



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**6th Session**

**11th Assembly**

**HANSARD**  
Official Report  
**DAY 14**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1990**

**Pages 283 - 303**

Speaker: The Hon. Richard Nerysoo, M.L.A.

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## Speaker

The Hon. Richard Nerysoo  
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.  
X0E 0J0  
(403) 873-7629 (Office)  
(403) 873-5788 (Home) (Yellowknife)  
(403) 979-2668 (Home) (Inuvik)  
(Mackenzie Delta)

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

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.  
X0A 0N0  
(819) 939-2278 (Office)  
(819) 939-2363 (Home)  
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, The Hon. Michael, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7658 (Office)  
(403) 920-2963 (Home)  
(Yellowknife North)  
Government House Leader  
Minister of Finance and Justice

Butters, The Hon. Tom, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1069  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
X0E 0T0  
(403) 979-2373 (Office)  
(403) 979-2373 (Home)  
(Inuvik)  
Minister of Government Services and  
NWT Housing Corporation

Cournoyea, The Hon. Nellie, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1184  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
X0E 0T0  
(403) 873-7128 (Office)  
(403) 977-2405 (Tuktoyaktuk)  
(403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)  
(Nunakput)  
Minister of Health and  
Public Works & Highways

Crow, Mr. Charlie, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.  
X0A 0W0  
(819) 266-8940 (Home)  
(Hudson Bay)

Ernerk, Mr. Peter, M.L.A.  
Box 182  
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.  
X0C 0G0  
(819) 645-2800  
(819) 645-2500  
(Aivilik)

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Fort Providence, N.W.T.  
X0E 0L0  
(403) 873-7999 (Office)  
(403) 874-3230 (Hay River)  
(403) 699-3171 (Home)  
(Deh Cho)  
Deputy Speaker and Chairman,  
Committee of the Whole

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

Kilabuk, Mr. Ipeelee, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Pangnirtung, N.W.T.  
X0A 0R0  
(819) 437-8827 (Home)  
(Baffin Central)

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

Marie-Jewell, The Hon. Jeannie, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1051  
Fort Smith, N.W.T.  
X0E 0P0  
(403) 873-7959 (Office)  
(403) 872-2940 (Home)  
(Slave River)  
Minister of Social Services and  
Personnel

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7999 (Office)  
(403) 873-6220 (Home)  
(403) 874-2884 (Hay River)

Morin, Mr. Don, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.  
X0E 0M0  
(403) 394-3471  
(Tu Nede)

Ningark, Mr. John, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Pelly Bay, N.W.T.  
X0E 1K0  
(403) 769-6703  
(Natlikmiot)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 310  
Iqaluit, N.W.T.  
X0A 0H0  
(403) 873-7112 (Office)  
(819) 979-5993 (Office)  
(403) 873-2802 (Home)  
(Iqaluit)  
Government Leader,  
Chairman of Executive Council,  
Minister of Executive

Pedersen, Mr. Red, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Coppermine, N.W.T.  
X0E 0E0  
(403) 982-5788 (Coppermine)  
(Kitikmeot West)

Pollard, Mr. John D., M.L.A.  
Box 1095  
Hay River, N.W.T.  
X0E 0R0  
(403) 874-2345 (Office)  
(403) 874-2600 (Home)  
(Hay River)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 240  
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.  
X0A 0V0  
(819) 439-8898 (Arctic Bay)  
(819) 252-3719 (Home)  
(High Arctic)

Sibbeston, Mr. Nick, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 560  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.  
X0E 0N0  
(403) 695-2452 (Fort Simpson)  
(403) 873-6215 (Home)  
(Nahendeh)

Whitford, Mr. Tony, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 2772  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2R1  
(403) 920-8010 (Office)  
(403) 873-5328 (Home)  
(Yellowknife South)

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.  
Baker Lake, N.W.T.  
X0C 0A0  
(403) 873-7962 (Office)  
(819) 793-2914 (Baker Lake)  
(819) 793-2700 (Home)  
(Kivallivik)  
Minister of Municipal & Community  
Affairs and Economic Development  
& Tourism

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

## Officers

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

Acting Clerk Assistant  
Mr. Doug Schauerte  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk  
Mr. Don Cooper, Q.C.  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Mr. Harry Finnis, B.E.M., C.D.  
Fort Smith, N.W.T.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1990**

	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
Prayer	283
Members' Statements	
- Mr. Lewis on Government Cuts to Communications Services	283
- Mr. Ernerk on Federal Government Budget Cuts	283
Returns to Oral Questions	283
Oral Questions	284
Returns to Written Questions	290
Notices of Motion	290
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 9-90(1) Appropriation Act, 1990-91	291
- Department of Renewable Resources	291
Report of Committee of the Whole of:	303
Orders of the Day	303

## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1990

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

## ITEM 1: PRAYER

--Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo):** Prior to proceeding with the orders of the day, I just want to draw the honourable Members' attention to the former Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. John H. Parker.

--Applause

Orders of the day for Monday, February 26, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

## ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

## Member's Statement On Government Cuts To Communications Services

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On our travels with the special committee on the northern economy it came to our attention, time and time again, that the basic ingredients for us to succeed was an educated work force, a disciplined work force, some investment in those cultural, traditional strengths that people had, and in political stability. We are still hoping that that political stability will one day arrive. But some of us are rather concerned that that is not happening.

I should also quote from the same gentleman, the same economist, John Kenneth Galbraith...

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** A good Scotsman.

**MR. LEWIS:** A good Scotsman, Scottish heritage. It was pointed out that to get this educated work force you have to be literate, and he points out that there is no literate population in the world that is poor, and there is no illiterate population that is anything but poor. I would like, Mr. Speaker, to today indicate that we are very concerned that our federal government seems, on the one hand, to create a desire for literacy and on the other hand cuts off all means of communication among native people who attempt to communicate with each other through newspapers and so on. This Assembly is appalled that that could take place in a country that is dedicated to developing a completely literate population.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

## Member's Statement On Federal Government Budget Cuts

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about federal government cutbacks; also they are cut back on top of it. First of all the trains have been cut; today the Canadian aboriginal people's funding has been cut, and now it has been cut again. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, for us aboriginal people today, our life is

suffering. First of all we were imposed on by the anti-trapping conference and also the First Ministers' Conference and the Meech Lake Accord. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the GNWT a question: How are they going to deal with this problem? What are we going to do regarding this topic? We have to ask this question today. The aboriginal people will not just sit around and do nothing regarding the cutbacks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Slave River.

## ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

## Return To Question O113-90(1): Interpreting Services At Aven Seniors' Centre, Yellowknife

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ernerk on February 19, regarding interpreting services at Aven Seniors' Centre in Yellowknife. Interpreting services are provided either through native staff employed by the facility or through interpreter services of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. The languages most often required are Dogrib, Chipewyan and Inuktitut. Services are provided on request and interpreters have been available to address resident and family needs to date. There have been no problems encountered by the residents on a daily basis.

The facility presently has 25 residents of which eight are Dene, three are Inuit, four are Metis and 10 are non-Status. All understand some English, while approximately eight speak their native language only. The Department of Culture and Communications has not been requested to provide interpreter service. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

## Further Return To Question O69-90(1): Medical Evacuation Policy

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I have a reply to an oral question asked by Mr. Ernerk on February 14, 1990, on medical evacuation policy. Mr. Speaker, under the government's medical transportation policy, patients suffering from a life threatening injury or illness will be medivaced to the nearest hospital for treatment at the earliest opportunity. The decision to medivac is usually made either by the on-site physician, if available, or by the nurse, after having consulted with the physician at the receiving facility. All decisions to medivac and the method of transportation, for example by emergency charter or by regular scheduled air service, are made on a case by case basis.

Mr. Speaker, while discussion in the House concerning the specific detail of any medical case is inappropriate, I can advise the honourable Member for Aivilik that the information which he provided to me has been forwarded to the Keewatin Regional Health Board. The board will investigate the

specifics and respond directly to the family.

**Return To Question O80-90(1): Powers Of Regional Health Boards**

I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on February 14, 1990, on the functions and responsibilities of regional health boards. Mr. Speaker, I have been requested to comment on the functions and responsibilities of regional health boards and at the same time to clarify the position of the Mackenzie Regional Health Services.

The Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act states that boards of management are responsible for the management, control and operation of the health facilities and programs assigned to them. This responsibility is the same for all regional health boards. The only difference between boards which existed prior to transfer and those boards which have since been created is that the new boards utilize existing GNWT service departments, for example Public Works and Personnel, instead of employing their own staff to perform these functions.

Mackenzie Regional Health Services functions exactly as do the other boards, the only difference being that there is a public administrator in place instead of a governing board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question O211-90(1): Terms Of Contract With Bob DeLury**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday it was confirmed that the GNWT had hired Mr. Bob DeLury to help with the Dene/Metis land claims, and I was amazed when I asked the question of the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development that, although this is the budget session, they seem not to be aware of the details of this contract. I would like to ask the Minister again today, would he indicate whether Mr. DeLury is being paid \$1000 a day with a guarantee of 200 days? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**Return To Question O211-90(1): Terms Of Contract With Bob DeLury**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, what I can assure the Member is that Mr. DeLury is being paid the kind of money that people of his qualifications, experience and calibre are being paid all across this country — people who are tasked with this type of responsibility and amount of work. What they can command in the marketplace is what we are providing to this gentleman. Other than that I am not going to be discussing his pay in public. That can be provided to the Members for their own eyes only. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O211-90(1): Terms Of Contract With Bob DeLury**

**MR. LEWIS:** I will respect the Minister's desire to keep this a secret, then, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask him, under what activity in the budget is this contract paid and is it reflected in the 1990-91 estimates?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I will take that as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

**Question O212-90(1): Action By GNWT Re Cuts To Communications Organizations**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader and it concerns financial cuts to aboriginal organizations in the Northwest Territories, specifically communication organizations.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Government Leader could indicate to this House, or advise this House, as to what actions the government has taken to date with regard to the financial cuts. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

**Return To Question O212-90(1): Action By GNWT Re Cuts To Communications Organizations**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department has contacted the Secretary of State. We are pursuing a meeting in the near future in which officials from our government and myself would be meeting with the Secretary of State to determine what can be done. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

**Question O213-90(1): Secretary For Wildlife Federation, Baffin**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. You probably remember that we had a meeting in January with the Baffin Regional Council in Iqaluit, at which time they wanted a secretary for the wildlife federation in Baffin. You stated that you would provide one of your staff to deal with the minutes and the directions that are given. The chairman of the hunters and trappers association called me yesterday because he heard that this would not continue. He asked me to ask you this question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into this further and inform you later whether this will go through or not. I will inform the Member for Baffin South of the exact conditions. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

**Question O214-90(1): Arts And Crafts Centre, Gjoa Haven**

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. First of all, I would like to ask if he is aware that in Gjoa Haven they are trying to get an arts and crafts centre. They were going to be provided with a building by the housing association. Prior to June 1st, the building has to be moved to a different lot.

They are asking if they can be assisted by Economic Development and Tourism. The quotation I received was around \$10,000. That is what they mentioned when I was in Gjoa Haven. Have they put a proposal in to your department? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

**Return To Question O214-90(1): Arts And Crafts Centre, Gjoa Haven**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware if they have put a proposal in or not. It is very possible that they have and I have not seen it. There are many proposals that I just do not see. I do not know if they have put in a proposal or not, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O214-90(1): Arts And Crafts Centre, Gjoa Haven**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary. The Minister will probably be informed of their proposal as soon as possible. This is a major project when there is a shortage of jobs in Gjoa Haven. Will the Minister look into this? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

**Further Return To Question O214-90(1): Arts And Crafts Centre, Gjoa Haven**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I say, it may very well be that they do have a proposal in. However, I will look into the matter and get back to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

**Question O215-90(1): Impact On NWT Of Budget Cutbacks To Post-Secondary Education In Alberta**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Education. In light of the federal budget and the cutbacks to the provinces, particularly Alberta, in the area of education and health, but particularly education, has his department had a chance to evaluate the impact that the cutbacks to education in the province of Alberta will have on the Northwest Territories in the area of post-secondary education?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**Return To Question O215-90(1): Impact On NWT Of Budget Cutbacks To Post-Secondary Education In Alberta**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, we have not finished it because some of the more detailed documents from the budget have not been made available as yet, but I know one of the suggestions is that tuition fees and costs to students attending post-secondary education institutions will go up. Offhand, it is my assessment that the costs for us to provide education support to our students going south will go up. How much, we do not know yet. But that assessment will be provided to you before the session is over. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**Question O216-90(1): Summary Of Mr. DeLury's Activities**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the government is shy on providing details of money and so on, despite the fact that this is a budget session and we are interested in value for money, I wonder if the Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development would be prepared to give us a summary to be tabled in this House of the activities of Mr. DeLury, explaining the gains that have been made in land claims negotiations since his contract began?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**Return To Question O216-90(1): Summary Of Mr. DeLury's Activities**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I have no difficulty in doing that. In fact, for the last few sessions, as the Members all know, we have tried, in our own polite way, to get Members to start talking about political and constitutional issues, of which aboriginal rights is a very big part, and to encourage discussion on some of the big issue items that we are dealing with. We have not really done justice, yet, to the importance of settling the Dene/Metis claim, the issues outstanding in trying to finish off the TFN claim, some of the outstanding issues with regard to properly implementing the Inuvialuit claim and what different areas of work are required in all of these issues and whether, in our view, everyone is doing proper justice to this task. I would be prepared, at some time, to sit down and answer all questions. I am not particularly interested in disclosing the salaries and the contracts of individual members but I would be very happy to tell you what each of our employees are asked to do, what they are accomplishing and how much of our resources we are assigning to these different tasks.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O216-90(1): Summary Of Mr. DeLury's Activities**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am intrigued, Mr. Speaker, because what I would like to have the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development explain to this Assembly is why Mr. DeLury was hired so late in the Dene/Metis negotiating process, when the GNWT already has representatives at the table. A lot of us cannot understand why this has happened. Does it mean that there is some kind of crisis that only an individual of this calibre can solve?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**Further Return To Question O216-90(1): Summary Of Mr. DeLury's Activities**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, one of the main reasons for the hiring of Mr. DeLury was that for some time we were getting conflicting messages from the Dene/Metis. On one hand they wanted us to play a much higher role and assign more experienced and more seasoned people to this task and on the other hand they were saying, "We do not want you to take third party status at the negotiations. You just sit there and let us call the shots with the federal government." It took some time to make the move, I guess, to start giving it attention, to suggest, "Okay, we will hire somebody with some experience that can not only look at the involvement and the thought that the feds are putting into the negotiations, but the Dene/Metis as well." This was part of the reason for the way we approached the work.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O216-90(1): Summary Of Mr. DeLury's Activities**

**MR. LEWIS:** I am not sure whether this is a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker, but I will try it anyway. Since there seems to be an air of crisis, that things are not going well, does the territorial government have a contingency plan to deal with issues such as land freezes in the North Slave region and the implementation of the Denendeh Conservation Board, should this claim not be ratified by the end of March?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**Further Return To Question O216-90(1): Summary Of Mr. DeLury's Activities**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, if you watch Mr. Bourassa in Quebec dodging these kinds of questions, you might take some lessons from him. Part of the difficulty when you start talking about what we are going to do if something falls apart is that people start to take it as a threat. None of us wants to see the collapse of negotiations or the shut-down of negotiations as a real possibility. But there have been some discussions by myself informally with some of my advisers and officials, about different scenarios. I think all of them are equally negative in the case of what would happen if the negotiations shut down completely. But we are not the only players in this case. Everyone will pay if the negotiations are shut down, whether for legitimate reasons or not, or just for political expediency in order to save the federal government money. Whatever the reasons are, the fact is it is the people of the North, the government, the Dene/Metis, it is the people out in the street who are going to pay dearly for the collapse of negotiations.

Our best approach has been to internally look at what would happen and what the implications of shutting down negotiations would be, but we are not going to be sharing those with you now. We are not going to share those with the Dene/Metis either. I think the last thing they need right now is to have those kinds of scenarios thrown in their face. They probably would be well-advised to consider them themselves, but we are not going to be pedalling across the street to scare them, if that is what they think we are going to be doing, or to threaten them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

**Question O217-90(1): Federal Budget Cutbacks To French Language Newspapers**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Culture and Communications. We are all aware of the cuts to aboriginal programs and the total elimination of the native communications program. Mr. Speaker, I have also had information just this morning that the cuts that the federal government have applied to aboriginal programs -- they have not applied similar cuts to ethnic programs, and particularly not to ethnic newspapers. Could the Minister find out for me if this applies to ethnic newspapers in the NWT as well, particularly if the local French newspaper, L'Aquilon, has had any cuts to their budget from the Secretary of State?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

**Return To Question O217-90(1): Federal Budget Cutbacks To French Language Newspapers**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will attempt to find out the information for the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice regarding sexual assault toward women and children these days. My question is, Mr. Speaker, do the GNWT or federal Government of Canada, perhaps, have a program or programs...

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I did not get the last part of that, and I was not able to extract the question from the particular comments of the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik, would you repeat your question please?

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very much tempted to say that I will take that question as notice, but I will not.

--Laughter

**Question O218-90(1): Seminars For Judicial Personnel Re Sexual Assault**

Mr. Speaker, my question is this: The whole issue of sexual assault and sexual abuse is very complex in the NWT, as it is anywhere else in Canada. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Government of the NWT, and the Government of Canada, have a program in place to provide training for judges, as well as Crown attorneys, on those very complex issues, and I think they are very important issues and require a very good answer.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Hear, hear!

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**Return To Question O218-90(1): Seminars For Judicial Personnel Re Sexual Assault**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** I think the question the Member is asking is one that is topical, and it is one that justice systems across the country are just starting to come to grips with. I think when you get into the budget of the Department of Social Services, they have expertise within that department, and that department has offered training seminars to the RCMP and judges. I know the Crown attorney's office is also very aware of the need for education in this area, and I know that they are pursuing avenues of training in this area. In the next while in the House I am going to bring Members up to date on other initiatives that we are taking in the Department of Justice. I am sure when you get to the Department of Social Services' budget, the Minister can amplify some of the initiatives that her department will be taking in this sensitive area. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable

Member for Baffin Central.

**Question O219-90(1): Youth Forums**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is regarding youth. I know they are the ones who will be running our country in the future. I have been asked by some individuals why there are no youth meetings any more, because they could come up with something; the topics were usually suicide, drug and alcohol abuse. Perhaps they could give us more information if they had more meetings, either in the West or in the Baffin. If they wanted to hold a meeting such as this, perhaps we could show our support. I am wondering if the Minister would be able to support such meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Slave River.

**Question O219-90(1): Youth Forums**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can inform the Member that there is a special youth meeting that is tentatively scheduled for sometime in March of this year to be held in Iqaluit, and it will bring together approximately 75 youth from the Baffin communities. It has the theme "Informed Choices" and is tentatively scheduled to be a week-long gathering; workshops have been planned to deal with legal issues, relationships, career choices, the environment and several other issues pertaining to youth. The youth initiative program will be providing contribution funding toward this initiative, and they will also be supported with resources or financial support from other groups such as the Baffin Divisional Board of Education, the Rotary Club, Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education, and the Baffin Regional Health Board. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

**Question O220-90(1): Travel Costs For Relatives Of Deceased Patients**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health regarding the patients who went South for medical treatment and who died there. The relatives back home in the NWT are concerned. My question is, would the Minister's department pay for the air fare to travel to the South, for the relatives of those patients who died in southern hospitals? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Nunakput.

**Return To Question O220-90(1): Travel Costs For Relatives Of Deceased Patients**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, there is no intention or budget allocated for this kind of activity.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O220-90(1): Travel Costs For Relatives Of Deceased Patients**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask if perhaps sometime in the future this could be supported by your department. I would support the families going south to see the graves of their relatives. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

**Further Return To Question O220-90(1): Travel Costs For Relatives Of Deceased Patients**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I can present the Member with the latest update on the missing persons search program. I would like to caution that we do have budget restraint and there are a large number of people who are buried in the South. If the intention is for us to look at it again, we can look at it again. However, I do not believe, with the numbers we have in southern cemeteries, that the budget allocation could accommodate it. However, we will look at it again. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. I just want to draw the attention of Members of this House to the students from the Project Change Alternative School and their teacher, Judy Desjarlais.

—Applause

Oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

**Question O221-90(1): Subsidies For Hunters And Carvers**

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. At the time when the Special Agriculture and Rural Development Agreement program was provided to the communities, the hunters could get a subsidy to buy a boat or skidoo. Full-time hunters were eligible for that program. But since the prices for furs and carvings went down, perhaps the Government of the NWT could provide a program, or agree to support such a program. Since the carvings and fur prices are so low, perhaps we could look for programs for full-time hunters to see if we could compensate them for loss of income on sealskins and carvings. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

**Return To Question O221-90(1): Subsidies For Hunters And Carvers**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really do not know if a program is necessary to subsidize carvings. I was watching the BC news last night and a carver from, I believe, Cape Dorset was in Vancouver with 28 carvings that sold out within an hour for more than \$200,000. In fact, there were many complaints that there were not enough. With regard to the sealskins, that is a different question. That would be a shared responsibility between ourselves and Renewable Resources. There was a program of five dollars per sealskin, I believe. I do not know if it is still in effect or not. I am told by my colleague that it is. But that is as far as we have gone in our thinking. I do not anticipate subsidies for carvers, except indirectly in the way I was talking about last week, in terms of perhaps providing proper facilities for them to work in, and educating them in terms of marketing and what their craft is worth, and perhaps getting them to command more price for their work at the producer level. That probably is the best subsidy that we can give them, education.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O221-90(1): Subsidies For Hunters And Carvers**

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. I mentioned the carvings. I am not talking about soapstone. I am talking about narwhal tusks and caribou antlers. The Minister has mentioned soapstone



carvings. I was referring to narwhal tusk and caribou antler carvings. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

**Further Return To Question O221-90(1): Subsidies For Hunters and Carvers**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I would have to respond the same way. I do not anticipate a subsidy for crafts made out of narwhal tusks when I remember many, many years ago when I was working for the Bay, we would buy narwhal tusks at about \$25 a foot, which was the going rate in those days, which is about 20 years ago. I know narwhal tusks nowadays when they are carved can command prices such as \$5000, \$10,000, \$15,000 or \$20,000. I really do not see any necessity to subsidize finished products made out of those particular raw materials. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O221-90(1): Subsidies For Hunters And Carvers**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. I was referring to the pressure from the animal rights activists on the prices of carvings, sealskin products, fox skins; all the fur-bearing animal products are going down. What I was referring to is that if the hunter wants to live off the land, he is going to have to buy a machine that is about \$5000 at the co-op or local Hudson's Bay store. I was wondering about some years ago when there was a program. I believe it was under the Special ARDA program, where the full-time hunter was able to buy a machine at a lower cost than the original price with the help of Economic Development. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

**Further Return To Question O221-90(1): Subsidies For Hunters And Carvers**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, indeed, there was a Special ARDA program, but that was an Indian Affairs program that was supplemented by us. It was a joint program. Unfortunately, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has advised us that they do not intend to continue with such a program. We have made strong representations to them that such a program is necessary and, if needed, we will commit funding to the program. Indeed, when I met with the federal Minister last year, I committed funding from my department to the continuation of the program. The federal government, however, did not come through with their share of the funding. But we are continuing to negotiate and lobby with Indian Affairs for a replacement to that Special ARDA program. It was a very important program, particularly for our primary producers. If we lose it, it will be a serious blow to the primary producers at the community level, but we are continuing to lobby and negotiate with Indian Affairs on that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

**Question O222-90(1): Orientation Courses For New Crown Attorneys**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a supplementary question to the one I asked earlier today. Perhaps I will direct this question to the Minister of Social

Services, or any one of the Ministers who feels free to answer my question when I finish. My question is, do you train the Crown attorneys, the judges? I think the judges have a misconception of the aboriginal people's lives in general. I was wondering if, in the future, if you will be able to have orientation courses for the new Crown attorneys in the North. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**Return To Question O222-90(1): Orientation Courses For Crown Attorneys**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the Crown office is very concerned about the problem. I have to emphasize that we do not run the Crown office. Their Minister is the Attorney General of Canada; it is not me, the Justice Minister for the Northwest Territories. We have discussions with them. They understand the magnitude of the problem. We will do whatever we can do to provide any sort of training support to them. I think they are very, very open to that. In the longer term, we are looking at taking over responsibility for that particular area. Once that happens, it will be much easier to co-ordinate these sorts of training programs.

I think the Member's concern is a valid one. Our government is looking at a co-ordinated approach to dealing with this issue, because it is not just a Justice issue; the Minister of Social Services will have to be involved; the Minister of Education will have to be involved; the Minister of Health, because of the medical implications, will have to be involved. We are putting together a co-ordinated approach to this. Again, the judges have within their authority to decide themselves as to what sort of training they want to take. I cannot impose upon them any sort of training. But I might say that the chief judge of the territorial court, Judge Halifax, is very aware of this problem. The judges are very concerned about the problem and they are taking it upon themselves to avail themselves of education in this area. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

**Question O223-90(1): Rise In Harp Seal Population**

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. It has been about three years now and ever since then we have noticed the increase in the number of harp seals in the ocean. Looking at that, Mr. Minister, have you ever conducted a study on the cod fish that are eaten by those mammals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Amittuq.

**Return To Question O223-90(1): Rise In Harp Seal Population**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have noticed the rise in the numbers of harp seals over the last few years. This area is a responsibility of the federal Department of Environment. The cod fish are eaten by various mammals and I would approach the federal government in this regard. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

**Question O224-90(1): Direct Appointments**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the

Government Leader. Mr. Government Leader, can affirmative action candidates apply directly to the Government Leader for direct appointments? If so, can you explain your role in the direct appointment process? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, is the honourable Member not asking a hypothetical question? If he is referring to a specific competition I am prepared to answer the question, but I am not prepared to answer a hypothetical one, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I will draw to the attention of the honourable Members that I did not think that the question was hypothetical. Could I ask the honourable Member to repeat the question, for the honourable Member for Iqaluit?

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Government Leader, can affirmative action candidates apply directly to the Government Leader for direct appointment to senior positions? What exactly is the Government Leader's role in direct appointments?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Iqaluit. I will just remind the honourable Member for Tu Nede that you asked two questions and during oral questions you are supposed to ask only one. The honourable Member for Slave River.

#### **Return To Question O224-90(1): Direct Appointments**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, in regard to part of the question asked by the Member, it is my responsibility as Minister of Personnel to bring any request for direct appointments to cabinet. Each cabinet Member plays a role in determining whether the direct appointment is accepted or denied by cabinet. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

#### **Question O225-90(1): Government Leader's Role In Direct Appointments**

**MR. MORIN:** Mr. Government Leader, supplementary. What is your role in direct appointments and what is the process for direct appointments? What is your role as the Government Leader?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

#### **Return To Question O225-90(1): Government Leader's Role In Direct Appointments**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Personnel has stated, she has the responsibility for handling all matters relating to hiring within the Government of the Northwest Territories. She, alone, brings recommendations to cabinet in the rare cases where there are direct appointments. However, Mr. Speaker, the one exception would be the hiring of deputy ministers where I have instituted the practice of appointing and recommending to cabinet the appointment of deputy ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede, supplementary.

#### **Supplementary To Question O225-90(1): Government Leader's Role In Direct Appointments**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Government Leader. Which government employees, which members of this elite club, get to sit down and discuss their careers with the Government Leader and how do you get on this list? If people are not on this list, why are they not?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would just like to remind the honourable Member, again, that questions must be single questions forwarded to an honourable Member of the government. The honourable Member for Iqaluit. The honourable Member for Slave River.

#### **Further Return To Question O225-90(1): Government Leader's Role In Direct Appointments**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a couple of questions there and I will attempt to answer them. There is, first of all, no elite club that people belong to, to be recommended for direct appointment. However, I want to indicate that upon the request of different departments, individual departments determine whether or not a direct appointment should be made and this request is brought to the Department of Personnel, and in the interim I bring them to cabinet for either approval or denial.

I did want to indicate further that direct appointments are considered by all cabinet Members and direct appointments are generally applied to, certainly affirmative action candidates, and to senior level positions. As the Government Leader had indicated, he has taken on the task of appointing deputy ministers. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

#### **Question O226-90(1): Inuktitut Curriculum For Elementary Students**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Department of Education with regard to the elementary students, the children that attend pre-school or grade-school. I am happy that you provide the Inuktitut curriculum and even though that is provided we still have minor problems because it deters their learning in the other two languages. I wanted to ask you if you would be doing any research on these areas. I am not only talking about the Inuit, I am including the Dene people too. You could see if it deters the learning process. The Inuktitut curriculum for the elementary students should be revised. I believe it should be looked into. I am in full support of the Inuktitut curriculum in the schools.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Member for Sahtu.

#### **Return To Question O226-90(1): Inuktitut Curriculum For Elementary Students**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My information and the view of the department and of the experts in regard to languages is that if young children master their first language well, then it becomes easier for them to master other languages. The current thinking and advice of the experts in the case of Inuit children is that we should first help them to learn and master the Inuktitut language at school and at home, and once they become proficient and very capable in their first language, then it becomes easier for them to learn

other languages, such as English and French. That is the advice of educators today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Baffin Central, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O226-90(1): Inuktitut Curriculum For Elementary Students**

**MR. KILABUK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like a better answer. The communities themselves would like to use their own dialect in putting together teaching materials. We do have some Inuktitut teaching materials. I wonder if each community could produce Inuktitut teaching materials because some of our children are being taught with materials of a different dialect, which were made in other regions. Can the communities themselves produce teaching materials so that they can be taught their own dialect?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**Further Return To Question O226-90(1): Inuktitut Curriculum For Elementary Students**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, in the interpretation we must have misunderstood each other. In any case it is the Baffin Divisional Board of Education that has taken the lead in this area, to develop learning materials for this area. I understand there are many dialects and the material that is produced does not fit in all the communities. But I think once we develop a complete kindergarten to grade 12 curriculum for Inuktitut in at least one specific dialect, then it becomes easier to take that and adapt it to the other dialects that are spoken in different parts of the Territories. We have no difficulty in supporting that.

The problem has been over the years to find people who are qualified to do this work and develop a curriculum and hire them and make sure they do this work. I know they have had difficulty here in Yellowknife. I think it has become easier since divisional boards like the Baffin has taken the initiative to do it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

**Question O227-90(1): Preservation Of Aboriginal Legends**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Culture and Communications. The elders of our communities are disappearing today. I am sorry but that is the way it is. Legends are also disappearing. I was wondering if the territorial government is taping these important cultural items so that they can be read in the libraries in the NWT.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Amittuq.

**Return To Question O227-90(1): Preservation Of Aboriginal Legends**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) We have just started this. We have a staff looking after producing this. The Inuktitut books are in the process of being produced. They are being introduced to the libraries in the NWT. We have started this here in the NWT. The aboriginal people's legends and stories are being written so that they can be given to the libraries. Some of them are in the libraries already. I know we can improve in this area and we will do work on this. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

**Question O228-90(1): Building Of Road To Barrow Lake, Pelly Bay**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. You may recall, a year ago you visited Pelly Bay and we had a council meeting there. One of the questions that was asked by some of the council members was the possibility of building a road to Barrow Lake, which is about 15 kilometres out of the community. The road was wanted to facilitate tourism, recreation and hunting. I would like to know if you made any follow-up on this with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly recall the good visit I had to Pelly Bay and the request from council. To my best recollection I did take the matter up with the Minister responsible for Transportation and Economic Development and Tourism, but I would ask to take the question on notice, so I can get back to the Member with follow-up. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Time period for oral questions has expired.

Item 6, written questions. Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, return to Question W1-90(1), asked by Mr. Ningark to the Minister of Social Services, concerning delays in old age pensions.

**Return To Question W1-90(1): Old Age Pensions**

Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell's return to Question W1-90(1), asked by Mr. Ningark on February 8, 1990, regarding delays in old age pensions: Old age security cheques are printed and sent out to all recipients on the last three banking days of the month. Any delay in receiving the cheque is primarily due to the mail service. I have instructed my officials to correspond with the regional director of income security programs, Health and Welfare Canada, to see if cheques being sent to old age security recipients in the NWT could be released at an earlier date in order to avoid unnecessary delays. I will keep the Member informed of the results.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees.

Item 11, tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

**ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Notice Of Motion 3-90(1): In Support Of The Affirmative Action Policy Of Government**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, February 28, 1990, I shall move the following motion, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik: that this Assembly express its support for the affirmative action

policy of this government; and further, be it resolved that this Assembly direct the government to utilize and apply the affirmative action policy when filling all positions of government, including those in the direct appointment category. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

**Notice Of Motion 4-90(1): Issue Of Family Violence And Abuse**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, February 28, 1990, I shall move the following motion: Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that this Legislative Assembly consider in committee of the whole the issue of family violence and abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Notices of motion. Notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions. Motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills. First reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Second reading of bills.  
Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 1-90(1), Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on the 1990-91 Main Estimates; Bill 9-90(1), Appropriation Act, 1990-91; Committee Report 2-90(1), Special Committee on the Northern Economy Report: Building Our Economic Future, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

**Bill 9-90(1): Appropriation Act, 1990-91**

**Department Of Renewable Resources**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** The committee will come to order. We are dealing with the Department of Renewable Resources. Government House Leader.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** The Minister is attending to extremely important business, but he should be here within a few minutes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Will the Minister please introduce the witnesses now that they are in?

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** To my left is my deputy minister, Mr. Jim Bourque and to my right is my assistant deputy minister, Mr. Robert Wooley.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

**Communities Need Quicker Response From Government**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to Renewable Resources, the Minister made some comments and they are true, but there are some things he did not mention. I will try and be brief.

Within the Aivilik region, Chesterfield Inlet, Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour and Rankin Inlet, during the session when the Mace is on the table and we are in formal session, it is good to get a good response from the Ministers but a lot of times the questions are taken as notice and we do not get sufficient

answers. The Minister gave me an answer on the Coral Harbour quota for caribou and they were going to increase the quota there. I would like to thank the staff of Renewable Resources.

Because of the way Inuit are brought up, sometimes they do not have anyone to turn to. For example, almost two years ago there were two brothers in Coral Harbour. They were on the floe edge and they lost their equipment, their skidoos, their komatiks, rifles, stove, everything. When they lost it they were not able to go out hunting and they did not have a job in the community. They were told by the Keewatin Hunters and Trappers Association that they could get compensation. They were advised they were eligible for compensation. Just last year when I went to Coral Harbour I was told this and the Minister and I had a conversation. I was told by letter that there were no regulations in place at the time and they were not eligible for compensation.

In some communities the Inuit are not given sufficient answers and it takes too long for them to get a response, especially when they do not know how to speak English. Even when we want to get information from the staff of Renewable Resources, the Inuit seem to be put in a difficult situation. We feel for them when they are put in that situation. We want to assist them as much as we can. A lot of us do not understand the system of the government. Even if we want to help our fellow Inuit, sometimes it can take up to 10 months before we get a response and they have to wait for this length of time. I would like to tell the Minister because he is an Inuk and I am an Inuk and I am sure he feels for them as I do. I think he will have to be more careful. We make them go through difficult times because they do not understand. I want the department to know that they go through this within Nunavut.

**Inuit Should Have Recognition For Good Wildlife Management**

The panel for the conservation of the environment was brought to our communities. There is also the settling of land claims. In regard to the conservation of wildlife, the plans the Renewable Resources have are good. The animal rights activists should have a clearer understanding.

Sometimes I have been asked by the Minister and his deputy to sit in on those meetings and I was happy that I was asked. In the coming years, the 1990s, I think we will have to give more consideration to the cleanliness of our environment, the ocean, lakes and the land.

As aboriginal people, we never misuse our land, and we should be recognized for that by Canadians, and internationally. We were never responsible for the extinction of any species of wildlife. We have managed our wildlife quite well. In Canada, the United States, and even overseas, the leaders are realizing that we have to look after our environment. It is coming from the Alaskan Inuit, Canadian aboriginal people and Greenland. People know that we manage our wildlife, and I am proud that we are finally waking up Canada. There is a lot of mention about the environment these days, and the Canadian Prime Minister went to Russia concerning the environment. I like this.

Even though we say that, we have to promote our culture and tradition as Inuit and as aboriginal people. It should be recognized more by the people around the world that we have never mismanaged our wildlife, and we have no intention of doing so. Today, as Inuit, we need help. You, Mr. Minister, and our colleague, Mr. Morin, we had to go to Alberta to give more information to the people who were in Canada with regard to trapping. But we have to look at the future. I am happy to say that these days the native leaders in Canada -- I mentioned some of them, Georges Erasmus, Smokey Bruyere

and John Amagoalik – have helped us a lot with regard to our land and our wildlife. They have helped quite well in that regard, and I am thankful for that.

#### **Future Responsibility Of Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

The Minister did not emphasize too much that within what we call Nunavut the Inuit will be signing the final agreement quite soon. One of the biggest items in the agreement in principle was the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. The way I understand it is that the three governments, mainly the federal government and the territorial government, and the two which will be from the Inuit, will be on that board. The decisions that have to be made with regard to the wildlife, land, water and the sea mammals will be made by that board. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be given more authority and more power than the regional associations have. We had the power before and it was taken away from us, and it seems as though the sky is clear because we will be given back that power.

When the wildlife officers have to do a study they usually have hunters and trappers representatives accompany them. Sometimes the Inuit guide the wildlife officers by skidoo, trying to find out where the caribou or musk-ox will be. Perhaps in the future the Inuit will not only be guides; they will be trained as scientists and do the scientific studies and manage the wildlife. Perhaps the GNWT could provide some programs along those lines for the Inuit people so they could actually manage the wildlife. I have supported that program in Fort Smith, but I think we have to go beyond that. For example, during the 1990s the responsibility to manage the wildlife programs will belong to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. The Inuit in our communities, in our land, have been there for a long time and they know how to manage the wildlife, both sea mammals and land wildlife. I believe they can do that.

Mr. Chairman, during the 1980s we dealt with negotiating land claims and we managed wildlife at that time. We look forward to the 1990s when those things will come to a reality. The year 2000 is just a few years ahead. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with everything that Mr. Ernerk says.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** General comments. Mr. Morin.

#### **More Support Required For Traditional Resource Harvesting**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, upon first receiving the government's economic development documents, I was very encouraged by the emphasis and priority the government placed on the needs of the smaller communities in the NWT. In most respects I still am impressed. In other respects, however, I still am terribly disappointed.

The government has based the whole strategy and refocused a great many of the economic programs available to northern peoples on the government's understanding of the needs of these smaller communities. To target these communities is a positive strategy that is long overdue. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, the government appears to have missed a crucial mark. They have missed an important mark; that mark points to the need to build on what is already solidly there. The reality of many of our people, and certainly the reality of the very communities the government has targeted, is the fact that not only is the subsistence activity of our people contributing

to the health of our current economy in terms of providing a major base for self-sufficiency, but that aboriginal people are saying at every available opportunity that they want and intend to keep their traditional lifestyles alive.

Throughout the glossy pages of the economic strategy, Mr. Minister, they have relegated these economically significant activities to the past. They have not only assumed that these are pursuits that will be abandoned, but they are actively pursuing ways to ensure that they will be left to die. The policy directives do nothing to give prominence to the skill and hard work involved in these harvesting pursuits. It does nothing to instil pride and recognition for those who work hard to avoid dependence on the public purse and who pursue self-sufficiency through traditional means instead. It does nothing for the many who contribute over \$32 million worth of country food annually and God knows what dollar value for clothing and shelter. It does nothing to demonstrate an understanding of what aboriginal people have been saying for decades to people and the Government of Canada. It does nothing to recognize the cultural importance of these traditional activities. It also fails to recognize that many people feel we must continue to be rooted to the land in the traditional way if we are ever going to survive as a people in a sustainable manner.

I am not suggesting that all our people, or even a majority of them, will want to pursue the harvesting of resources in a traditional manner. I am, however, suggesting very strongly that there are many reasons to provide meaningful support to those who do have that interest.

Right now there are a lot of negative attitudes portrayed to young people about traditional harvesting pursuits. Hunters, trappers, fishermen and gatherers are considered unemployed. The implication is that they are not contributing to the economy and they are not working and that they have very little to offer in the way of skills, knowledge or productivity.

#### **Economic Strategy Must Be Built On Existing Strengths**

Mr. Minister, my understanding was that these tabled documents were to reflect an overall government economic strategy, not just the specific initiatives of the Department of Economic Development. Why then, Mr. Minister, has the government not made a commitment in this economic strategy to establishing a harvesters support program? I hold you, Mr. Minister, as well as your department, responsible for not having that commitment in the economic strategy.

You know as well as I do that the special committee on the northern economy took the view that such a program would be essential to a successful approach to building a sustainable economy. By ignoring the reality that this economy exists and has continued despite the lack of recognition and support of this government, you fail to achieve a very major objective that this government itself has set; that is, to build on our existing strengths.

What could be stronger than the traditional economy when facing the odds that it has faced? Look at the incredible drop in the sealskin prices, yet Inuit have persisted and continued to harvest seals for food and for the production of clothing and craft products in a major way. Witness the persistent lack of formal educational support to that way of life and find that, despite the lack of educational support, there are still many young people contributing significantly to the traditional economy. Even when our people are employed, many leave these jobs because these very jobs prevent them from practising their traditional pursuits. While I do not have the statistics to demonstrate to you this reality, everyone in this room will know of someone who was gainfully employed and, much to your dismay, has left that job because it did not give

him or her the opportunity to hunt or practise their traditional skills.

Look, as well, at the estimation that 20 per cent of welfare is currently being used by harvesters to enable them to continue to make their significant contribution. Welfare is not designed to subsidize productivity. It is designed for those who are not actively contributing to the economy. Yet we are making people feel unproductive when they seek welfare to enable them to be productive. Many people are, in fact, using welfare as an economic subsidy, similar to the mining and oil companies using government subsidies to operate in the North. Why do we insist on making these hardworking people feel like bums? Why can we not recognize their significance historically today and in the future? Yes, the future. If we do not do something now we will be faced with a true welfare state. As well, we will be faced with replacement costs for country foods, with higher costs of health due to less healthy lifestyles, with greater social problems due to a lack of self-worth, with higher rates of suicide, alcoholism and family abuse.

#### Establishment Of Harvesters Support Program

Mr. Minister, please tell me that it is I who has missed the mark and that this government is committed to establishing a harvesting support program. Tell me that a central focus of the government strategy is to indeed build on current realities and strengths. Tell me that this government knows that a harvesters support program, if established, will do more for the 41 communities you call resource communities than anything new that you try to introduce or impose on people. Tell me that you understand what I and all aboriginal people have been saying for decades, and that you will establish significant recognition and support for harvesters. Do not tell me that it is simply under consideration, Mr. Minister. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a mouthful. I disagree with the Member that the government strategy does not take into account the importance of the wildlife harvesting. Also work has been going on to set up a program toward hunter income type program. Our government is committed to setting up this program. It is on schedule as far as we are concerned. A year ago, in the committee that was setting up some sort of support to the hunters I mentioned to them that our target should be 18 months to two years. So far, the working group that was set up within the government is on schedule and they will be producing their report this spring or summer, hopefully by July.

The government's economic strategy is on page 24 of "Economy in Transition: An Agenda for Action". The section on income security reform states: "The process of income reform aims to better integrate housing, child care, family and social programs. It also recognizes the proposed wildlife harvesting support program as an important component of the income reform." The harvesting of wildlife in the Northwest Territories is an integral part of the economic strategy that the government has produced.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** I would like to congratulate the Minister on getting a one-liner in the economic strategy to represent your department's commitment to a harvester support program.

Mr. Minister, you say that your support and your work is on schedule to have a harvester support program and your report will be done by July. I was at that meeting where you did

make a commitment of 18 months. I realize that 18 months will be up in September or October so you should have no problem having the harvesters support program into next year's budget. You should have no problem meeting that time frame at all. Is that what I am hearing?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, that is our intention.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Morin.

#### Threats To Trapping Industry

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, just recently I had the opportunity of travelling to Edmonton with you and Mr. Ernerk to meet with the European Parliament people as well as with the trap design people. You know how important this is and how the European Parliament's motion threatens the trapping industry, especially in the Western Arctic where there are a lot of trappers left and still living out on the land.

Also, the other threat to the trapping industry is your department, by cancelling the fur incentive program, by not having another program in place. I had understood that when you cancelled that program you would have another program to take its place until the harvesters support program came on stream. This is making it very hard for trappers to continue to trap. The price of fur is down and they need some type of subsidy or an incentive program that only your department can supply. Here we are telling the European people, "Do not implement your motion to cut out the leghold trap until we have another program in place to replace it." So would it not be good for your department to follow that advice?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is misleading when he says that trappers incentive grants were cancelled. In fact, the incentive is still there. Last year we spent over \$600,000 for the trappers incentive. Mr. Chairman, we only took the lynx off the incentive program. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why did you pick out our region, the South Slave region, which is a high producer of lynx? The lynx is the basic bread and butter of most of the trappers. It is a major part of the fur that they catch; the trappers that I know, anyway. Why do you discriminate against them only? I understand that you do have an agreement with the other Ministers. You made the agreement with other First Ministers in charge of renewable resources in the provinces that you would take the incentive off lynx because they have mismanaged their fur in the South and lynx are very few in number in the South. But why should the trappers in the South Slave region suffer because of no incentive paid because of a deal that you struck with other Ministers, with no community consultation at all? Why should my trappers suffer?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, the incentive on lynx was not only directed toward the South Slave region, it was right across the Northwest Territories that the incentive for lynx was dropped. The pressure came from other countries, as well, because the lynx were quite an issue of concern in other countries as well as within this country. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species threatened to put the lynx on appendix "A" and that meant, to our trappers

and to the Northwest Territories, that there would be no more lynx trapping. In order to save the industry, as well as to save our trappers from suffering too much, we had to show good management, not just within the country but also to the other countries.

As you know, the lynx are restricted in other provinces. The Northwest Territories is the only area, I think, that there is no quota system set up for. I also understood that the lynx were a very important part of the trapping industry in the Northwest Territories. As well, when we dropped the incentive program for the lynx, the lynx prices were quite high. The incentive program was geared toward a fur that had a very low price, to help out the trapper. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again our trappers in the Northwest Territories have made the Department of Renewable Resources shine at the national level, as good managers of fur bearing animals; it is our trappers that manage those animals. Now it is our trappers that have to suffer because of their good management. It is not our problem that Alberta, Saskatchewan, BC or the rest of the provinces have mismanaged their fur. Once again, you did strike this agreement and I understand the reasons for doing that, but I do not know why you did not have any community consultation with the trappers that are directly affected by the lack of the incentive. You do not pay it now for lynx. I realize, not only in the South Slave region but right up the Mackenzie Valley, lynx is an important animal for trapping.

Now our trappers are getting less than \$200 a lynx and they are still not getting any incentive for it. You have caused trappers in one community alone, Fort Resolution, to lose \$17,000 in one trapping season for the percentage that your department should have paid to our trappers. The price of gas has gone up, the price of everything goes up, and your department pulled back on a program and had no other program to put in its place. If you are going to go and strike deals with provinces, then you should have another program to replace the one you are axing. I realize you did it to keep the lynx off the endangered species list, but you also have a commitment to trappers. You also want to keep them off the endangered species list, and the way you are going about it is not right. You should do something to rectify and solve the problem.

This winter I have witnessed one trapper I know who, for the first time in his life, had to go to welfare to get help. I do not know if that is what you want trappers to do. The price of lynx is down; the snow in the bush is deep; it costs a lot of money to get there by skidoo; and the gas is expensive. I want to know if you are going to take the initiative and direct the department to do something to replace what you have cut.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I sympathize with and understand what the Member is saying. Nevertheless, the program was never set up to replace the fur industry. It was to help out trappers, to give an incentive where the fur prices were very low. I am hoping that through the new program, not dealing with my department but other departments in our government as well, we will be able to give assistance to hunters and trappers in the NWT. Even after we dropped the lynx incentive, we spent about the same number of dollars as we did the previous year. I am hoping that through this harvesters income support program which this government is working on, when it is established, we will be able to give more assistance to the trappers. This

program will, hopefully, be funded by the federal government as well as our government. At this point, when we give a fur incentive to a trapper, that money is coming out of the territorial budget.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

#### Reinstatement Of Lynx Trapping Incentive Needed

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I am glad to hear that you have sympathy for the trappers, but sympathy will not buy gas; it does not buy grub and it does not assist the trapper to go into the bush. The percentage that you took out from the lynx means a lot to the trappers in the Western Arctic. That incentive is desperately needed for them to continue their way of life. What I am telling you, and I am telling you the truth, is that your department should be promoting and should be assisting trappers; it should not be seen that it is threatening the trappers. That is basically how it is seen, threatening their lifestyle.

You had a program in place and you yourself know that once a program is in place, it tends to be expected year after year after year. Trappers do expect a certain amount of incentive paid back in the fall to assist them to get into the bush, and if it is not there, where are they going to go and get it? They are not the highest income people working in the NWT. They have a hard life, and your department should be assisting them. That is why you should reinstate that incentive on the lynx. Call it what you want to make southern Ministers happy, call it what you want to make these anti-fur people happy, but do not just cut it out and leave the trapper dangling out there. All you are doing, Mr. Minister, is you are killing the trapping industry in the Western Arctic. Your harvester income support program might be too little too late.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, it is up to us as the territorial government to give out a fur incentive program and for what kind of species. We made a decision two years ago to stop giving out incentives for lynx because the trapping of lynx was endangered by other jurisdictions wanting to put lynx in a different category than it is now. If CITES had put the animal on appendix one, there was not going to be any trapping. I feel that could have done a lot more harm than dropping the fur incentive, which is seen by other jurisdictions as a bounty on the animals.

Mr. Chairman, after we dropped the fur incentive on lynx, the department gave out to each community that trapped lynx a replacement for the fur incentive. We gave these out in different forms. In some cases we gave it to local HTAs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Mr. Minister, I completely understand the reason you dropped the incentive; I completely understand the reasoning. But in your department you have some 270 PY positions, you have a multi-million dollar department; you should have been able to come up with some sort of program to replace that. You have many people at your disposal that should be helping to keep trapping and that way of life going. Maybe your department saw that it could save money as well. If that is not one of the justifications, I do not see any reason why you should not reinstate that program in a different way. If it bothers the people in the South, then that is fine. Do it a different way, but do it; it is desperately needed in the Western Arctic.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, we could look at

the whole trapping issue. In some cases we have given it out through the resource harvesters assistance program. Also, Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier, I am hoping that we will have better assistance to hunters and trappers in the NWT once the harvesters income support program is in place.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, I am hoping, too, that we have better programs in place to assist the harvesters once that program is in place, but that is not going to happen until it gets in next year's budget. What I am saying is, will you reinstate that money back to the trappers, that they have lost, and call it a harvesters income support program, or call it what you will, but do that immediately? The trapping industry in the Western Arctic is in dire straits and our trappers do need it. It does not seem like a lot of money to the department that has a multi-million dollar budget, but it is a lot of money to the trapper.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, I feel that the trapping industry is very important to the Northwest Territories, not only in the Western Arctic but, as well, in the Eastern Arctic. I am prepared to look at a program where it would be equitable throughout the Northwest Territories to the taxpayers as well as the people in total. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Go ahead, Mr. Morin.

#### **Motion To Recommend Implementation Of Harvesters Support Program**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee strongly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Renewable Resources design and implement a meaningful harvesters support program with full community consultation by October 5th, 1990.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Your motion is in order. To your motion.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I have pretty well spoken to the motion in my preamble and my opening statements to the Department of Renewable Resources, but I think it is very essential. What I am finding with this government and with the Minister that we do have in place is that unless we do give them some direction and push through motions, things do not have a tendency to happen too quickly. Things have a tendency to bog down and have a tendency to go very slowly. A harvesters support program is very important for the harvesters that want to continue their way of life and the only way that we can ensure that the direction is clear to this government is to give a direction from this committee of the whole of the Legislative Assembly. The only way that we can do that is through motions, Mr. Chairman, and that is the reason that I put the motion on the floor. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Pedersen.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have difficulties with this motion, Mr. Chairman, because it is totally

non-specific; that the Department of Renewable Resources should "design and implement a meaningful harvesters support program" could well be interpreted to be the harvesters of fish, the harvesters of wood and the harvesters of any product that comes under the jurisdiction of Renewable Resources.

In the debate that led up to this it was quite clear to me that what was aimed at was, in fact, a support program on lynx in particular and I am just not in agreement with putting a harvesters support program into place which is a payment per unit for something harvested. The best harvesters support payment we could put in would be if the department, in conjunction with Economic Development, could create a market for the stuff that we catch so that people feel that they are earning the money and not just being given the money in support programs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Renewable Resources and the Government of the NWT have done some work on the harvesters support program. That is what I am referring to. I am not referring to a lynx incentive program; I am referring to a program that encourages people to live on the land and encourages people to stay out on the land, similar to the one in James Bay by the Cree. This would be where people spend a certain amount of time out on the land and there would be a subsidy program similar to that which a farmer would get; farmers all get some sort of subsidy. What I am referring to is a harvesters support program for our people that are unable to continue their life in their traditional way on the land. That is basically what I was referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Mr. Chairperson, to the motion. I would just like to get some clarification from the Minister of Renewable Resources. I believe he can confirm this if I am wrong. I believe that a number of years back the Government of the Northwest Territories supported this negotiated item between the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, as well as the Government of Canada, with regard to the hunters support program. Before I vote on this, I wonder if the Minister could just clarify for me and other Members this hunters support program which his department supported a few years back, which is related to this motion in front of me.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, there was an attempt made at the negotiating table by TFN to put a program called "hunters' income support program" under the land claims. That was refused by the federal government. They felt that it should not be dealt with in the claim. As a result, we have established a working group consisting of our government and representatives from the Inuvialuit, Dene, Metis and TFN to work on this hunters' income support program.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Kilabuk.

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) I do not think we have a quorum. This is a very important motion. Perhaps we could take a little break and have a vote on the motion afterwards.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Kilabuk, are you asking that we have a quorum? Is that it? Mr. Kilabuk, are you asking



for a break also?

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Mr. Chairman, maybe it would be best if we took a break. I am just indicating that we should take a break because we do not have a quorum here. There have to be 13 Members. I just wanted to indicate that. Thank you.

**Motion To Recommend Implementation Of Harvesters Support Program, Carried**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Kilabuk is recognizing that we do not have a quorum so I will ask that we ring the bell to get a quorum. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? This motion is carried.

---Carried

We will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

The Committee will now come back to order. We are on the Department of Renewable Resources. General comments. Mr. Pedersen.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say from the outset that my interest in renewable resources goes back a long way. I enjoyed the years I served as the Minister responsible for this department, and I view renewable resources as our greatest opportunity for economic development in the field of job creation.

In my own region, combined with the Nunakput area -- and from a renewable resources point of view that is kind of one region together -- we not only have a unique opportunity to develop economically a renewable resource in the form of the vast and increasing musk-ox herds, but we also have a biological necessity to do so. I wonder if the Minister, starting out on these comments of mine, could indicate to me what are the latest estimates his department has on the number of musk-ox in the Banks Island herd and in the northwestern Victoria Island herd.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Roughly 28,000 in northern Banks Island. We would have to get back to the Member with regard to Victoria Island.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Pedersen.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will wait for that. I do have some figures of my own that I obtained from the field biologist, but I will wait for the Minister's figures to be included in the record of this committee's work.

It is, Mr. Chairman, my feeling that if we do not very soon start to harvest that herd within sustainable yield, we run a very real risk of what I refer to as a biological disaster of over-population, which may result in a herd of diseased musk-ox -- if you can call it that, a Wood Buffalo National Park situation as far as the animals go. What is the safe time frame, in the department's opinion, that we have to institute the harvesting of this herd within the sustainable yield?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We agree that the population is increasing at an alarming rate. We are concerned as well about this. We believe that the numbers have never been higher than they are now. No one knows at the present time what the sustainable yield would

be.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Pedersen.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the quota on the herd right now then, because I presume that is the figure you use for sustainable yield? What is the quota on the herd on Banks Island at this moment?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, I should have said that we do not know what the breaking point of the herd is, but at the present time the quota is 5000. I understand the harvest is about 200 a year. Even with 5000, the harvest could go a little bit higher.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Pedersen.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Minister, for those figures. That clearly shows us that we are under-utilizing that herd with a quota of 5000 and with a harvest of one year, I think, as high as 300. We are obviously falling a way behind.

Mr. Chairman, with that particular resource, not only is there a tremendous opportunity to create employment in our region, but it is also a biological necessity to do so. The department has, over many years, built up an image at the international level as wise managers of wildlife. This reputation has been gained in co-operation with hunters and trappers associations and individual harvesters, primarily aboriginal people, and it is a well-deserved reputation. It is also a reputation that is critical to the continued market for our products.

I emphasize these things, Mr. Chairman, to indicate that I think we cannot view it strongly enough that we must not let biological disasters happen. We have to ensure that they do not, because it would cause irreparable damage to our international reputation as wise managers of wildlife if we allowed such an over-population to take place.

**Processing Of Furs To Finished Product In NWT**

Mr. Chairman, it seems clear to me that what we must do -- and this relates to the fight against the animal rights movement -- I believe that we have to change our attitude and our method of combat with them. We have been accused by the European anti-fur movement of being used by the fur industry. To a very large extent, I think they are right, that we are being used. Our mandate here in the NWT, in this Assembly, and in the department whose budget we are examining right now, is to look out for the interests of the people we represent, and that means the aboriginal trappers. We do not have, as such, a mandate to save the fur industry of Canada, of North America or of Europe. Our aboriginal trappers get, by an accepted rule of thumb estimate, about five per cent of the finished product of a fur garment. In other words, if an item sells for \$1000 in Paris, or whatever, the trapper up here probably got about \$50 to start with for that item. What we should be doing is responding with a program where we would harvest the resource; we would process the resource, which is tanning; we would design and manufacture the resource into a finished product.

Based on the existing fur industry in the Northwest Territories alone, only the existing fine fur industry which has been approximately five million dollars annually, and using the percentages I just gave, Mr. Chairman, that five million dollars for raw fur prices probably eventually becomes \$100 million at retail, 50 per cent of which would be referred to as a "wholesale value". Of that 50 million the vast majority is a labour component. The fur industry is a very high labour-

intensive industry, either in tanning, designing, sewing or whatever. Basically what this means is that by not processing the fine furs that we catch, we are allowing the export of about \$45 million worth of labour to somewhere else.

Mr. Chairman, if we calculate that out at what might be a reasonable rate of \$30,000 a year, that gives that industry by itself the potential of 1500 jobs at \$30,000 that we are allowing to be done elsewhere rather than in the Northwest Territories. I do not think that we can afford to do that and I dare anybody to show me one industry that can potentially produce as much employment as this one here.

That, Mr. Chairman, is only in fine furs. It does not count sealskins which we have no market for now, but where the Nunakput and Kitikmeot regions alone could produce about \$20,000. It does not include the winter killed caribou skins which run, for the whole of the Territories, about \$45,000 per year, and not the musk-ox hides that we were talking about earlier. My own opinion with sealskins is that we have, to some extent, played into the hands of those that oppose the hunt by allowing the product line to be controlled by others. We can do things with sealskins if we process them ourselves. This chamber is a good example of it; we have nicely decorated desks. If we use them for decorative purposes like that it is not difficult at all to do. We do not have any of our sealskin-covered chairs in this chamber but Mr. Minister and his witnesses are sitting at a table which is covered with sealskins and we do have sealskin-upholstered chairs elsewhere in the building here. If we could produce these things ourselves, market them, label them -- whatever we produce -- as obtained, designed and manufactured by aboriginal people, we would stand a far better chance of selling our product.

#### Alternative Markets Should Be Sought

Mr. Chairman, I also think that we may be overreacting to the European boycott, or the threat of it. We have to realize that in commerce the producer never dictates to the consumer. It is always the other way around. If someone really does not want to buy the things we produce, then we cannot force them to do so. What we can do is we can change our product and I suppose that is the leather industry that I talk about. If people do not want sealskins with hair on them, then we can sell them the leather.

The other thing that we can do is to look at alternate markets. I would suggest that this would have to be in conjunction with Economic Development, that we start looking very closely and paying some attention to the Pacific Rim markets, the Asian market, particularly Japan, where people like the kind of products that we have and do not have an inbred aversion to accepting that something which either you eat or you wear was once a living thing. There is nothing wrong with that and they do not feel that; the Europeans seem to, though.

I think, Mr. Chairman, if we could have some vigorous programs such as that, then the harvesters support programs that were discussed earlier might become a more positive thing. I feel that the economic development of renewable resources to a level where the profession would gain acceptance and the profession would once again be at such a level economically that you could make a living from it, would be by far the best harvesters support program that this government could institute. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that there is a lot of potential in terms of marketing our fur products in the Northwest Territories as well as outside of the

Northwest Territories and abroad. Economic Development is working with our department in terms of developing those. Hopefully we will see, in our future, a full production of the fur industry; people of the Northwest Territories in charge of producing the fur industry in the North. That is our goal, along with Economic Development. Qujannamiik.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Pudluk.

#### Input Into Wildlife Management By Aboriginal People

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is with regard to the Department of Renewable Resources. I am not against this particular department but looking at the aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories, they are people who are the main hunters of wildlife. They are the ones who have been managing wildlife since their ancestors have done so. They have been maintaining this up to now and sometimes the government does not consider all those areas when it comes to controlling the wildlife. I think it is about time they started considering the aboriginal people more.

Also, I have a disagreement with the performance of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans in the North, from the Pacific to the Arctic Ocean. At present the harp seal population is increasing very rapidly and it seems as if we will have to start managing the harp seals because if they increase too much that might damage the other species. If they increase too drastically, we will encounter problems. They might get diseases; if there is not proper food in the sea they tend to get too skinny and become unhealthy. I believe that in the future the aboriginal people should have more input in all these areas when it comes to managing the wildlife in the North.

The aboriginal people have been helped and supported by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. That department has been helping the hunters and trappers, along with the Department of Renewable Resources, but I believe you will also have to start concentrating on the lakes. We do run into problems when it comes to the oceans because they are international waters. Because of that, we run into problems when it comes to the management of mammals.

With regard to trapping, when the numbers decrease we cut back on the number of animals we hunt or trap. Ever since they have been boycotting the trapping in the North, we notice how the number of trappers has decreased, but if we do not control or manage our wildlife properly they will have lots of diseases and illnesses. When the numbers of foxes increase, they get rabies and they infect other animals. I just wanted to bring up the issue of the harp seals and foxes.

The quota for polar bear has recently been looked at. The polar bear population has been increasing around the Melville Island and Ellesmere Island areas, and I am wondering if you will conduct studies on the polar bears in that area. Some of the smaller communities in the High Arctic have concerns with regard to the hunting of polar bears. They have been asking for a polar bear study to be done so that all these little problems will be resolved.

#### Environmental Concern

I would also like to bring up a concern on environmental protection and the ecosystem. I feel that the GNWT and the federal government should be concentrating more on the protection of the environment and the ecosystem. For instance, we have to start acting on the fall-out from fumes or from PCBs before it is too late. If we are too late, it will be hard to turn back the clock. I feel we will have to protect the environment. I believe the biologists can probably assist in

making policies or guidelines that can be used to protect the environment and the ecosystem. We will be the only ones using the environment and we will have to look out for our children, too. We do not want our descendants to live in a polluted world. I wanted to raise these concerns.

I heard there will be an ice study conducted in the Viscount Melville Sound area, beside Melville Island. Could you elaborate on the study that is being planned, Mr. Minister? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the Member's first concerns respecting the harp seals, I agree that the numbers are increasing. Because their numbers have been increasing, they have been moving to areas where they were never found before. Throughout Canada the numbers of seals in general are increasing, not just the harp seals. This has been a concern in the provinces, as well as the NWT. Next year, along with the biologists, my staff and I will be consulting the communities about the polar bear quotas, and there will be a study done in the Viscount Melville Sound area. After the study, the number of polar bears will be passed along. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Pudluk.

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I also have a question on page 12.05 concerning amendments to the trapping regulations. What are you proposing in the way of amendments?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year the Fur Institute of Canada established a policy for protecting the trappers. We wanted to get the animal activists to understand our position. There were 12 recommendations, which we discussed when we met last year with the Fur Institute of Canada. In 12.05 we are just trying to make the other communities understand what these 12 recommendations are.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Arlooktoo.

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make my comments brief. I would like to make a comment regarding the harp seal population increase in the High Arctic. The animals usually go where there is food available. Once the food has gone from that area, they will move to another place. That is all I wanted to let you know.

I have some concerns I would like to express regarding the guns which are used for polar bear hunting. A lot of the Inuit do not know about this policy. I have spoken to people in the communities and I have found that there are a lot of people on Baffin Island who did not know that there was a policy. Perhaps some of the communities should be informed before anybody is charged with breaking the policy. Usually the hunters are the only ones that find out about these policies, not the general public. I am suggesting that you inform the people regarding the policy they have to follow with respect to the guns used for hunting polar bears.

On the subject of whale hunting, we know that in our area somebody is proposing that they cut it out completely, and we probably will not be getting any whales any more in our area. We will have to get some kind of assistance if the harvesting

of whales is closed. We will have to be given boats through the HTAs so we could go out whale hunting near Northern Quebec. We will probably have to go over there to catch whales. We will be seeking assistance when we go whale hunting. Those people who do not have any caribou are given assistance, and this is what we will be asking for. I want you to expect this in the future.

#### **Personal Use Of Government Equipment**

In some communities the hunters themselves used to have boats which belonged to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Cape Dorset and Pangnirtung. These are called Peterhead boats. They now have smaller boats and you cannot use them when there is a lot of wind. It seems as if we are going backwards, and I want to know why this is happening. The wildlife officers used to have Inuit helping them when they used the Peterheads, but now they go by themselves in the Baffin Region, especially in my area. I want to know what they use these small boats for. I know I could answer for myself, but I want to hear it directly from you. Are they using them just to go out hunting on the weekend as sport hunters, or are they doing any kind of survey?

Also I tried to find out but never got an answer, but the wildlife department equipment is not supposed to be used by people other than the government. What equipment is not to be used? It has never been identified. I cannot use wildlife boats and skidoos in Lake Harbour. If I go to Pond Inlet I can use that equipment. Since it is that way, I would like to know what kind of policies you have in place.

I wanted to borrow a drill that has a motor but I could not do it because the policy would not allow it. I know that equipment is not very expensive. I would like to know what equipment is not allowed to be used. Is a shovel allowed to be borrowed?

I would especially like to know about the boats. I know this is not a huge problem but I feel there should be a clear policy regarding your equipment in communities. I am not saying your wildlife officers are not doing their job. They are doing their job, but I myself cannot tell them what to do. It has to be you. You can tell them what to do. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding Peterhead boats, we do not use them any more because of lack of funds to buy them. Wildlife officers use the boats in the community and they also use them for research if that is needed. Our equipment is bought by the Department of Public Works. Government has a policy regarding government equipment being used, so we have to follow this policy.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I knew what your answer would be but I wanted to hear it. I requested that the wildlife officers have an assistant. There is one in Pangnirtung and there is one in Pond Inlet. There are some in different communities. I think it would be a lot better if the officers had an assistant. Are you going to do anything about this? Are you going to continue with game guardians?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. Game guardians will still be there.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Pudluk.

### Harvesting Of Ocean Resources

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am starting to work toward future concerns. I am pushing to make some money on the wildlife on the ocean, because I think that is the only one in the world that is not boycotted. My community has been thinking about harvesting some ocean animals. The two communities I represent are underdeveloped and they do not have any assistance in doing studies. I know they get help from Economic Development and Tourism. Can you support them if they want a study done? I represent Broughton Island and Clyde River. There are some animals from the ocean that can be harvested commercially. I know Broughton Island has shrimps they can harvest. Perhaps you can give them support if they try to do a study to harvest these shrimps. I am in full support of this and I am very happy about it. My two communities are thinking about harvesting shrimp or any animals from the sea.

Somebody already mentioned the boats, but in the future the HTA will look after their responsibilities. Since your funding will be cut, I wonder if in the future you can start giving out more boats. Perhaps when we get Nunavut we will be able to get things and take over things like your offices when our Nunavut is in existence because we do not have enough money to use. We know that the government operations are expensive, such as the DPW and wildlife offices which are very expensive to operate. The HTAs can take care of their responsibilities and manage their wildlife very well; perhaps they can be given some of the equipment that they need badly even if it is not right now. This is what I have been thinking and perhaps it will come about in the future.

Regarding trapping, we do not trap too much in our area. We are just using fur-bearing animals. We are seeking a tannery for sealskins in order to make money so that they can be made into clothing and to be able to market them and sell them within the community, or even make tents out of the sealskins. They used to make tents out of seal skin and I have thought about this.

As Mr. Arlooktoo mentioned, if they were going to stop the whaling it would be regrettable and we would not be able to get any beluga whales, especially beluga. Maybe we will be able to get the bowhead whale, maybe one, for our community because we do not know what our ancestors went through and if that was to be stopped the future generation will not know what we went through and what kind of food we lived on. Those are the things that I have thought about. I know what you are trying to do. It is very favourable and you ask assistance from the HTAs. There is good co-operation between the two and when there are tasks to be done, they are done with co-operation. But the hunters and trappers association have very limited resources and they do not even have sufficient managers with the HTAs in some communities. I know there is lack of funding to fulfil those positions.

Mr. Arlooktoo mentioned that it is a lot better to have the wildlife officers have assistants. Maybe it would be better in some communities if they could get an assistant from the hunters and trappers association. That way we could make good use of the funding we have in some communities. That is all I have for now. I will ask further if I have any more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. I do not think there was a question there. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Regarding bowhead whales, on April 5, 1988, on a Tuesday, the Minister's reply to Mr. Butters was, in regard to the bowhead whales being hunted -- there were questions with regard to the hunting of the bowhead whales from various communities because the communities had requested that they would like to start hunting bowhead whales. The Minister

for Fisheries and Oceans was told that the different organizations in our region would like to be able to hunt bowhead whales, and I will read his response in English. (Translation ends)

"He has indicated to me that" -- this is the former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans -- "the only way that this could be allowed is to do a pilot project. He is saying that he will not allow the continual take of bowhead, but he may allow a particular group of people to harvest one and in one area."

(Translation) He told us that, and it has been two years. Last summer the Keewatin people requested permission to hunt bowhead whales and some western communities have also requested this. It is the tradition of the Inuit to hunt bowhead. Through you, Mr. Chairman, what is the situation at this present time? That is the first question that I have, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct. When I first met Mr. Siddon three years ago, I got to know him a little bit and we used to talk privately and he was open to discussing the harvest of bowheads, to possibly allow one group of people to harvest one whale for a pilot project. He was open to discussing these possibilities. When the bowhead issue blew up last spring, last year, he was no longer open to discussing the bowhead issue since the very laws that were governing the bowheads were threatened to be broken by some Canadian citizens.

I have not approached the Minister since he said that to me. I have not approached the new Minister either, since he became appointed. I do not know what his thinking on this is.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister indicate to me the estimate on the population of the bowhead whales?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) I do not know the exact number in the Northwest Territories, but according to the Canadian Wildlife Service -- I can provide him with the information he is requesting, once I see if they have an estimate on the population of the bowhead whales.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Alaskan Inuit can harvest bowhead whales. They estimated that there were about 4000 bowhead whales. During the Inuit Circumpolar Conference there was a committee that dealt with bowhead whales and I was a member at the time. It is very difficult to get an exact count from the ocean. We get quotations that they have an exact population; they do not all surface at the time of the study. But they estimated the amount. I used to be on the wildlife board for almost two years. I understand your answer and up to now, for the sake of Inuit, we do not know up to now how we will be able to start hunting bowhead whales. Is it the responsibility of the International Whaling Commission?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Mr. Chairman, no, Canada is not a member of this International Whaling Commission. The authority is in the hands of the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans at the present time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you for the clarification. I have two or three questions. If we are true Inuks then we can get general hunting licences. Once an Inuk is married to a white woman or to someone of a different culture, if the spouse is not Inuk, according to the Constitution, the Charter of Rights, that wife would be recognized as Inuk and could be issued a general hunting licence. I now hear things are the other way around. If a white man marries an Inuk woman, their children would not be recognized as Inuk. If that is true, can the Minister indicate to me whether children with white fathers and Inuit mothers can be issued a general hunting licence?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today, according to the regulations, for the children of an Inuk woman and a white father, there will be no problems. They can get a general hunting licence.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Ernerk.

#### Responsibility For Clean-Up Of Tailings Pond, Rankin Inlet

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you for your response. Another question regarding keeping our environment clean. I still remember in winter we discovered a tailings pond. According to the consultants' report they said there was hazardous material in there. I wrote to the Minister and he responded to me. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs gave a response. I believe there is such a thing as pollution control and there is an act for pollution control. It is not clear what kind of chemicals they have. They were left by the Rankin Inlet nickel mine, but the company does not seem to be in existence any more and the residents of Rankin Inlet are not very happy about this because it scared a lot of people.

When we are put into that kind of situation, I can tell the Departments of Health, MACA and Renewable Resources, who are responsible for the environment. It took a long time to do anything, even though there is an act on pollution control. It seems that they were hesitant to assist us. The people of Rankin Inlet were not too happy about this, because it took them a long time to do what they had to do. The people who were responsible for this, if they can be located, maybe they can assist us financially with the clean-up of the tailings pond, especially with spring coming. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs stated that when the snow starts melting then the chemicals will flow to the lake and surrounding area where people go fishing. The residents think there should be a plan in place before the snow starts melting. I am not sure if my question makes sense or not, but the company that was there, could they be asked to assist the government in the clean-up of that tailings pond? At the time, the rules were less strict than they are now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Mr. Chairman, you are all aware of the Environmental Protection Act, which is the act we are going by today. It is very hard to enforce and we are trying to amend that act so we will have better control over environmental matters and pollution issues. Then we

would be able to do something about it. The company the Member asked about that ran the Rankin Inlet nickel mine -- if that still exists -- can we still get them to pay for what they did? As of today, under our regulations, there is no way we could make them pay; that is why we are trying to amend the act.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question regarding gyrfalcons. What is the latest information on gyrfalcons? We cannot market them any more because they are under appendix one. Is that correct? Several years ago we could sell them. My second question is, do you have any idea of the gyrfalcon population?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could give you the estimated population for the gyrfalcons.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under CITES, are they going to come up with something concerning our wildlife at their next meeting, putting one of our wildlife under appendix one? Is there anything on that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) We do not have the updated information on that, but we suspect that the walrus and narwhal will be on their next agenda. I also think they are going to be talking about lynx, but we do not have the latest information.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the Minister could find out about this and give us the information. I think their next meeting is scheduled for 1991. There are different organizations in our communities and in our regions that are involved with wildlife. If you are going to be sending a representative to the next CITES meeting, I am in support of that. (Translation ends)

As I said last week, it is really important that we must defend the Inuit way of life, the aboriginal way of life, and through many forums we have been very successful in reaching out to various countries with regard to the issues at hand. I will certainly support your department again when it comes time to meet at the CITES level because it is important for the people that we represent.

(Translation) I was going to ask more questions regarding trapping. I do not have any updated information on the leghold traps that we are using. The Minister has told us that these are the best ones that we can use for trapping. In a way I supported him on these conibear traps. I do not think those traps are very useful in our country or on our land, which is usually covered with snow. I do not think they are the best to use in the North. Perhaps the Fur Institute of Canada could find a trap that would be suitable to use in the North. The animal rights activists have told us that we cannot use the leghold traps any more and if that recommendation goes through, our resolution will pass. That is what they have told us. In that case I would like to see a trap that would be the most useful in the North.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Mr. Chairman, first of

all I would like to inform the Members that I will try to keep you up to date on trap research, to see what kinds of traps they are trying to come up with. The Fur Institute of Canada is the one that is doing the research and they are funded by our government and by other organizations to do this. We are going to try to use the traps that would be the best and I will try to keep you up to date on that information. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Ernerk.

#### Establishment Of Tannery Project

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) We should go trapping sometime. Mr. Pedersen had mentioned tanned sealskins before. He was talking about making a purse out of the sealskin or making a wallet. I would just like to tell you a little bit more about them. Sometimes I have a disagreement with you and the response is always the same. You always say that we have been discussing this or it has been discussed from time to time before and the answer is that we are getting there, we are trying to get there. But when are we going to get there? I think the Minister knows and I was told when we were in Alberta that Mr. Pedersen made it very clear and I believe what he says. In 1982 and 1983 when we had the meetings overseas with the aboriginal people, they told us if we could find a market for sealskins they would support us. Last week they also told us the same thing. For example, sealskin with the fur on it, the jacket or the vest that I have, and I have seen the Minister using the same vest, I think we got it from Greenland. The name of the company is Inuk Furs and the company belongs to the Inuit. The fur itself is from the common sealskin. There is a label in those. For example, if we could do that as aboriginal people, they will support us. For example, they are against baby seals being killed. The Minister's response is always, "I agree with you", and another thing that he would say is, "That is what we are trying to do."

We have been discussing the tannery project for a long, long time. Ipeelee Kilabuk first got elected in 1975 and that has been discussed even before that. I think personally the government could come up with something because they have a fair budget and Economic Development usually says, "We could assist the people in the Northwest Territories." Mr. Chairman, I would like to see in the near future -- instead of saying that we are trying to get there, let us see those projects come to a reality. That is what I would like to see in the near future. I fully support the government. Perhaps he would like to respond to me.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) There are two projects on a tannery. Perhaps the first one will be sometime this year. The other one is going to be in the Western Arctic. I know they are going to start very soon and once we start those projects, I know the next one is a tannery.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) The only ones that I have heard of are the tanneries, according to the information that I have been receiving. Nunasi are trying to come up with a market for briefcases, but what is going to happen after that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you. When the tannery goes through, those programs are under the Department of Economic Development and that is the department that knows what is going on. I am pretty sure that if we have those two projects, they will be of more benefit to

the people of the North.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister. My next question is regarding the narwhals. Overseas, especially in Africa, they have been harvesting elephants for their tusks. They have destroyed a lot of tusks. People were poaching the elephants just for their tusks; I think it was in Kenya. When the government knows that we have enough narwhals, maybe our government could try to protect us to see if we could still harvest narwhals in the future. Will the narwhals be on the next agenda for CITES?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now I cannot tell you if the harvesting of narwhals will be affected in the near future, but we are managing the hunting of narwhals right now and we have quotas for the communities. I cannot hypothetically answer your question because we do not know what will happen in the future. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Kilabuk.

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I am a fisherman and we try to market the arctic char in our community. We cannot sell them overseas; we cannot sell them outside of Canada according to the regulations. If we would like to ship the arctic char to Winnipeg, I do not think it is very convenient through Winnipeg. Which province do you think would be the best headquarters for shipping arctic char or other wildlife that has been harvested by the hunters and fishermen? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Mr. Chairman, in regard to the marketing of arctic char, it is the responsibility of the Department of Economic Development. The Department of Renewable Resources is only responsible for the harvesting of arctic char, not on the marketing side. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Kilabuk.

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know your answer will be the same as the first one but I will go ahead with my question anyway. I was wondering if you are responsible for the studies that are conducted in the North? Is the Department of Renewable Resources responsible for these? If it is not your responsibility, then will you be making agreements with other departments who look after these things? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The research in the stock assessment is conducted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, by the federal government. When we met with the Atlantic commission we tried to debate with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans because they are the ones who do the assessments and make the decisions on how many quotas will be allowed in the communities. The research in the stock assessment that has been done is not that extensive but I will be supporting your concerns, and I will try my best to negotiate with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, but right now I cannot tell you exactly what will happen. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk.

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you for your response, Mr. Minister. If we want any stock assessment in my community, would we be able to make a proposal to you? I know you will be supporting our proposals too. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will try to collaborate on this matter. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** General comments. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of questions. I am not trying to extend the debate on the Department of Renewable Resources, but, number one, it is my job to ask and, secondly, the amount of money that we are being asked to pass is well over \$268 million; so I have a lot of questions with regard to the department's activities. It is the department that interests me quite a bit.

My other question concerns meat products. Just speaking for my own constituency, I understand there was a pilot project of some kind where in Chesterfield Inlet they were starting to make caribou burgers, and it quit. Could the Minister indicate to me and to this House the reason for stopping the program?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to receive a quarter of the \$268 million that the Member is talking about. I wish we had that much. I cannot answer on the meat plant that was started and has now ceased. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** General comments. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** Mr. Chairman, I apologize, I was looking at the wrong column. As a matter of fact, their budget is \$41 million. Okay. The other question that I would like to ask is within his major objectives for 1990-91 with regard to pollution control, "to initiate the formation of a Northwest Territories recycling association which will promote government and non-government involvement in waste recycling." The other one is "to promote and assist in the carrying out of the household hazardous waste disposal days in three communities, in conjunction with the municipalities." Which communities will be involved under this item?

(Translation) Also, the first paragraph I read, last year and the year before that we raised this a number of times, the recycling of beer cans, coke cans, and pop cans. All these are piled up in the communities. If we get recycling plants in the Keewatin Region, and I will use my region as an example -- if Rankin Inlet has a recycling plant in the near future, will the ships that arrive from the South, from the provinces, will they be able to pick up used cans to be recycled? Could they pick them up from the communities that they go to? I believe that this area is marketable too because it is a very meaningful idea -- it is cleaning the environment and making money at the same time. So will you have any plans in the future like that, Mr. Minister? Do you have any strategic plans in the Keewatin or in the Baffin for doing more recycling in the near future? This is a concern of mine and if you could answer this, Mr. Minister.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are only a handful of recycling plants in the Northwest Territories. There are only two of them at the

moment, one in Yellowknife and one in Iqaluit. The other regions have not approached us to get a recycling plant for their own region. If they want to recycle pop cans and beer cans they can get what they ask for. In regard to the three communities, we have not picked those three communities that you were talking about earlier. After we have defined the exact communities I will inform the House. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. General comments. Does this committee wish to go into detail? Mr. Gargan.

#### Radiation Level In NWT Wildlife Since Chernobyl Accident

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, one thing that the department is doing is a study with regard to wildlife habitat and migration. Mr. Chairman, since the nuclear reactor accident in the USSR, has the government done any studies to date regarding the effect it might have on animals? I understand there is a high level of radiation in caribou but I believe that it is not only the caribou that have been affected by this accident. Has there been an ongoing study with regard to the level of radiation in animals in the North? Since the accident, has it gone up and what is the acceptable level that is used now? I understand that at one time the federal government had used 300 becquerels as a level, but I also understand that as the radiation level goes up, so does the government's position of lifting up the radiation level so it keeps at a safe level. Three hundred was what it was and I believe it is at 1200 now. So the higher the radiation level, I think the government is in the position of putting it at a higher level than what is safe for consumption. Has the department done ongoing studies with regard to the level of radiation in wild meat?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have an ongoing study to determine the levels of radiation in the NWT, especially on wild meat. I can provide the Member with a full report if he wishes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** I do not know if the Minister is saying he will give me the information that I request; or is the Minister in a position to make public whatever information he has that he could summarize so that it is on the record and also would let the general public know that there are no hidden agendas regarding the level of radiation up here and that there is no cause for concern? Is the Minister going to provide me with the information or will he provide me with an answer in public at a later date?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, I could provide him with both; a full report to him and possibly a summary to the Legislative Assembly.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** The Minister did say that he has a copy of a study or a report done with regard to this particular study on the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident that happened some years back, whether or not there is need for alarm. I understand the Minister is going to be providing me with that information but the Minister must be aware, if he has got that study, whether or not radiation levels have gone up or down or whether nothing happened. Certainly the Minister must be aware, as a result of the study, what the situation is now. I would like to ask the Minister the results of the study that he is going to be providing. What are the results of the study that he is going to provide me with? What is the situation

now? Is there a situation in which the radiation level has been going up or has it tapered off, or what is the situation?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, there is no cause

for alarm for people to eat country food. After the accident the level went up by 20, 25 per cent but there is still little trace of that 25 per cent. Members should remember that there is a natural radiation that is detected from caribou especially. There is no cause for alarm for people to eat country food.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

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

--Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

#### ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to call the House back to order. Item 18, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

**MR. PUDLUK:** Mr. Speaker, my apologies, I forgot to thank the witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 9-90(1) and Committee Report 1-90(1), and wishes to report progress, with one motion being adopted.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. You have heard the report of the chairman of committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you.

Item 19, third reading of bills. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, meetings for February 27: ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m. caucus and at 11:00 a.m. the Members' group photograph.

#### ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 27th.

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

7. Returns to Written Questions

8. Replies to Opening Address

9. Petitions

10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

11. Tabling of Documents

12. Notices of Motion

13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

14. Motions

15. First Reading of Bills: Bills 2-90(1), 3-90(1), 4-90(1), 5-90(1), 6-90(1) and 7-90(1)

16. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 1-90(1)

17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Committee Report 1-90(1); Bill 9-90(1); Committee Report 2-90(1)

18. Report of Committee of the Whole

19. Third Reading of Bills

20. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 27, 1990, at 1:00 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT



Available from the  
Publications Clerk, Department of Culture and Communications  
Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
\$1.00 per day; \$40.00 for 1st session, \$20.00 for 2nd and 3rd session; or \$60.00 per year  
Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
of the Northwest Territories