the \$900,000 is for the Iqaluit visitors centre. There is another \$150,000 on page 18.11 for the Rankin Inlet visitors centre. The main difference is the \$900,000 for the Iqaluit visitors centre.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total Keewatin, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total Kitikmeot, \$180,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total buildings and works, \$2,152,000. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before we get over, I missed the Inuvik area. Could I ask the Minister to provide me with more specific information on the Dempster highway developments, and also Mackenzie Delta parks? It does not have to be right now, but could he provide that information to me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister, do you have any comments?

HON. GORDON WRAY: No, I will give the Member the information he requests.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total buildings and works, \$2,152,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Equipment acquisition, total headquarters, \$15,000. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Just a quick question, if I could ask, under equipment acquisition. Is there, Mr. Chairman, any consideration of the possibility for communities being able to purchase audio-visual equipment whenever it is necessary, particularly when it comes to providing for slide presentations or audio-visual presentations in the communities to tourists? Is that a possibility? Is that being considered at all?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, it is entirely possible. We have provisions for that in our grants and contributions sector. It could be a local tourism committee, or it could be one of the regional zone associations, whoever, but there is a provision for that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total headquarters. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say something a little later on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total headquarters, \$15,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total equipment acquisition, \$15,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Contributions, Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$150,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total contributions, \$150,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total tourism and parks, \$2,317,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development

Contributions, Headquarters, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Business development, detail of capital, contributions, total headquarters, \$1,030,000. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Minister to indicate putting a certain amount of money into businesses in the NWT, and I just want to use the example of the Fort McPherson canvas factory. Last year, when I was talking about the closing down of sewing centres in the NWT, I was extremely concerned about it because the sewing centres provided a certain amount

of employment opportunities for people. I am wondering if the Minister -- and I do not see any money here -- could take a look at those again, as to their viability. I think they could be viable because I have noticed that the Hudson's Bay Company is selling imitations of Inuit parkas in some of their stores. I think if you put some effort into these sewing centres, they could be made to be successful.

The other thing I want to touch on is this old issue of the ceramic shop in Rankin Inlet. When the Rankin Inlet nickel mine died, back in 1963 or 1964, the Government of Canada had to find a replacement of some sort to be able to provide a certain amount of employment for the local people of Rankin Inlet. They introduced two things. If I remember correctly, one was a ceramic shop and the other was a cannery. But this particular one, the ceramic shop, is one that I still think about because it produced quite a large number of potters from Rankin Inlet, the Keewatin Region, and they came out to be fairly good potters. I guess the point that I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is when the government introduced this ceramic shop in Rankin, it was not a well-thought-out program but merely to replace the income that was lost from the mine. I ask the Minister these questions: Does the Minister think that, providing there is a good study, research into something like this can take place? Does the government not think that with proper management training that kind of project could be carried out again, to some extent subsidized by the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Review Of All Options

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly do. I think as a department we are really looking at our involvement in sewing centres and workshops and into pottery, all those activities that we were involved in before and got out of for no other reason than we just decided to privatize. But we did not privatize. We closed them down.

As Mr. Ernerk stated, I can remember going to the pottery shed in the old sewing centre in Rankin; in fact it started to produce things like mugs and plates. Mike Kusugak was in charge of it at the time when I lived in Rankin. It was going well. There was a level of expertise built up. People were doing fine and then it was just closed. No reason. It was just closed down.

I think it was like a lot of projects. The government started them and developed them to a certain point. Then it almost seemed as if it was too much bother to keep on going with them because the next stage was then to find markets and start refining the products, the more difficult end of the business and either -- this is back in the mid 70s -- either they did not have the expertise or the money or they did not have the will, but for whatever reason, they just closed them down. I think we have to re-look at all kinds of options. Whether we will be able to do it or not, that is another question; but I do not think we should block them out of our minds. I think they are all open to be re-looked at.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Do you have any more comments, Mr. Ernerk?

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the arctic clay good?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I could not tell you offhand. I have to go back about 14 years in time to when I was living in Rankin Inlet. If I remember correctly, they had problems in the fact that they were importing clay from somewhere else. I just cannot remember. I do not know if we even looked for arctic clay, quite frankly. We have lots of clay around, and it would be interesting to see if it would be of any use. I think we were importing it at the time but I really do not know for sure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I just want to get to my final point. If it means, Mr. Chairman, using some of your words from yesterday, even if it means that you are not going to make all that much money, but as long as you are able to make a certain balance from the money that you are spending and from the money that you want to make. Even if the program is supported, and I guess the word that everybody loves to hate is "subsidized", even if it means that you subsidize a certain amount of that program, as long as in the long run it is going to succeed, I would support that kind of initiative such as the sewing centres, as well as even taking a look at pottery, a ceramic shop, and see if it could be run better than it was during the early 60s. I would support that kind of initiative by the government first, and eventually a private company.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Just a comment that I was going to add. It is the Canadian way to subsidize industry. Most industry in this country is subsidized in one way or another. Whether it is the fisheries in Atlantic Canada or the farmers in Western Canada or the car manufacturing through the Autopac. Somewhere in most industries the government is in there subsidizing, whether through policy or actual money or tax breaks. I do not see why we should be any different.

Contributions, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Business development. Headquarters. Total headquarters, \$1,030,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total contributions, \$1,030,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total business development, \$1,030,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Program summary. Total capital expenditures, \$3,347,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister and your witnesses. What is the committee's wish at this time? Does the committee wish to go to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): We will take a five minute coffee break in preparation for Municipal and Community Affairs.

---SHORT RECESS

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): The committee will come back to order. Mr. Minister, would you bring in your witnesses and introduce them?

HON. GORDON WRAY: With your permission, can I do my opening statement and then bring them in?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Go ahead, Mr. Minister.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the committee. Again, I am pleased to introduce and substantiate the proposed estimates for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. This department, which has always had the development of effective local governments as its primary focus, has had its mandate renewed and reaffirmed by cabinet since the fall session. The mandate is: "The development of local governments, responsive and responsible to the residents, with sufficient legal authority and resources to carry out municipal responsibilities, to provide their public programs and services essential to good community life, and to deal effectively with other governments and organizations".

Mr. Chairman, I would point out that this mandate is in keeping with cabinet's "Direction for the 1990s", and the recognition of local governments as the prime public authority at the community level. The department will continue to vigorously pursue policies and plans consistent with this initiative.

Turning to the specifics, the proposed O and M estimates for 1989-90 amount to \$52.73 million. This total includes an 11 per cent increase in grants and contributions, to municipal governments and the public, to \$39.891 million, while maintaining last years level of other O and M. In consultation with the hamlets, and being sensitive to their operating and forced growth needs, the reduction of \$1.647 million in hamlet operating contributions in 1987-88 has been restored, as well as an additional total hamlet formula adjustment of \$432,000 for forced growth.

Training For Municipal Administrators

I have continued to emphasize the urgent need for training for more effective municipal administrations so that local governments can continue to strengthen their capability to prepare for and manage the major changes affecting their communities. If there is any area of local government that needs strengthening and support, it is in municipal administration. An effective and competent administration is essential to sound decision-making and efficient and effective service delivery at the community level. To this end, I have recently established an advisory group to assess and make recommendations on education and training needs in the municipal sector of the Northwest Territories. Mayors Pat McMahon of Yellowknife and Francis Jenkins of Fort Providence, representing the NWT Association of Municipalities; senior administrative officers Steve Conway of Fort Smith and Chuck Gilhuly of Cape Dorset, representing the NWT Association of Municipal Administrators; the president of Arctic College, Mark Cleveland; the ADM from the Department of Education, Ken Lovely; and the ADM from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Hal Gerein, make up the advisory group. They will make recommendations on the standards and qualifications for municipal administrators in the NWT; strategies for municipal education and training to meet municipal government needs; and methods for promoting careers in the municipal sector at the primary and secondary school level. I also look forward to recommendations from this group on training priorities for strengthening the decision-making skills of elected councillors, mayors and other community leaders. These capabilities must continue to be developed as local governments, as prime public authorities, take on increased authority and responsibility over public programs in their communities.

Funding of \$170,000 is proposed to assist hamlets to offset costs of hiring planning and lands administrators, as well as \$100,000 for community management training for municipal senior

administrative officers and staff. Funding of \$80,000 for one person year is proposed for a municipal training officer for the Kitikmeot Region. In addition, funding of \$149,000 for two person years is proposed for community works training officers in the Kitikmeot and Keewatin Regions to assist hamlets in training their works staff in improved safety practices, public works efficiency and effectiveness in the maintenance of municipal buildings, works and equipment and in municipal services delivery.

Increased Municipal Responsibility

To continue promoting increased municipal responsibility and ownership of the infrastructure, funding totalling \$723,000 is proposed to accomplish the transfer of the water/sewage system to the town of Iqaluit and the transfer of the water/sewage/natural gas system to the village of Norman Wells.

In our continuing efforts to ensure that water/sewage services charges to residents in hamlets and settlements are equitable, funding of \$942,000 is proposed for the water/sewage subsidy program to offset the actual cost of delivering the service. To meet our own commitments to tax-based municipalities, for our share of the cost of municipal services used by the GNWT in the city of Yellowknife and in the towns and villages, a forced growth increase of \$286,000 is proposed for payments in lieu of taxes. I would like to advise, Mr. Chairman, that the issue of non-payment by the federal government, of payments in lieu of taxes on federal crown lands reserved for the use of Indians remains as a major concern to our government. To the end of 1987, Canada's payments in lieu of property tax debt to the tax-based municipalities and to this government stands at some \$800,000. Through departmental efforts and through a joint official level federal/territorial committee on services to native people, we are continuing to press the case that the federal government as the landowner should pay, just as every other property owner is responsible for payment of property taxes.

We must continue to emphasize the continuing need for the provision of capital and O and M funding to assist communities with the construction and maintenance of basic recreational facilities for their residents. Adequate and accessible community recreational facilities provide perhaps the most direct and positive tool available to local governments in promoting social well-being among community residents, particularly the increasing youth population in our communities. Additional funding of \$193,000 is proposed under the recreation leadership development program to meet community needs, as well as \$210,000 to meet O and M requirements for the new community recreation facilities.

Arctic Winter Games, 1990

An increased emphasis has been placed on sport and recreational opportunities for our young people. Over 2500 young athletes participated in the 1988 Arctic Winter Games and more are expected in 1990. I am pleased that the 1990 Arctic Winter Games have been awarded to the NWT. They will take place in Yellowknife. In support of our government's efforts to promote expanded circumpolar relations, we are working with the Arctic Winter Games Corporation in extending invitations to cultural performers from Greenland, Northern Quebec and the USSR to attend these games. To assist the City of Yellowknife to host these games, funding of \$300,000 is proposed and an additional \$275,000 has been secured from Fitness and Amateur Sport Canada.

With regard to the capital estimates, the department is proposing to spend over \$48 million to carry out capital programs for building community infrastructure in the budget year. In this budget considerable emphasis has been placed on water and sewer projects which provide the most basic of services to our rapidly growing communities. The needs of the communities continue to make a major demand on the government's capital dollars. I want you to know that demand for new roads, garages, community recreation facilities, water and sewer facilities and replacement of worn-out assets exceeds our limited resources. There are simply not enough dollars to satisfy the basic needs which are currently estimated at some \$300 million. Only the most pressing of these needs can be met.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that I have provided you and the committee Members a clear summary of the highlights of the proposed O and M and capital budget for my department. I will now be happy to address your questions and comments in further detail. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Would you like to bring in your witnesses for general comments?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister, would you like to introduce your witnesses for the record?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left I have Monsieur Al Menard, the deputy minister of MACA, and on my right, Mr. Jim France, the director of finance and administration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Pollard.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister has already pointed out, when the standing committee on finance reviewed the budget with the Minister, the single major topic of concern raised during the department's budget review appearance was the inability of the department to meet even the basic needs of all NWT residents for infrastructure. With a limited amount of funds available for capital infrastructure in the current budget and no major increases expected in the future, this inability to provide basic new infrastructure will be compounded in the future as more funds are required for replacement infrastructure. Unless an additional source of funding becomes available, the Minister sees no immediate solution to the problem. It is also a problem for other departments as well, Mr. Chairman.

The budget documents, Mr. Chairman, referred to a prime public authority policy but when questioned by the committee, the department indicated that there was no such policy. Recommendation 15 of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Chairman, which I will move at the appropriate time, reads, "The committee recommends that in future budget review documents, departments ensure that the information being provided is accurate, to avoid misunderstanding." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, chairman of the finance committee. Sorry for not recognizing you at the earliest moment. Now we are ready for general comments on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Housing Allowance For Municipal Workers

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the questions that I would like to raise to MACA is, the staff who do have their own houses are not eligible, to date, to receive housing allowance and the municipal workers usually do not know if they can get housing assistance. There was a question in this House and after hearing your response I would like to know what steps are going to be taken. I always get asked about why the staff of municipal workers cannot be given housing allowance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Municipal workers can get a housing allowance. Up until now, it has been the responsibility of the community to decide whether or not they give it. In fact, in some communities the hamlets have decided that out of their general operating funds, they are going to pay some of their employees a housing allowance. In addition to that, when a community

went from being a settlement to a hamlet council, the positions that were transferred to the hamlet council from the government were transferred with all the benefits. So for some positions, principally the senior positions, the section manager, the mechanic, and the assistant section manager, the money to provide housing benefits was transferred to the community.

If the community decided not to pay them, then that was the community's decision but we indeed transferred the money. As I say, within the hamlet's general operating contributions they can decide, if they so wish, to pay a housing allowance. As I said, some of them do that. There are some communities, however, who are fairly strapped for funds and do not.

Later on this session, I will be releasing a public discussion paper on municipal financing, and the whole topic of housing benefits to hamlet employees will be part of that discussion paper, as to whether or not it should be part of municipal financing. We do recognize it as a problem. As I say, in some communities the problem does not exist because the communities are doing it. In others, it is a problem. I am hoping by the next fiscal year, April 1, 1990, we will have resolved the problem with the hamlets.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Recreational Facilities For Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another comment to make. I have not heard further from last fall, or a year before that -- the residents of Lake Harbour signed a petition requesting a summer season swimming pool. They had requested one similar to the one in Cape Dorset, but I have not received a response to date. The children have been asking me, and I sympathize with them, because I do not have any answer to give them. I would like to know what steps have been taken on the swimming pool in Lake Harbour, whether you will be including this in the plan for the summer season. There was a request made through a petition. Also in Lake Harbour, on the arena, when BRC met in Iqaluit this fall there was nothing included in the plans for Lake Harbour. I would also like to get some information on this. These two recreational facilities would be very useful for the community. I would like to get some information as to what plans have been made for the future.

The gymnasium for the school that was deferred. Will this be completed before December? This is the information I have, but there is no material in Lake Harbour for this gymnasium. I would also like to know what kind of plans have been made on this. As you know, we only get sealift to September, and the rumours that I have heard -- I would like to know if they are true or not. These are the questions I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. With regard to the pool, we only have enough money to fund three pools a year. At present we have 17 communities on the waiting list to get pools. Eventually we will get around to putting a pool in Lake Harbour, but it is just driven by the fact that we only have enough money for three and every community wants one.

With regard to the gymnasium, it is still our intention to go to tender, if not this month next month, and it is still our intention to bring the gym in on sealift this year and begin construction. As the Member has correctly stated, we had to defer it because of the cost overruns. We have redesigned the building slightly, and we are hopeful that we will be able to get the costs down this year.

With regard to the arena, again Lake Harbour will eventually get one, but our priority for Lake Harbour right now is to get a community hall/gymnasium in there. Lake Harbour is on the list for an arena, like every community. It is not scheduled for at least four years. Our priority right now is to get the community hall/gym into that community.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I got most of your response, but I did not get the reply on the arena. Perhaps you could give me something in writing on which one of these items will be going to Lake Harbour. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, I will provide the Member with a letter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Lewis.

Airstrip At Pangnirtung

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the chance to remind the Minister for MACA of some comments that he made when we were discussing Mr. Kilabuk's proposal that we consider a tunnel underneath the airstrip at Pangnirtung. The Minister, I believe, at that time said that it would be very, very expensive, which is probably true, but also probably against the law, that the Aeronautics Act would not allow us to do it. The problem we have at Pangnirtung, Mr. Chairman, is similar to many problems we have right throughout the Territories because, as I mentioned the other day, many of our communities grew up in a place which was suitable for a certain kind of an economy. As our economy changes and diversifies, our needs become different. Pangnirtung is a place of great beauty and obviously it is not going to disappear. It is going to grow slowly and there is a real problem in building an airstrip in that community, which is absolutely vital for the future growth of that community. If we cannot resolve that problem, it is going to pose severe limitations on, for example, its ability to become a major tourist centre. Until we can get an airstrip that is long enough for larger planes to land there, it is going to limit the tourist potential.

I wanted to concentrate just on this one issue because it is typical of many other issues that relate to infrastructure in our communities. What I would like to do is to propose to the Minister that instead of just saying that is a kind of idea that is just too remote or not practical -- I thought about it quite a bit on the weekend and thought that it may sound strange, but maybe that idea is about the only solution to the problem. I would have to have a much clearer idea of what the alternatives are. Maybe there are other ways of solving the problem. That was an unusual solution, it seemed to me, but again costs and everything else may make it just not within our means or within our budget to solve.

Alternative Solutions

I would like to ask the Minister, would he undertake to at least look at that problem and see what the other alternatives are? What other ways could you solve that problem of having a runway right in the middle of your community? Could you come up with some imaginative way of resolving it so that the community could look toward having a runway there which would serve their needs as an airport, but at the same time would allow the community to grow and develop and not pose all the great hazards that it poses today? There may be other ways. There may be all kinds of other things that have never been thought about. It strikes me that this is one example of infrastructure, or a municipal problem, that we will have right throughout our more isolated communities and we have to tackle them somehow if we are going to grow and provide the base for our economy to develop as well.

I am not sure whether the Minister did, in fact, have his facts straight, that it would not be possible to have a tunnel under that runway because it would be against the law. It strikes me that probably something in the nature of about 300 feet long would be possible. Maybe that is possible, maybe it is not such a way-out, strange idea to look at, and think of what other use you could put that tunnel to. Maybe there are all kinds of other things that you could do in addition

to just simply putting a hole under the ground. Maybe there are all kinds of other infrastructure that you could build in there. I would just like to get the Minister to respond. Perhaps he has had a chance to reflect too, on this, as being the kind of problem that we have to resolve in many of our communities, not only Pangnirtung.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. A couple of comments. First of all, building a tunnel under the airstrip in Pangnirtung would not improve the community's land development situation. The tunnel is merely being asked for as a shortcut between the two segments of the community so people do not have to go around the end of the runway. It is probably an extra quarter of a mile, or half a mile, for people to go around the end of the runway. The tunnel would not alleviate the community's problems in terms of the runway being in the middle of the community.

Secondly, and what is interesting, is the old saying that what goes around comes around. In 1978 we had a planner by the name of Igal Roth who proposed to the community that, in fact, a tunnel be built under the airstrip. In 1978 dollars it would have cost \$750,000. It was actually costed out and it was proposed to the community for a cost of \$750,000. The community rejected the proposal of the department. Ten years later, here we are again with the tunnel, except this time it is coming from the community.

Five Million Dollar Luxury

Quite frankly, while I appreciate that people in Pangnirtung have to go a little bit extra way around the end of the runway, I cannot afford a five million dollar luxury of doing that for them. I have too many basic needs that I cannot meet. If you look at the cost estimates of 1978, they were \$750,000. It would certainly be in the ballpark of three to five million dollars, because it is not just a 300 foot long tunnel. Why I said that the Aeronautics Act would probably prevent it -- that is something that I said as a guess on my part. I do not know if it would prevent it or not, but I do know that if you had a tunnel under the airstrip it would have to be an extremely deep tunnel, because what you would have to do is be sure that there is sufficient support above the tunnel to take a large aircraft hitting that runway at 140 to 150 miles per hour. It is more than a tunnel under the airstrip. It would be an extremely complex and technical project, and we cannot afford the luxury of spending that kind of money or time to save people an extra 10 or 15 minutes of walking. As much as I would like to, we just cannot do it. I still have communities that have poor or no water supply. I still have communities getting water out of lakes without any chlorination, just pumping straight out of the lakes. I have communities that have no sewage lagoons. I have communities where the existing water system is literally falling apart. I do not have the luxury of money to allow me to do nice things like that.

As I mentioned, in terms of the airports, again it is like water and sewer. We are at the point where, in water and sewer, not only can we not give people their very first water system, but more and more of our money is starting to have to go to communities to replace existing water systems. With airports, it is the same thing. Not only do we have 11 communities where there are no airports, or their airports are of minimal standards, but now I am running into the problem of having communities where we are literally blocked off from developing any further because of the runways. So we are having to look at relocating existing runways, runways in some cases that were only built 10 years ago.

When it comes to being creative, I can assure the Member that we are trying to be as creative as possible, but you cannot get very creative in a situation like at Lac la Martre where the runway literally cuts off the community on a point, or Pangnirtung where the runway cuts down the middle of the community. The only thing you can do is at some point in time relocate that airport, but I just do not have the funds. It is a hard thing to say, and it is a hard thing maybe for people to respect, but we do not have the money to do it. I have no answers. Every year we chip away

and chip away, but the problem is becoming one of not just providing new infrastructure, or infrastructure for the first time, the problem is becoming now, like in a place such as Pelly Bay or Lac la Martre, Lake Harbour or Pangnirtung, that we are looking at having to do something entirely different.

Talking Big Numbers

When it comes to airports, particularly, you are talking big numbers. It is not a \$100,000 or \$200,000 problem. A new airport in Pelly Bay probably will cost several million dollars. For Lake Harbour, we have had cost estimates from Transport Canada in the neighbourhood of \$25 million. In Tuktoyaktuk, where they had a major problem with the noise and the dust at the height of the boom activity, Transport Canada's estimate on a new airport for Tuk was \$40 to \$42 million. Even if Transport Canada was going with a first-class facility, and we were to cut down the scope of what they were doing, you are still looking at a \$20 to \$25 million problem in one community.

As you can see, my total capital budget is \$50 million. At the going rate for new airports, or the bigger airports, two airports and the whole capital budget is gone. In Pangnirtung, you have two options. We can go right on top of the cliffs, but that is no use because most of the time those cliffs are under clouds, so you will never be able to use the airport. The other option is to go out onto the flats. That is about a \$42 million option, to build another airport in Pangnirtung. That is the kind of money that we are talking about. It is not small dollars.

That is why I have been so insistent with the federal government that we will not take over the arctic airports unless they are prepared to put money into it, because as a jurisdiction, as a government, we do not have those kinds of dollars. We do not have that kind of money. They want to devolve the airports with no capital funding whatsoever, only a promise that they will look at it sometime in the future. But if you notice the wording of the agreement that Transport Canada sent to us, it would be that the territorial government assume total responsibility for capital and for O and M. So the minute I sign that agreement and then I go back to the federal government and say, "Now can we start talking about capital dollars?" they will just point to the agreement and say, "Well, I am sorry but we are not responsible any more. You are."

No Easy Solutions

The airports in the NWT are an extremely high cost factor so there are no easy solutions. All we can do is every year, just make sure that we chip away at the problem, and it will take a long time.

I just noticed in an article in the Edmonton Journal last week that the Edmonton city council has just embarked on a 55 year replacement program for their water and sewer. That is how long they are looking to replace their water and sewer, 55 years. We are looking at planning time frames of three to five years and people complain that it is too long. So it is a massive problem.

The \$300 million that I referred to in terms of what we are short right now does not include airports. That only includes things like sewage lagoons, water reservoirs, community garages, community offices, fire halls, only the most basic needs. It does not even come close to touching airports.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: I fully understand the Minister's answer. But if it is only a matter, then, of an extra 15 minutes to go from one side of the community to the other, could the Minister then assure us that the problem will never be any bigger than that? That any extension of the runway is really not looking to add anything to the problems of communication within that community? That any extension of it will be into the sea, presumably, and therefore you are not going to have to walk any more than 15 minutes, which is the case right now, and that maybe the answer is to see what could be done to make sure that people can safely go from one place to the other around this runway, and they are just going to have to live with that but it will never get to be a bigger problem than that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: The extension of the runway that is going to be completed this summer is as far as the runway can go. It cannot be extended any further, so the problem is not likely to get any greater.

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

MR. LEWIS: Sorry. Separate subject, Mr. Chairman, but one of great interest to me. Again on the same theme of our communities being built in places where we did not anticipate growth, and so on, and the problems that we would have to resolve sometime in the future. I know that many people say today that we have more communities than we really can serve well, within our budget. They pose many, many complex problems for us. So it is with some trembling that I bring up the idea perhaps that any future development does not take place simply because a group of people say they want to set up a camp here and know that eventually that camp will grow and there will be a demand for power and a demand for this and a demand for that, but rather that any movement that takes place be to a planned community in the sense that if you want to have new forms of growth, it should be in a place where perhaps there is hydro-electric power potential, where there is a lot of gravel, good water supply; where all the things that you would want to have for the development of the community would be in place.

Unfair Demand On Government

I am not talking now about simply, without any impetus from communities, setting up an artificial place but that we do not automatically extend municipal services wherever people decide they want to locate. Because it is unfair, in a sense, to make a demand on government to service places which are completely impractical to provide all the things that eventually people will want to have, such as a runway for emergency evacuations; such as very expensive power, fuel and so on in places that are hard to get to. That we just simply do not say fine, go ahead and we will follow and provide all the services in the long run so that you can get the same services as all other Canadians can get.

There are two questions, I suppose, Mr. Chairman. One, how much further are we going to go in extending government services to any place where people want to locate for whatever reason and, secondly, is it not possible to look at locations where reasonable chances of successful urbanization could take place, looking at good anchorage, good runways, good water? Has the department looked at that? Other places where obviously if you wanted to establish a reindeer herd, for example, or you wanted to establish some kind of modest industry that is in keeping with the culture of the people, that you could have a look at those places.

If any group came to you and said, "Look, this is what we want to do", you would have some suggestions as to where this kind of development makes sense, where it could take place. Because in my opinion, all our communities are not going to just die. They may not grow. For example, Lake Harbour at one time was the biggest community on Baffin Island. It was the biggest place because there was the first Anglican church established there. The first Hudson's Bay post was established there. The first RCMP post was established there. It was the biggest place. At that time, in 1911, Iqaluit did not exist. There was nobody there. It was empty. But now Iqaluit is the big regional centre in that place. And there are many advantages that it has, like for example, a two mile long runway. There are very few places where you can have one of those.

Has the department thought about that? If, for example, in Baffin Island people wanted to do something and wanted to have some guidance, some assistance, some help, would you be able to tell them where that kind of possibility existed in that region? Much as you would, say, for the people that wanted to start a reindeer herd in the West here and they wanted to find out where it makes sense, where all the advantages would be for human settlement. I am talking about human settlement and what the government policy is on human settlement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Cannot Afford To Support New Communities

HON. GORDON WRAY: To my knowledge there is no policy but I can tell you unequivocally that if any group came to our department to request the creation of a new settlement or a new community, then our advice to the Executive Council would be not to approve it, simply because we cannot afford to support the communities that we have to date. To create new communities would be to even lessen the dollars that are available to the communities that we have right now.

However, we have looked, in particular in Baffin and a number of places, at subcommunities where we are physically running out of land to develop. It might be rather hard to believe in the NWT when you have got three million-odd square kilometres of land and water but we have a number of communities right now that within five to 10 years will have literally run out of land. We cannot build anything more there. No houses, nowhere. We are coming close to that in Lake Harbour where our availability of land is almost nothing now. In Pond Inlet we have looked at subcommunities in Pond Inlet, establishing communities four and five miles away and linking them by road simply, again, because we are running out of land that is developable.

I guess hindsight gives you 20/20 vision but I think 15 years ago if we had any indication or any kind of forward planning, we would have probably recommended that several communities be actually physically moved, even large communities, simply because of the horrendous problems that we are now running into. The community of Eskimo Point, Arviat, has no water supply. We have just had to spend four million dollars on a water reservoir. We are going to have to build another cell to that reservoir. We are now having to build a sewage lagoon and probably over the course of the next years, we are going to have to keep adding water reservoirs. Pangnirtung, we just spent six million dollars on a water reservoir. Communities were built in places that should never have been built on, from a physical standpoint.

It is too late now. We cannot relocate those communities because we have these big schools and these big recreational facilities and water plants and it would cost us more to relocate than it would to provide infrastructure now. But even as late as 15 years ago, we could have caught it and we could have saved ourselves a lot of money in the long run. But we cannot do it so we will have to live with what we have got, but it is a major problem.

We, I guess, would take the approach that if groups come to us and want to establish a community then our advice to them is that they are on their own hook. That we just cannot afford it. We cannot afford any new communities financially, never mind anything else. We literally do not have the money to support it.

We have several unorganized communities and they are an indication of what happens. Several of those communities were places where people said, "We want to move away from the towns and we want to trap and we want to have a little place where we could live a traditional lifestyle." Those very same communities that said those things five years ago, even two years ago, are now asking for power. They are asking for airports. They are asking for schools. They are asking for community halls. And so even the ones we have are starting to ask for things and we just cannot create any more problems for ourselves because we have enough that we cannot handle right now.

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

GNWT Policy Concerning Storms

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just have a simple question to the Minister. Is there a storm policy in the GNWT? Storm, like whiteouts, heavy winds. The reason I ask this question, Mr. Chairman, is because in the Eastern Arctic, as the Minister knows, the storms can be very vicious. Emergencies could occur. In his own community this year, Baker

Lake was cut off from the rest of the Arctic, the rest of Canada, for almost two days. I am appreciative of the fact that everything was done to rectify the whole situation, but it took two days. What about if you have a major emergency? What happens then?

One of the problems that we had in trying to get hold of Baker Lake was that the community was cut off completely from the rest of Canada. Telephone lines were no longer working. While I see that emergency measures included NWT Power Corporation, the regional director's office, Municipal and Community Affairs, hamlet councils, but other important organizations were not totally involved from the point of view of communication. The only way we were able to get hold of people from Baker Lake was to speak to them through VHF radios. It is a good example of being ready for the possibility of emergencies such as that of Baker Lake early this year.

I am wondering if the government has a policy, and I call it storm policy, because our storms last for one, two, three, four days at a time. What if there is a major disaster at the community level? What happens then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Emergency Measures Responsibility

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of my other responsibilities is Minister responsible for emergency measures which takes into account storms, blizzards, whiteouts, floods, you name it. I have to admit right now that we were caught unprepared in the Keewatin Region. In Baffin and in most regions now we have emergency measures plans in place. Baffin is probably the best one.

After that situation arose in the Keewatin where indeed my home community was cut off, and it was quickly apparent there was confusion, particularly when the power lines started to come down in Rankin and Baker, I directed and sent over the head of emergency measures to Rankin and to Baker Lake where he met with the hamlet councils and the organizations. We are now working with those communities and preparing an emergency measures plan for each community which will take into account the levels of authority and responsibility; who does what; who is responsible for what in whatever situation. It may be a whiteout; it may be a power failure; it may be high winds; anything. By the end of next year we will have an emergency measures plan in place for each Keewatin community.

With regard to the telephone cutoff, I met with representatives of Bell Canada and advised them what the problem was. When some of the power lines came down, there was an emergency battery backup in the Bell Canada buildings. The problem is that they only last for 18 hours. What had happened was, because of the intensity of the blizzard, NWTPC were unable to get out and repair the power lines, so that the batteries were drained. There is no external source on those Bell Canada buildings where you could plug a generator in to keep communications going. Bell Canada and ourselves are working at establishing the putting in of an emergency power source to all Bell Canada buildings that have that problem, so that at least if it is a bad blizzard, and they cannot get to the power lines, we can plug in a generator and keep the phone systems running.

I guess it took the storm and the problems we had to point out the deficiencies. That was the problem, the battery backup was not adequate. The director for emergency measures spent about five days in the Keewatin and met with all the people involved, the people that had responded during the blizzard, and we are now in the process of putting an emergency measures plan in place in each community. Thank you.

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

Policy On Swimming Pools

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask one other important question. This relates to recreation. I am very pleased that community recreational facilities have been introduced to the communities at a more modern level, such as hockey rinks, curling rinks, these kinds of recreational facilities. One of the things that I have been really interested in finding out more about is this issue of swimming pools. To me, swimming pools are fun, good for exercising. Swimming is one of the best exercises in the world. I know what the Minister is going to tell me; it is costly, so it is not one of our first priorities. I would like to tell him that it should be on the government's top priority list. If you go beyond just having fun at the pool, you are taking a look at being able to compete in national games. No goal is too high to aim for. You should be able to compete for the Olympics from the NWT someday. It may not be soon, but someday. Anything that we do should be geared to these kinds of activities within Canada. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, what the policy is of the Department of Municipal and Cultural Affairs with regard to the issue of swimming pools?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. This is one of our most popular programs. Again it is inhibited solely by the lack of funding. We have enough to provide about three pools a year, they are these above-ground pools, and the community picks up some of the O and M. We do not fund indoor all-year-round pools in the smaller communities simply because the extremely high cost of O and M of those pools make it very prohibitive.

The city of Yellowknife has an indoor pool and the town of Hay River has one but my understanding is that even the town of Hay River has trouble with the high O and M costs of the indoor all-year-round pools. In those facilities the communities are responsible for paying the O and M. We just do not have that many communities that can afford the O and M costs of those pools. What we are trying to do is get our small above-ground pools into as many communities as possible and we continue to put in about three a year. Again, it is going to take time but eventually I hope to have a small pool in every community that desires one. But I am again limited by the amount of funding available.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These pools, are they sort of all-year-round pools above the ground? Portable? Outdoors in the summertime?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Summer-Use Swimming Pools

HON. GORDON WRAY: Some of the communities have them outdoors. They are portable pools that can be taken down and reerected in the spring and fall. But some communities have actually moved them inside. In some communities, what they will do is take one of their warehouses and even inside their arena; if they have an arena, they will put them inside the arena. So they can be built inside a building, but all of them are summer-only pools. They are not year-round. The cost of maintenance of a swimming pool all year round is just too prohibitive for our small communities, and for us. We cannot afford it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Eskimo Point. What is the community's responsibility if, for instance, we want to set up our own swimming pools? In Rankin Inlet we have been collecting some money toward a community swimming pool. Is there a certain amount that we could collect and the government has a certain amount of responsibility in terms of dollars?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. We pay for the capital acquisition of the pool and then we contribute about 30 per cent of the O and M costs. The community contributes about 70 per cent. That includes the salary for the swimming instructor. But we will hire the swimming instructor and train them on behalf of the community. As I say, we have enough money in our budget to purchase three pools.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I did not make myself clear. In Rankin Inlet the residents are collecting some money from the public to build a swimming pool. What sort of assistance could the government provide in terms of contributing toward the building of this swimming pool in a place like Rankin Inlet? I just use Rankin Inlet as an example because we have been collecting money from different sources there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. We have no contribution policy toward capital for pools. We have our schedule of three communities every year, and then we pay for it. If a community goes out and collects \$20,000 and comes to us and says, "We have \$20,000. Can you contribute some?" we do not have any programs for that. We might look at reimbursing the community if and when their turn came up on the schedule if they went on ahead and purchased it, or purchased it out of surplus hamlet funds. We do not have a capital contribution policy for pools.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have many comments to make with respect to this department. I have already exhausted what I wanted to say before this meeting. Perhaps I should say first that the communities were not too well prepared for growth. The storage tanks, the incinerator, the garages, were built where they were, and right now they are right in the middle of the community. I am aware that you are working on this problem. I think it is very expensive to try to change the location of these facilities.

Small Communities Are Behind In Recreational Facilities

Perhaps after you have undertaken this major project, perhaps you should be focussing on recreational facilities, especially for youth. We have to work on this quickly. Some of the communities have next to nothing in terms of recreational facilities, and some communities have so much, and now they are even requesting fancy things like swimming pools. Due to that fact, some of the communities, especially the smaller ones, are away behind. I think that we are going to have to come up with some kind of planning so that we do not run into the same problems as the smaller communities grow. Also, I would like to ask one question. Grise Fiord had a small terminal but it blew away. When is that going to be replaced? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I am going to have to take the question about Grise Fiord under advisement and get back to the Member. I do not have the details with me. The Member is quite correct in that some of the smaller communities are away behind. The department is operating on two levels right now. With the small communities, we are trying to get their first time facilities in, such as the community hall, the community gym, because that is the basic facility that we have to put in. With the larger communities, some of them still do not have a hall but we are working at putting in the arena, the curling rink and the hall, as one. When we have completed the large communities in terms of the arena and the halls, when we have completed the small communities in terms of their halls, then we will reverse and go back to the small communities and start putting in the arenas as their second facility.

It is going to take probably five to seven years to put a facility of some kind in every community. We are hoping to have a facility in every community no later than 1993 at the present planning rate. I believe Resolute is scheduled for a community hall this year, or community hall/gym -- or next year, I cannot remember. I know Resolute Bay and Lake Harbour have been identified as the two priorities in Baffin because they are the two communities that really do not have anything. In fact it is this year, and later in the capital plan we are proposing a facility for Resolute Bay, a community gymnasium. So we are getting there; just a little bit every year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Further general comments. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware of this and I would like to thank you very much for it. I know that a hockey arena is not going to be built in Resolute Bay in the near future but the residents have already asked, especially the recreation committee, if a building which is large could be used as a skating rink. So whenever there are some kind of championships happening in the region they would like to participate but they have no place to practise to develop their skills. I know that there are people who want to participate, especially in the area of High Arctic, and also in our community. We do not have an arena at all. I do not think even Pond Inlet or Arctic Bay have such a facility, even though they have a lot of people residing in these communities. Perhaps at some point in time these communities will be interested in participating in or hosting championships. I would like to see that happening sometime in the future. They have only a very short time during the fall when they can go ice skating. That is the only time they can practise to develop their skills. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: In terms of if there is some big building in Resolute Bay that may be empty, I will follow that up with the Member because we do have money available for communities to build outdoor rinks. If there is a building in Resolute that would not cost too much, we could maybe take that money and do something with the inside of a big building or something. I will follow that up with the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Pudluk.

Outdoor Rinks Impractical In High Arctic

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) The Member next to me is telling me to stop. The outdoor rinks are not practical up there. They do not work because of the high winds, a lot of storms and long winters. They are useless in the High Arctic area. Perhaps they can be used for only one week out of the whole year. It has been proven that the outdoor skating rinks do not work out. Arctic Bay might have a longer season out of them but for places like Resolute it would be just a waste of money; just like burning money. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I have lived in Baker Lake for 19 years. I know what cold means.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that you report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your witnesses.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Mr. Angottitauruq.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF COMMITTEE REPORT 1-89(1), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1989-90 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-89(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1989-90

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1-89(1) and CR 1-89(1), and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. The House has heard the report of the chairman of committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning and a meeting of caucus at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 21st.

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. Replies to Budget Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills

17. Second Reading of Bills

18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: CR 1-89(1); CR 2-89(1); Bill, 1-89(1); Bill 8-89(1); Tabled Documents 23-89(1), 24-89(1), 25-89(1), 26-89(1)

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 21st, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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