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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

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

Balliantyne, 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 Municipal & Community
Affairs, 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, Energy, Mines &
Petroleum Resources, Public Works and
NWT Power Corporation

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 and Personnel

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 Safety &
Public Services

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
(Natilikmiot)

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)
Deputy Chairman,
Committee of the Whole

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.
P.O. Box 35
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
X0C 0A0
(403) 873-7962 (Office)
(819) 793-2700 (Baker Lake)
(Kivallivik)
Minister of Transportation 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.

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

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

Editor of Hansard
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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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Mr. Harry Finnis, B.E.M., C.D.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooooloo, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyeya, 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. Whitford, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 20, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 7-91(1): Metis Health Benefits

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, on October 22, 1990, I reported to the Legislative Assembly on the progress achieved over the past three years in improving the health benefits for Metis. This included the seniors health program, boarding benefits and an expansion of the number of specified diseases covered by the extended health benefits program.

The committee of the whole passed a motion during the seventh session of this Legislative Assembly asking the Government of the Northwest Territories to continue its efforts to improve the health benefits available for Metis. At the time, I indicated my support for this objective and promised to follow up with steps to further its realization. Since that time I have met with the president of the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories, and the Department of Health has identified the steps or tasks which must be taken to pursue the objective of increased benefits for Metis.

The first task is to establish a definition of Metis which is mutually acceptable to both the Metis Association and the Government of the Northwest Territories. An acceptable definition is critical in order to identify the beneficiaries of expanded health benefits. Officials of the Metis Association and the Department of Health met in January to begin discussions on this point. Legal advice on the definition is being sought by both the Department of Health and the Metis Association with the aim of having a proposed definition ready for Executive Council review in mid-March, 1991. Mr. Speaker, as soon as the definition is established it must be applied to determine who would be eligible for benefits. The definition must be sufficiently precise to permit valid and consistent application, both now and in the future. This second step will require a survey to determine who meets the established definition. This is a major step which is expected to take about three months. June 1991 is the target for completion of this step.

The third task will be the identification and definition of additional benefits. This matter is being undertaken by departmental staff during the next few weeks.

The fourth task will be to estimate the cost of increased benefits. This will require the expertise of specialists, who will base their projections of benefit utilization on health statistics and actuarial data. Work on this task will start soon, but the data which will be obtained from the survey will be needed to complete the final calculations.

Mr. Speaker, finally, the government will need to review the information, consider all the factors and make decisions on how much can be done and how quickly. The plan is to have a government decision by early August, providing the previously identified tasks have been completed.

Mr. Speaker, although these steps will take some time, the process which I have just outlined demonstrates the commitment this government has to the task at hand. Narrowing the benefits gap between status people and Metis has been a long-term objective of this House. My cabinet colleagues and I, as Minister of Health, will continue our efforts to increase health benefits for Metis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Slow Postal Service

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak today regarding mail service going into the smaller communities in my area. A lot of times the mail does not come into our communities fast enough, and a lot of the cheques that the older people are waiting for, family allowances and stuff like that, do not come into our communities when they should. For the businesses in our communities, there are no banks in our communities so I think the postal service should start organizing their mail because it takes forever for the mail to come into our communities. I think the Canadian government and the NWT government should start thinking about our communities. The postal service should be faster because they do not come into our communities when they should. I think this should be dealt with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

Member's Statement On Accommodation For Teachers

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak today regarding teachers. A lot of the good teachers live in our communities for a long time, and they enjoy living in our communities; sometimes the teachers live in our communities for about 10 years and more. They have a concern right now regarding accommodation. There is an accommodation rate increase and some of the teachers that do not have families live in a three bedroom home and some have to share a house with another teacher. This is a concern and it will be a problem or it is a problem with the teachers because there is not enough housing available for them with the government. Some people already know that the percentage is going up and it will probably go up to 65 per cent. The rate increase for accommodation will go up 65 per cent, probably. The teachers in our communities are experienced and if they have to leave, we will regret it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Member's Statement On Dog-Team Race Between Iqaluit And Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk about this event where they will be holding a dog-team race between Iqaluit and Lake Harbour. I would like to announce this occasion. People will be coming to my community from Iqaluit. The race will be on April 23, according to the schedule. Anyone who is interested is welcome to my community, whoever it may be. But unfortunately, there will not be too many participants from my community, so we will be very happy to welcome these dog-team mushers at that time. I used to ride my dog-team in the 1950s and 1960s to Iqaluit and I will be remembering that and I will be celebrating it. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Members' statements.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O71-91(1): NWT Air Flight Schedules

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister for Transportation. Could the Minister inform me or find out from the flight schedules proposed for the upcoming month, north of Yellowknife, for NWT Air? Mr. Speaker, we were told last Friday that it was the last flight on the Holman/Coppermine run by that airline and there was no previous announcement to the public or anyone. The rumour has it that other services will be discontinued by March 4. If the Minister has any information, could he let me know and if not, could he obtain it, please?

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

Return To Question O71-91(1): NWT Air Flight Schedules

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not have any up-to-date information. The airline industry is in a little bit of a flux right now. Schedules are being cancelled; companies are being sold. It is rather sad to see, actually, and it is not something that has caught us by surprise. We had predicted this would happen several years ago under the new freedom to move rules that CTC, Canadian Transport Commission, came out with and we said, "Look, deregulation is one thing, but in the North we have an extremely limited market. You could be in the stages of ruining our airline industry." Now we are afraid that we are starting to see some of those things come home.

I will attempt to get the information for the Member as soon as possible. I am not quite sure who owns NWT Air any more. I think it is Air BC who has most of the share. I do know that they have a representative in town now who is normally running things. I will have my staff contact them and attempt to find out the information for the Member.

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

Question O72-91(1): Life Support System Equipment At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, on October 14, 1990, one

of my constituents was involved in a vehicle accident near Fort Providence. The injuries he sustained were to his spine and he ended up being on a life support system. He is in the hospital in Edmonton. On behalf of the family, I would like to ask the Minister if there are any plans in the near future to have that type of machine in Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, so that the young man can be moved back to the NWT. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take that question under notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

Question O73-91(1): Number Of Northern Jobs Lost Due To Deregulation

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question, again to the Minister of Transportation. Since the deregulation of air traffic in the North, one airline in particular, in one area, seems to have suffered from a decrease in service and it is distressing to see how much has been destroyed that took so long to build up in the past. Could the Minister find out for me how many people have lost their jobs as a result of this? We heard 14 positions transferred to BC; the Electras are no longer with us; I do not know what has happened to pilots, air crews, maintenance personnel. Could the Minister find out how many jobs have been lost to Yellowknife, to the North in general, as a result of these sad happenings?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I certainly will. I will take the question under notice. I would personally also like to find out how many jobs we may lose in the future because I do not think that we have seen the end of it, but I do not know if the companies would be willing to disclose that information. If I can get that information I will try and find that out as well. Thank you.

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

Question O74-91(1): Possible Danger Of Fumes From Leo Ussak School

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and it relates to yesterday's question concerning Leo Ussak School in Rankin Inlet. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the school was opened to the public and to the teachers and the students. I wonder if there is a possible danger to their health while they are in the building. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O74-91(1): Possible Danger Of Fumes From Leo Ussak School

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, all the information and work that was done determining what the problems were in the school, all the health tests that have been done, environmental tests that have been done, show no indicators that there is a danger to individuals' health. Thank you.

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

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to anyone who can respond to my question.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order, please! The honourable Member must direct it to an appropriate Minister.

Question O75-91(1): Mail Delivery Service In Natilikmiot

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is regarding mail services, which I think would come under Government Services. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if there is anything this government can do to improve the mail delivery services within my constituency. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O75-91(1): Mail Delivery Service In Natilikmiot

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, as the Member well knows, we act in an advocacy role for MLAs and other consumer groups. I would be interested in receiving from him the problems that are being experienced and I would communicate them to the federal Minister responsible for post offices, Hon. Harvie Andre.

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

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The problem is mainly the delays in the mail deliveries. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I do not believe that was a question, maybe a suggestion. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O75-91(1): Mail Delivery Service In Natilikmiot

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, I wonder if there is anything we can do about this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Inuvik.

Further Return To Question O75-91(1): Mail Delivery Service In Natilikmiot

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will provide the Member with the name and address of the post office official who has been assigned the responsibility of dealing directly with the North and northern communities. His name is Dennis Chichelly, whose office is in Ottawa. I do feel that a letter from the Member to Mr. Chichelly directly, or a phone call, would be helpful and supportive of anything that I can do in my responsibility for following up on postal matters in the Territories.

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

Question O76-91(1): Outcome Of Meeting With Alberta Government Re Transboundary Water Agreements

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Mr. Government Leader, last week you

met with the Alberta government to discuss transboundary water agreements. I am not sure if you made a Ministers' statement on that meeting yet but I would like to know what happened. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O76-91(1): Outcome Of Meeting With Alberta Government Re Transboundary Water Agreements

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I did make a fairly full report to the House in response to questions from Mr. Lewis two days ago. Would it be impertinent of me to refer the Member to the Hansard? I think it provides all of the information that he might wish. Thank you.

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

Question O77-91(1): Conjunctivitis Problem In Keewatin Region

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. Last winter, in November and December, I went to Repulse Bay. There were many people with eye problems and it is also the same with the Keewatin area. When I visited the nurse in Repulse Bay, she said it was called "conjunctivitis", which is a long-term problem. This is the first time that I have seen this, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister is this, I wonder if there have been steps taken to resolve this. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am not up-to-date on the specific issue. I will take this question as notice and provide the response. Thank you.

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

Question O78-91(1): Dock Facility For Pangnirtung

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Each year I have been asking this same question. You were in my community this past winter and I was happy to see you there. You were there with some people from Montreal who came over for a review. I wonder what will be happening with our dock facilities that were planned for Pangnirtung. Have you had any further information on the plans for that area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I believe that my colleague would be best able to answer the question as this responsibility falls within his jurisdiction, but as the Member indicates, I did make a visit to Pangnirtung with people from the Port of Montreal, who, as Members know, service the Eastern Arctic on the docks and with the shipping. The reason that I invited them north to the northern communities was because I feel that many times the people who serve us in the South are not aware of northern conditions. We did visit Pangnirtung and Broughton Island so that they could get a first-hand look at the extremely difficult offloading conditions that are experienced in both those settlements, and I am hopeful that one of the individuals, anyway, may come up with

some ideas as to how we could improve and streamline the current process for shipping into the Eastern Arctic. However, my colleague would probably have a more definitive response with regard to providing docking facilities at Pangnirtung.

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

Return To Question O78-91(1): Dock Facility For Pangnirtung

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer, between the Departments of Transportation and of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, we will in fact be designing a new harbour facility for Pangnirtung. The design and engineering work will be done this summer. It is being done jointly between ourselves and the federal government, and Government Services will be consulted as well as MACA and the other departments affected. As I mentioned in the House in the last session, we have managed to convince Fisheries and Oceans to participate with us, so we will be designing and doing the engineering work for a new harbour facility this summer.

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

Question O79-91(1): Timing Of Sealift Into Grise Fiord

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. For many years now the sealift has been coming into Grise Fiord. There is a problem with ice if they come in too late in the season. Sometimes they have come up when the water is starting to freeze. I wonder if the Minister of Transportation has held any meetings with shipping management to see if they can readjust their schedule. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O79-91(1): Timing Of Sealift Into Grise Fiord

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my knowledge we have not held any meetings. I was not aware that there was a problem. The sealift in the Eastern Arctic is handled by the Canadian Coast Guard out of Montreal and what I can do is undertake to write to them and indicate that there may be some problems with the lateness of the season and see if they have reasons for coming that late in the season. I do not know, maybe there are some problems with ice further down in the Gulf of St. Lawrence or in the straits, but I will attempt to find out from the coast guard what their reasoning is for having the sealift so late. I can do that. I will not be able to promise to get an immediate response because I will have to write to Montreal, so it could take some time to get a reply, but I will do it. Thank you.

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

Question O80-91(1): Government Assistance For Colomac Mines

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. It deals with the pending closure of the Colomac mine which provides some jobs to this area and the area of Rae-Lac la Martre. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not Colomac Mines has approached this government for any assistance and whether or not this government is assisting them in any way in their difficulties.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O80-91(1): Government Assistance For Colomac Mines

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, over the period of time when Colomac began to have its difficulties, particularly because of the low price of gold and the anticipated low price of gold, we have had a couple of meetings with the Executive with their attempt to find some solutions to their financial problems. At this point in time, they have stated what their financial problems are, or the magnitude of them; however, they have requested the Government of the Northwest Territories to perhaps give them some support in their dealings with the federal government to have the federal government look at their particular concern once again. However, there is a great deal of difficulty in getting past the officials because the whole financial problems around Colomac are very deep-rooted and it appears that the federal government is not willing to step out right now at this time to help them out financially. We will be bringing this to the attention of Minister Siddon when he is here tomorrow. However, I do not think it will be very likely, given the low price of gold and the problems the mine has been having, that there will be any financial support coming.

As for the Northwest Territories, we really are not in the position of providing funding to an activity such as that. The royalties from the mine go directly to the federal government. Certainly within the limited resources, we do not feel that the territorial government should take a lead role at this time to financially bail a company out. We do not necessarily do that to very many operations such as this. Certainly, as the Minister responsible, I have tried to give them some support in organizing themselves to perhaps have a more favourable climate with the federal government; however at this time, we have no mandate to spend territorial funding for this particular activity.

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

Question O81-91(1): Strategy For Increase To Northern Residents' Deduction

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Several Ministers are very fond of using the word "strategy", as if they were engaging in some kind of battle that they were going to win if they followed the strategy correctly. My question is to the Minister of Finance. In his Budget Speech he mentioned that he had a strategy to deal with the federal government in relation to the northern residents' deduction. We have a very young population who are being hurt by the GST, by increased inflation, and by the high living cost in the Northwest Territories. I would like the Minister to explain to us what his strategy is to get an increase to this northern residents' deduction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O81-91(1): Strategy For Increase To Northern Residents' Deduction

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Member will recall the long, successful strategy we had in the early and mid-1980s when we actually got this deduction introduced for the first time. At that time, the strategy consisted of the collective organization of mines, unions, the business sector, government and municipalities, who worked very closely together and put a co-ordinated, well documented, well thought out approach forward to the federal government. After a number of years it was successful.

I am in the process presently of finalizing the last aspects of whatever GST breaks we can get as a government. I hope to finalize the whole sad GST chapter within the next couple of weeks. Once I have concluded that, I will start the strategy that you ask about. I have sent a letter already to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Wilson. Over the past three years, we have made many, many presentations on the GST. We also were building our case on this particular deduction. Every submission that we made was another part of that long-term strategy.

So we have assembled, over the last three years, a pretty impressive number of documents. We have also managed, through our presentations to various committees of the Senate and the House of Commons, to receive some very favourable comments on that particular approach. We have also been told by Finance officials from the very beginning that changing the GST would be essentially impossible and if we were to look for breaks for Northerners we should probably look to the Income Tax Act. So we were very cognizant of that when we made our presentations on the GST over the years.

Once I have concluded the issue of the GST with the federal government, I will start actively to pursue that strategy, to work together with various groups across the Territories, and to have a very concentrated, well thought out approach which, if it does not meet with success during the term of this federal government, we hope we will have set the scene, at least, for success with the next federal government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O81-91(1): Strategy For Increase To Northern Residents' Deduction

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is some inconsistency in the response of the Minister, Mr. Speaker, because it seems to me that if in fact the GST was already passed, has already been implemented, that there can be no linkage between our other financial problems, this personal northern residents' deduction, inflation problems, or any other problems. I would like to ask the Minister, since he says that there are ongoing discussions with the federal government about the GST, which we already have, how does that relate to this northern deduction that I have asked him for information about?

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

Further Return To Question O81-91(1): Strategy For Increase To Northern Residents' Deduction

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Sometimes it is unproductive to discuss strategy publicly, but I will try to explain the linkage as I see it. There are still issues that we are in contention with, with the federal government. I am at odds right now with the federal government about some of the details of the GST. It seems to me that you do not go down to ask for something when you are in the middle of a fight. What I would like to do is resolve this issue cleanly so that we all know where we stand and then start from that point. To mix up the two right now I do not think would be a wise approach. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O81-91(1): Strategy For Increase To Northern Residents' Deduction

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister saying,

then, that he is urging people not to comply with the provisions of the GST so that we would have some room to manoeuvre? Is that really what I am to read in the response that he gave me?

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

Further Return To Question O81-91(1): Strategy For Increase To Northern Residents' Deduction

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No.

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

Question O82-91(1): Winter Road Between Pelly Bay And Spence Bay

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Transportation. Mr. Minister, there was speculation some years ago that a survey was done between Pelly Bay and Spence Bay to determine whether or not a winter road would be built to facilitate the need for cheaper transportation as opposed to air transportation. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O82-91(1): Winter Road Between Pelly Bay And Spence Bay

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any study that was done several years ago. I am aware of a study that is being done right now by my department to look at the feasibility of a winter road between Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay and perhaps Spence Bay. That is ongoing right now, but I am not aware of when it was done several years ago. If the Member is aware of such a study, perhaps he could inform me later as to who may have done it and where I might be able to get my hands on information, but it is something that is being looked at just now.

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

Supplementary To Question O82-91(1): Winter Road Between Pelly Bay And Spence Bay

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. As I said before, it was a speculation, but I wonder if the Minister could seriously look at building a road between Pelly Bay and Spence Bay, rather than Pelly Bay and Repulse Bay. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O82-91(1): Winter Road Between Pelly Bay And Spence Bay

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at the cost benefit analysis of a winter road network in that area. I should indicate to the Member that preliminary investigations show that the sealift going into Repulse Bay to service Pelly Bay would be far cheaper than anything going into Spence Bay simply because of the vast difference in the cost of goods between Montreal and the Eastern Arctic and Edmonton-Hay River and all the way around the Arctic Coast to Spence Bay. There appears to be a major difference. That will determine where a winter road, if any, will be built -- the actual cost of transportation of the goods.

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

Supplementary To Question O82-91(1): Winter Road Between Pelly Bay And Spence Bay

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary. If the road between Pelly Bay and Repulse Bay would be more beneficial to the area and to the department, I wonder if the Minister would look seriously also at having the 50-50 financial benefit between Aivilik and Natilikmiot. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O82-91(1): Winter Road Between Pelly Bay And Spence Bay

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously that would be one of the factors that we would consider, not only in the maintenance of the road, but I would suggest that in any activities on the road, for example companies who are hauling the goods, there could be joint ventures between a Pelly Bay and Repulse Bay company. All those are available. I can assure the Member that there will be economic benefits that accrue to Natilikmiot as well as to Aivilik.

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

Question O83-91(1): Factors Involved In Building A Winter Road

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I want to direct this question to the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Wray, my friend.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the question to the Minister of Transportation is, what all is involved in planning a winter road between Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay? Would that mean that somebody would have to build a huge warehouse, for example, to keep the dry goods which are destined for the community of Pelly Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O83-91(1): Factors Involved In Building A Winter Road

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is hard for me to speculate right now because we are just in the process of looking at all those possibilities, but obviously if a winter road was constructed with its primary function to carry goods from Repulse Bay to Pelly Bay that are brought in on the sealift, obviously storage facilities would have to be built in Repulse Bay to hold not only the dry goods, but also the fuel that would come in on the sealift for reshipment to Pelly Bay when the lakes and the land are frozen and have sufficient snow cover to allow for the construction of a winter road.

It is not as simple as I would like it to be. We have to look at the cost benefit analysis, first of all, and assess what it is presently costing the government through Government Services, the Housing Corporation and Social Services in terms of the cost of goods in Pelly Bay; the cost of transporting them in there; how much money could be saved; the cost, if we were to do it, from Montreal; how much it would cost there. All of that has to be factored in. We have to look at the topography to find the best route; we have to

consult with both communities; we have to take a look at the environmental concerns, obviously; we have to take a look at timing and how long and when the road could be opened and where it would be open to, and also the cost of the maintenance.

We have to look at equipment simply because I do not believe that either Pelly Bay or Repulse Bay have sufficient equipment within the communities to build a road like this, so we would have to look at perhaps funding, either through the department or through the private sector, for equipment to build and maintain such a road. We would have to look at the construction of these facilities and where they would be; there are town planning objectives. We would have to look at the transportation of the goods, at who was going to do it. Would it be government or would it be the private sector? Would that mean that we would have to help the community set up some companies, help them to develop these companies?

There are a lot of problems involved with this and it is going to take some time and some planning because if we do it -- and I say "if" because no decision has been made -- it will have to be an integrated approach that will cross several departmental boundaries. I would like to make sure that when and if we do it, we do it properly. Thank you.

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

Question O84-91(1): Runway Lights, Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. I would like to talk about the airstrips, especially in Lake Harbour. Perhaps something could be done about the runway lights in Lake Harbour. Sometimes when the power goes out we have to use some other source so that we could have lighting at the airstrip. I am wondering if the lights can be changed that are on top of the hill, to be able to work, not just to burn, but actually with electricity. I have been asked to bring this up by the people who work at the airport. It is very inconvenient, especially when it is windy, to light the two hills in Lake Harbour that are not very close to the airport, but they also have requested to put lighting there so it would be safer to try and go to Lake Harbour. I am wondering if a study can be done on this; on the airport lighting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice. I do not have my briefing book on the capital for Transportation over the next couple of years, so there may even be something in the works right now, but I will take it as notice and get back to the Member as soon as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

Question O85-91(1): Shipping Company That Would Use Winter Road

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again is directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation. Mr. Minister, if the winter road should be constructed between Pelly Bay/Repulse Bay or Spence Bay/Pelly Bay, which marine company, shipping company would be involved in this? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for

Kivallivik.

Return To Question O85-91(1): Shipping Company That Would Use Winter Road

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the goods were shipped to Spence Bay for transshipment to Pelly Bay, it would be Northern Transportation Company Limited; if they were shipped to Repulse Bay, it would be the company that does the sealift for Baffin plus Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour.

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

Supplementary To Question O85-91(1): Shipping Company That Would Use Winter Road

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Would it not be more practical to use the northern preference shipping company? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O85-91(1): Shipping Company That Would Use Winter Road

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I have to give the Member credit for trying hard. That is a factor, but I have to be honest; the determining factor will be the actual cost of the goods. Indications are the goods, particularly fuel, shipped into Repulse and Coral -- it is vastly cheaper to do it that way than through the other route. That will be the main determining factor, just the cost, because obviously we have to show significant cost savings because that is the money that we are going to have to use for construction of the road. If we were to absorb any cost savings because of any motives, there may not be any money to build the road. All of the factors will be considered. Thank you.

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

Question O86-91(1): Impact Of Free Trade Agreement And GST

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. The federal government, over the last several years, has had a major platform consisting of three elements: the first one was constitutional renewal; the second one was the free trade agreement with the United States; and the third one was tax reform resulting in a consumer tax. I would like to ask the Government Leader, since we have already begun our own constitutional review with its own committee and so on, has he looked at the impact of the free trade agreement that has now been in effect for a few years? Has he looked at that to see if there has been any impact on the Northwest Territories?

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

Return To Question O86-91(1): Impact Of Free Trade Agreement And GST

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Gordon Wray and I have shared the responsibility of monitoring the free trade agreement. Mr. Braden in Ottawa has attended a number of meetings and what I will make available to the honourable Member is the information that we do have on the impact of the free trade agreement and that possible negative impacts could occur.

Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O86-91(1): Impact Of Free Trade Agreement And GST

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the third issue I raised then, the GST, which has dominated the debate for some time now, has the government really made an analysis? I have heard that there has been some work in progress, but would the Minister of Finance confirm that the impact of the GST on the people of the Northwest Territories is being examined so that we know exactly what that impact is?

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

Further Return To Question O86-91(1): Impact Of Free Trade Agreement And GST

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Obviously we will be looking at it, but the honourable Member must recognize it just came into effect January 1. In fact, some of the details have not been agreed to as we speak here. We will be analysing it, but it might well be a year or two years before one can make any reasonable conjectures from the analysis. Thank you.

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

Question O87-91(1): Availability Of Dogs For Drug Detection

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. The drugs that are going into the communities, there is a big concern with that. If they come from a bigger community then they surely go into the smaller communities and I would like to ask the Minister, would the sniffing dogs for the drugs be available to the communities?

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

Return To Question O87-91(1): Availability Of Dogs For Drug Detection

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Member knows, this particular question has been asked a number of times over the past few years. He also knows that we have used, on occasion, dogs to search out drugs in some of the larger municipalities. I have been having my officials talk to the RCMP to see if there is any cost benefit of actually having a dog and a handler here in the Northwest Territories, and what is the effectiveness of using a dog in a smaller community rather than in an airport in a larger community. I will try and get some more definitive answers back to the Member when we conclude our discussions with the RCMP.

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

Question O88-91(1): Additional Whale Survey, Baffin Region

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Government Leader. This winter the survey that was done on whales in Baffin Central and Baffin South, I believe the results from the survey will be given to the Minister even though they were not very accurate. Does the

Government Leader know, or is he aware, if they can do another study -- independent organization to do the study or to conduct another survey which would be more accurate and the people, the Inuit, would be involved in the study? Can you look into this Mr. Government Leader? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O88-91(1): Additional Whale Survey, Baffin Region

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been involved in this very difficult issue in connection with my responsibilities for the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories. I can tell the Member that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has responded positively to the offer of the Science Institute to try to get involved in this issue so that the views of the hunters, the so-called traditional knowledge of the hunters about whales, could be properly taken into account in doing surveys of the number of whales and in developing a management plan.

Mr. Speaker, I can report, and I have been working in conjunction with the Minister of Renewable Resources whose officials are also involved in this matter due to our representation on the Nunavut Wildlife Management Advisory Board, that progress is being made with the hunters represented by the regional hunters and trappers committee of the Baffin Regional Council, with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and with the Science Institute, toward coming up with a new way of studying the animals, reviewing the data, and coming up with a plan. I would be pleased to provide the Members affected with more information once meetings are concluded which are going on right now on this subject. It is a bit early to tell what will be planned for further surveys or for the coming summer but it is being worked on and this government will keep the Members informed as developments occur. Thank you.

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

Question O89-91(1): Advance Warning Of Drug Sniffing Dogs In Communities

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Justice. The dogs that do the drug searches -- I am aware that there was one in Iqaluit a couple of times, twice to be exact. I have heard that when they have dogs in a community they print it in the newspaper in advance to advise the public. Why do they publish it if they are going to have a dog in a community? Why do they publicize it? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I do not know, unless they are being exceedingly fair to drug dealers. I cannot think of any reason why they would announce it. I will check on that but as far as I know the whole element of surprise would be very important so I will get back to the honourable Member and take the question as notice. Thank you.

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

Question O90-91(1): Minister's Attendance At Conference Of High School Presidents

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. Last Sunday, and I commend him for

this, he was at a conference of presidents of our high schools throughout the Northwest Territories. It is a wonderful idea to try to talk to the clients about what is good and what is bad about the school system. I would like to ask the Minister, what did he learn from those very, very able young people about what is good in the school system and what is not so good about the school system?

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

Return To Question O90-91(1): Minister's Attendance At Conference Of High School Presidents

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, last year we started having gatherings of the presidents and representatives of student bodies from all of the high schools and residences from across the Northwest Territories. They had a meeting last year and again last week to talk amongst themselves about some of the issues that they wanted to bring to the attention of Members of the Legislative Assembly, of myself as a Minister, and to get some idea as to how the system of government works, and how they can start to feel some sense that they too, as a group, have something to say and that they have a right to be heard. This process is, I think, coming along pretty well. I think the level of frustration, and whatever else builds up in young people who feel like they are not being given the respect and proper recognition, I hope, is being dealt with.

I spent about four to five hours with them one day last weekend, and many of the MLAs, as well, have taken some time to meet with them. In fact, they had dinner with them on Sunday night. They had said they were going to write down some of the comments, questions, concerns and recommendations that they had themselves, to myself, and I will be sharing that with all of the Members of the Legislature whenever it becomes available. We will be providing some response to each of the things that they raise.

I do not know if it is the most important thing, but the one that keeps coming back to my mind is one that all of the students that met on the weekend said they liked the idea of, things like Inuktitut language courses in the schools from kindergarten right up to grade 12. They like the idea of Dene language courses being provided throughout the school system. They like the notion of a northern studies program coming forward.

They have two concerns and they have said basically, in a sense, "If you are going to provide us with these courses, give us good quality courses that are going to challenge us; give us courses that are presented in a way that is going to be interesting and not put us to sleep and bore us. Do not treat us like little children. We want a challenge and we want it of the kind of calibre that we expect."

The other comment they made was, "We need special types of teachers to teach these courses. You cannot hire somebody from southern Canada, bring them up here and then have them teach some of these courses. You need background, you need to understand Inuktitut, you need to understand the Dene language to teach some of these courses. You need to understand the background, the history of the aboriginal people, northern people, in order to teach some of these courses. You need to understand the contemporary issues of things like claims negotiations, political and constitutional development." These are the kinds of things of which they say you cannot fake it; either you are well versed in it or you are not. Bringing in a teacher from the South and telling them to read this stuff and teach it to us is not going to fly. We know it is not flying in some cases so they want to bring this to our attention. Those are the two

things that come to mind. Overall, I found it to be a tremendously interesting dialogue with some very young bright people that are very, very articulate and able to express themselves. This is what we have been hoping for and I am more than pleased with the discussion so far. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O90-91(1): Minister's Attendance At Conference Of High School Presidents

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously memory will always be a bit selective and one or two things will stand out in your mind, but I wonder if the Minister will tell us when he is going to be able to provide us with this document, this summary of what happened over that weekend. It seems to me that getting information from the leaders in the school system, from young people, will be a very, very useful thing to have. So could he tell us when we might expect to get that as Members of this Legislature?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Sahtu.

Further Return To Question O90-91(1): Minister's Attendance At Conference Of High School Presidents

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest that perhaps it could be in a presentable form by early next week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, replies to Budget Address. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Petition 5-91(1), a letter from the Lake Harbour Housing Association, requesting more housing. Included is also a schedule of when they were supposed to expect housing. There are 60 signatures on it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Aiviliik.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

CR 4-91(1): Report Of The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your standing committee on legislation has the honour of presenting Committee Report 4-91(1), a report on committee procedures to be used in the review of government legislation proposed for the eighth session of the 11th Assembly. Mr. Speaker, in previous reports to the House, special note has been made of difficulty encountered with the tardy submission of draft government public bills for review by the standing committee on legislation. Problems in the timely receipts of bills have recurred again with respect to legislation proposed for consideration in the eighth session. This has occurred in spite of the standing committee's best efforts to work co-operatively with the government through pre-session

consultation and flexibility in reviewing draft legislation.

Since the 10th Assembly it has been the convention for all proposed legislation to be reviewed by the standing committee six weeks prior to the first day of each upcoming session. On several occasions over the course of the 11th Assembly, draft bills have been submitted for committee review after the six week deadline.

Mr. Speaker, in preparation for the eighth session, consultations were held during the fall of 1990 to address government concerns that the total legislative package would be unavailable in time for the six week deadline. It was agreed, due to the unusual circumstances of timing and duration of the eighth session, that the standing committee would receive proposed legislation for review up to the end of February 1991. It was still anticipated that the government would make the effort to submit the bulk of the draft legislation by the ordinary six week deadline.

Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner's Opening Address outlined a legislative program which includes 44 bills. This large legislative program was far beyond the number of bills that the standing committee was expecting. Of these, only 13 were received from the government in time for pre-session review by the standing committee on legislation and/or the standing committee on finance.

In addition a tabled document including proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection Act and a Private Member's Public Bill, Access to Information Act, were available for review. A subsequent four draft bills were submitted one week before the opening of the eighth session – too late for pre-session review.

Mr. Speaker, at the present time, 26 of the 44 bills identified in the Commissioner's Opening Address for introduction during the eighth session, have not been received by the standing committee on legislation. The revised amendments to the Environmental Protection Act have yet to be seen. Major pieces of new legislation, including a Mine Safety Act, an Agricultural Products Marketing Act, a Wildlife Conservation Act, and a Travel and Tourism Act, are among those that have not yet been made available to the standing committee.

This has been of concern to Members of the standing committee on legislation. The committee must have an adequate opportunity to review the policy and legal implications of proposed legislation prior to the bills' introduction in the House. In many cases it is important within the review process to include an opportunity for the committee to invite public comment on the content and purpose of legislative initiatives. Within the current process and with the shortened government time lines for the submission of draft bills, this is frequently impossible or difficult.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee is cognizant of the translation needs for Inuktitut and French versions of bills and has noted an improvement by the government in this area. However, the committee also has to ensure the translation of research reports and other committee documents. If time lines are not followed, this impacts on our capability to provide adequate and accurate translation of these materials for Members.

The standing committee is also aware that much work is entailed in the drafting of legislation and compliments the staff of the legislation division for their excellent efforts. The government should be mindful that the standing committee also has a lot of work to do as well when it comes to reviewing draft legislation and that it does not have the vast resources or expertise that the Minister has within his department.

At its January meeting, the standing committee on legislation passed a motion not to review any proposed legislation received after January 2, 1991. This was the ordinary deadline, six weeks in advance of the first day of the eighth session.

At its subsequent meeting on February 18th, however, the standing committee reconsidered this earlier decision. Committee Members were aware that much of the proposed legislation is keyed to the good conduct of government in the Northwest Territories and were sensitive to the importance of doing everything possible to facilitate the legislative process. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, Members voted to approve that the government may forward proposed legislation to the standing committee on legislation for its consideration.

It has been stipulated, however, that the government may not introduce any of the proposed legislation received by the standing committee on legislation until six weeks after the date of receipt of any proposed bill. It should be made clear that this decision is intended only to address the situation surrounding the review of proposed legislation for the eighth session and should not be seen at this time as a procedure for the future.

As indicated in the standing committee's report on pre-session considerations, a review will be undertaken during the eighth session to identify recurring problems in the legislative process used by this House and hopefully propose alternative strategies for dealing with bills in the 12th Assembly.

Central to our considerations will be the importance of opening the legislative process to facilitate broader public input and ensuring adequate time for review. In the interim, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee on legislation calls upon the government to renew its efforts to participate within the committee review process in a more open and timely fashion, and to carefully ensure that appropriate levels of consultation are undertaken with interest groups and the public at large when amending statutes and introducing new legislation for the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that the report of the standing committee on legislation be received. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I must indicate to the honourable Member for Aivilik that his seconder is not in the House at the moment.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the report of the standing committee on legislation be received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Perhaps the honourable Member for Aivilik could indicate a Member of the committee as seconder to receiving the report. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Motion To Receive CR 4-91(1), Report Of The Standing Committee On Legislation, Carried

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is only Wednesday. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for South Baffin, that this report be received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The seconder is the honourable Member for Baffin South. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I call for a question, and I should just correct myself, it is Baffin South, not South Baffin as I mentioned.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 16-91(1), a letter to the Members of the Legislative Assembly from Sharon Lafferty and family of Fort Resolution. Basically the letter says that they would like to start a fund to assist the government in buying a life support system for Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 17-91(1), a letter concerning GNWT accommodation policy, rental increases. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motion. Notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 10: Insurance Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, February 22, 1991, I shall move that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Insurance Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 13: Labour Standards Act, No. 2

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 22, 1991, I shall move that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 2, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 15, motions.

Item 16, first reading of bills.

Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7, CR 2-91(1), Bills 8, 9, 11 and 12, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

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

Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Bill 7. Departmental order of consideration. Does this committee wish to go to Legislative Assembly? Is this House agreed? We will go to page 1.10, Legislative Assembly. I will ask the Speaker to make the opening remarks. Mr. Speaker, do you wish to make your opening remarks?

Legislative Assembly

Speaker's Opening Remarks

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Colleagues, I am pleased to present the 1991-92 main estimates for the operation of the Legislative Assembly. In my presentation I will probably go beyond just the issue of my presentation regarding the main estimates today, but there are few occasions when I get an opportunity to speak in this Assembly and I want to take the opportunity to do so.

General Election In 1991

I am sure I do not have to remind you that the 11th Assembly is now in its last year of its four-year term and the fact that there will be a general election in 1991; I assume whenever the Members of this Assembly decide that such an election should be held, and its impacts on the operation of the Legislative Assembly. In some cases we are able to budget for items that we are aware of, such as election costs. However, there are a number of items that we have made provision for but dependent on the election results, we will have to adjust those budget items up or down by supplementary requests during 1991-92.

Addition Of Person Years To Budget

The budget before you represents an overall increase of seven per cent. The most significant increase is for 3.5 person years. One person year is for research services and .5 of a person year in elections. You will note that the program structure reflects the addition of the office of the commissioner of official languages, which will add two person years to the estimates of the Legislative Assembly.

Translation Services In Legislative Assembly

I would like to advise that the service that the Legislative Assembly is providing in our official languages is, in my opinion, the best in government. The Assembly has two full-time Inuktitut interpreter/translator positions and Members have expressed their pleasure with the improved services we are providing in this language. You will all have noted, too, that the use of Dene languages in the House and in document translation, which has increased significantly, and the addition of French has, to date, not caused us any operational problems. You will note that the Legislative Assembly has listed 16 definitive objectives and I am confident that they will be achieved during 1991-92.

I would like at this time to express my appreciation to all of the dedicated staff of the Legislative Assembly. Working for political masters is not always easy and the staff of the Assembly work in this unique environment and continue to perform their job functions effectively and efficiently.

Legislative Assembly Building Project

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Management

and Services Board as it deals with policy and administration of various acts of the Assembly. The board has worked diligently on the new building project and this will continue in 1991-92. The Legislative Assembly building project is on schedule and I am sure you are all as pleased as I was with the response to the building society bond issue. This is of particular significance as it is all northern money that is invested for the future of the North.

Mr. Chairman, the majority of the budget of the Assembly reflects legislated requirements and I can assure you it contains no items of a discretionary nature. I can also assure you that in reviewing the budget I wanted to be assured that the figures accurately reflect the operational direction of the Assembly and I am satisfied that every penny is accounted for.

Need For Independent Speaker

Mr. Chairman, I also wanted to take this particular opportunity to make a few additional general remarks. Mr. Chairman, there has been some public criticism that has been directed toward me and my role as Speaker, and so-called lack of public role in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Chairman, this is not unique to me. In fact, the Speakership and those who have preceded me have been also criticized. Simply put, the role of the Speaker is probably the most difficult of tasks despite the continuous efforts by the present and preceding incumbents to work on constituency matters. In other words, you may lose the formal proceedings of the public role in the Legislative Assembly, but you never lose the role of being responsible for raising constituency matters and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, the need for an independent Speaker is always necessary. My belief of that is that the Speaker helps protect the privileges and rights of Members. He is responsible for maintaining the decorum necessary for good and proper debate in the House. Mr. Chairman, as important as enhancing the formal practices of the House, the Speaker must ensure and enhance the importance of the institution we call the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker is your ambassador, whether it be to the people of the Northwest Territories, to Canada, or to the international community. In many respects the Speaker gives the necessary public perception which is required to enhance the public stature and status of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. This role, I must say, is not solely the responsibility of the Speaker but rather he or she is the first and usually the most obvious impression the public has of Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Appreciation To Members

Mr. Chairman, I want to make an additional few remarks with regard to my role and I believe several significant changes that have occurred in the past year which I believe is important for the Members and the public to become aware of.

Mr. Chairman, firstly I want to say that I have enjoyed my role as Speaker. I believe, as Mr. Pedersen believed, that the traditions and the history surrounding the authority and role of the Speaker is worthy of protection. Mr. Chairman, I do not want Members to get the impression that my first year as Speaker has been without problems or personal frustration. However, despite these problems and frustrations, I would not exchange my experience during the past year with anyone in this House.

I can say that I appreciate continuous support that I have received from the former Speaker, Mr. Pedersen, and Members of the Management and Services Board. I want to express my appreciation to all Members for putting up with my

personal tirades when trying to address my constituency matters and maybe the individual who has put up with more than anybody else has been Mr. Pollard, but nonetheless he has accepted some of the criticism and often at times been open to the criticism and yet he still remained an extremely important person in terms of the kinds of issues that I am able to raise with him personally.

I want to also say to these three particular Ministers, not to suggest or point out to favourites, but I want to indicate to the Hon. Gordon Wray, the Hon. Tom Butters and the Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, how much I have appreciated their method and their efforts to address issues of constituency nature that I have raised over the past year. I also want to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Ballantyne and Mr. Patterson for trying to ensure that there is a better relationship in terms of the Speaker and the cabinet.

Rule Changes

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to point out, I believe, some very significant changes that have taken place over the past year. Some of these as a result of Rule changes have occurred that have reduced the role of the person who assumes the responsibility of Speaker, particularly in 1990 when there was a rule indicating that -- and approved -- that made the decision that the Speaker would not continue to participate in public debate. I accept and I think that all Members should accept that particular change. It is necessary as I indicated earlier. It is necessary to have the confidence of Members of this House that the Speaker will in fact be an independent individual who maintains the integrity of the Rules of this House.

There are some decisions that have been made by the committees that have suggested or indicated that the Speaker would not continue to participate in the committee process and I believe that, that too is necessary.

Responsibility Of Speaker

Despite the fact that there will be some frustrations in terms and certainly that has occurred in my situation, but I think it is necessary.

It is necessary to ensure that whatever or whomever assumes the role of Speaker is always seen to be given the independence that is necessary. I must say a couple of things on that particular issue. I still want to say that despite the fact that those decisions have been made, it is always necessary to reflect on some of the concerns that my predecessor, Mr. Pedersen, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, raised and maybe I should reflect upon those again, that in terms of his comments when he decided to resign as Speaker. I think that in sharing his observations with honourable Members and here they are, that priority access to cabinet is normally extended to Speakers in all jurisdictions. This is to compensate in his constituency concerns for the loss of any politician's most important and effective tool, his voice, his ability to speak out freely, his ability to take sides and to express his opinions and his right to participate in question period and to take part in the debates in the House. This is even much more so the case today. While this access has not been denied me, I must inform the House that access, unfortunately, has not translated into action and my constituency consequently has suffered. Not to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that this has been the case, but rather my belief is that there is a need to develop what I consider to be an appropriate protocol or guidelines that will guide the relationship of the Executive Council to that of the Speaker. I think that it is necessary for us to develop that situation and that relationship and clearly indicate to the Members of the House what that relationship is, because my

belief is that any future individual who assumes the responsibility of Speaker, knowing the kinds of significant changes that have occurred over the past four years in terms of his removal from any debate in the House, is much more significant, even more significant today than it was four years ago. I think that Mr. Pedersen himself, can vouch for the kind of frustration one feels in terms of assuming the responsibility of the Speakership. This is not, as I indicated, not unique to probably Mr. Pedersen and I; probably the same circumstances occurred with other Speakers who have assumed the role and probably the history of this particular role.

I want to conclude, Mr. Chairman, by these few remarks. I want to conclude by reminding Members of the difficult circumstances that you place on any Member who assumes the role of Speaker. As much as a Speaker protects your institution and your rights and privileges as a Member, you too must enhance the status and protect the role of the Speaker. Your views and the public expressions of the Speaker's role is just as important as the Speaker defending the need of such role. Mr. Chairman, I want to say that how you treat the Speaker's responsibilities as an MLA of the Legislative Assembly is very important.

Personally, in my final comments, I want to say that I feel that the independent nature is required and necessary to have the full confidence of all Members of the Legislative Assembly and I believe that the Speakership is a full-time job and should be established and recognized as such. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I call for general comments, we will just take 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come back to order. I wonder if Mr. Speaker would like to go to the witness table with his staff. Is this House agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Just for the record, could you introduce your witness, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to introduce on my right, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. David Hamilton.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. We are on page 1.10, Legislative Assembly. General comments. Does the committee wish to go page by page? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 1.10, Legislative Assembly, total O and M, \$9,071,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 1.11, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, total department, \$295,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): That is it for the O and M. We now go to the capital book.

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

On page 1.11, detail of capital, Legislative Assembly, building and works, total region, \$138,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total buildings and works, \$138,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total activity, \$138,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We will go back to the program summary on page 1.9, total capital expenditures, \$138,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. That concludes the Legislative Assembly, and I would like to thank Mr. Speaker and his witness at this time. According to the order of consideration, the next department will be Economic Development and Tourism. I wonder if the government is ready to debate Economic Development. Mr. Government Leader.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wray will be giving the opening remarks for the department. We would suggest that we go ahead this afternoon. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Government Leader, you can call me Mr. Chairman, not Mr. Speaker, not yet anyway.

---Laughter

I wonder if the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism is ready to make his opening remarks.

Department of Economic Development And Tourism

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. GORDON WRAY: Today I am pleased to present the budget of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. I am pleased, Mr. Chairman, because with this budget we are well on our way to implementing the economic strategy.

Within this budget we have placed a lot of emphasis on capital. We are asking you to approve a new capital budget of around 15 million dollars. This may sound like a lot of money, and it is, but compared to the task before us it is barely adequate.

Economic Development Corporation

We see the Development Corporation as a major tool for small community development, and it is a high priority within our budget proposal. Over two thirds of our capital, or 10 million dollars, is allocated to it. Mr. Chairman, during the previous session I made a statement on the Development Corporation. As I said, the corporation is now a reality. We have made substantial investments in a new arts and crafts facility in Pangnirtung and we are expanding and upgrading one of our most successful projects, the Fort McPherson canvas shop. The corporation is now looking at similar proposals to add to its portfolio, investments in manufacturing, tourism and renewable resources. These are being sought in all regions and may involve joint ventures with the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, all investments by the corporation must be approved by its board of directors. Rest assured, however, that Members of the Legislature will have a full accounting of the corporation's activities.

Business Development Fund

Another major initiative is the establishment of our new business development fund. We have combined 13 programs to form a comprehensive business incentive program designed to meet the needs of businesses throughout the business cycle. This is only the first step in making our programs more responsive to the business community. I am pleased to report that the new consolidated business development fund will start next fiscal year. This is reflected in our budget, which has reallocated roughly \$3.5 million in O and M funding for this program.

Mr. Chairman, demand upon our financial assistance programs, especially with the expiration of the Economic Development Agreement, will increase significantly. We are already experiencing some of this. For example, as of December we had approved 128 applications for contribution assistance: 24 from the Baffin; eight from Deh Cho; 16 from Inuvik; 28 from Keewatin; six from Kitikmeot; 23 from North Slave; 13 from South Slave and 10 with a territorial impact. Almost half of the applications came from the Eastern and High Arctic. This is a big improvement over previous years when almost two thirds of our contributions went to group one or developed communities. We can still improve, especially in the Kitikmeot Region and in Deh Cho, but I am convinced we are on the right track.

We also helped a diverse range of businesses. Contributions were provided to an airline company, newspaper, bakery, video stores and fish plants. Our smallest contribution was for \$1100 to help a grocery store while the largest was for \$100,000 to help the Gameti Development Corporation construct a hotel in Rae Lakes.

Mr. Chairman, as most Members are aware, the department also supports a variety of business and industry associations, ranging from the local tourism zone associations through to the NWT Chamber of Commerce. In addition, we provide various forms of industry assistance such as freight subsidy on fish. The common thread of these programs is that they benefit entire sectors of the economy. Over next year we will be writing a new policy for this assistance. Work is under way in co-operation with affected agencies, and in the interim, contributions toward industry support remain unchanged.

Business Loans And Guarantees Fund

Mr. Chairman, before moving on to other areas of the budget, I would like to review some highlights of the Business Loans and Guarantees Fund. Last year we approved 58 loans amounting to \$4.7 million. This makes for an average loan of \$81,000. Every year more and more businesses are taking advantage of the loans fund. Expected loans receivable by the end of this fiscal year will exceed \$19 million.

Overall, this has been a very successful service but improvements can be made, especially to assist businesses in the less developed communities. As most Members know, Mr. Chairman, we hope to introduce legislation to create an entirely new business credit corporation this session. This legislation will propose a number of changes including: creating an arm's length agency; easing application requirements in communities not serviced by commercial banks; allowing us increased flexibility to deal with different needs of less developed communities; and introducing a performance bonding capability.

Self-Employment Loan Fund

Mr. Chairman, we also want to do more to help craft producers, fishermen and other small community businesses. To do this, we plan to develop a separate loan fund. This self-employment loan fund, or SELF, represents a novel approach to development and control at the community level. Through it we hope to give people at the local level control over a loan fund designed to assist the very small or micro business. People in the community will be responsible for approving loans and collecting payments. If someone needs craft supplies to finish an order, for example, they can borrow a small amount of money from the local committee. There will be no requirement to fill in a lot of forms and make a lengthy application to the business loan fund. This fund will be introduced on a test basis early in the new fiscal year. Once we have worked out the bugs, I hope we can implement it on a larger scale.

Buy North

Mr. Chairman, our "Buy North" initiative, as the name implies, is designed to increase sales through awareness of northern goods and services. We are working on a number of initiatives, both within the public and private sectors.

We have just initialled a memorandum of understanding with the GNWT Chamber of Mines to look at ways of increasing the industry's northern purchases. Together with the chamber we hope to develop a directory of businesses supplying services to the mining/exploration industry and maintain a register of buyers and the products they require.

Arts And Crafts

Mr. Chairman, I would like now to discuss some of our industry plans, starting with arts and crafts. Mr. Chairman, I have placed a renewed emphasis on the development of our arts and crafts industry. This is an important economic and cultural sector of our economy, which provides supplementary income to over 5500 Northerners.

Our efforts to develop the production end of the industry will be balanced by a plan to increase sales. I think we are all concerned about the impact of the recession on the marketing of our cultural products. However, I am confident that creative marketing initiatives undertaken by my department will counteract some of this pessimism.

The Masters of the Arctic exhibit sponsored by the Amway Corporation under the auspices of the government is currently

being shown at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. This year it will also travel to Japan and then throughout the USA. Mr. Chairman, apart from the favourable publicity and excitement generated by these venues, I will be organizing commercial venues next year. These will travel with the Masters of the Arctic exhibit and will open up new markets. I am especially hopeful about our marketing opportunities in the United States.

We are also undertaking a number of other initiatives, starting with the need to ensure that artists have raw material. We have already made significant progress in expanding the quality and supply of soapstone. With Project Carving Stone we have committed \$650,000 to develop five major quarry operations. Some of these sites will be identified using satellite geophysical data. Mr. Chairman, one of our earliest industries is moving quickly into the space age.

While we are trying to solve the problem of supply, we have made arrangements for communities to use imported stone. The choice is, and always has been, a community one. I would also like to add that we are now expanding into other materials, principally bone and antlers.

Secondly, we hope to set up a small tools program. Like many traditional industries, arts and crafts is becoming more technical. I am proposing we set aside \$400,000 for the introduction of small grants to purchase equipment and tools for artists. Without proper tools and equipment it has been very difficult to encourage increased production and even more difficult to attract younger producers into the industry.

We have already assisted more than 85 artists in the Keewatin, Baffin, Kitikmeot and Inuvik Regions at a cost of \$133,000. This proposed budget will properly fund this important program at a level required to ensure revitalization of the arts and crafts industry.

To help the industry organize itself we have contributed over \$50,000 to the Native Arts and Crafts Society to develop a five year strategy for creating a new arts and crafts industry association. We hope this will improve communications within the industry and provide a collective voice for arts and crafts producers.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot increase production without increasing our marketing effort. We have recently completed a marketing survey that identified significant demand for our arts and crafts in the United States. A series of commercial exhibits is being planned to open up this market and promote our industries. We have also opened discussions with Arctic Co-operatives Limited on ways of improving our service to distributors and other clients.

As I mentioned, Mr. Chairman, the Economic Development Corporation is making a \$1.2 million commitment to develop a new arts and crafts production facility in Pangnirtung. What we learn from this facility will be applied to the development of similar centres to be developed in such communities such as Baker Lake and Clyde River.

In our current budget we are also trying to help some existing craft shops, starting the Acho Dene Arts and Crafts and Nahanni Butte store. These projects have been operating without any funding increase for five years and the additional \$180,000 we have budgeted for them will replace funds transferred from other departmental programs. I would like to add that last year we spent a total of \$283,000 on these projects and we received revenues in return of \$237,000. Our net cost per store averaged out to \$23,000.

We are also looking at ways of helping a segment of the arts industry that deserves increased support. I am speaking

about our cultural industries and especially the performing arts. Plans are being developed and I hope to complete a strategy during the first half of 1991.

These are only some of our initiatives in arts and crafts. Many smaller projects are under way, both in Yellowknife and at the community level.

Renewable Resources

Most Members of this Legislature represent constituencies where renewable resource harvesting is fundamental to community life. The commercial development of renewable resources is a high priority within the department, and we have made major progress.

One product we are aggressively trying to market is arctic char. Right now we are testing the market for canned arctic char. Our primary target is the Pacific/Asia tourist market in Vancouver. Mr. Chairman, I believe most Members have sampled this product and I think all will agree that we are on the right track.

Mr. Chairman, we are not only doing this to sell more arctic char. We want to increase the value of the fish to our residents. Every time we export fish to be processed elsewhere, we export jobs and incomes. Results look promising and we are planning a second canning, this time with 10,000 pounds.

A lot of our other work in fisheries involves the development of processing facilities and test fishing. In the Baffin we undertook, in association with the federal government, an offshore test fishery involving the Iqaluit Hunters and Trappers Association and two private contractors. Although more work is necessary, we have found shrimp, snails and scallops along with a range of fish. We have also experimented with char traps and gill nets at Nettilling Lake in the Baffin.

We are also trying to expand the fishing industry in the Keewatin. Commercial fishermen from other parts of Canada and the NWT were hired to help train local fishermen in some new techniques and to assist us in developing new fish plants.

In partnership with the Government of Canada we are also assessing the quality and quantity of fish in the Mackenzie Delta region. Volumes of whitefish and inconnu amount to 41,000 pounds dressed weight. Testing will continue to develop commercial quotas for the Delta.

South of the lake we are working with the residents of Fort Resolution, through their hunters and trappers association, to outfit a number of class B fishermen.

Mr. Chairman, over the years many fishermen have called for our withdrawal from the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Corporation. This year, together with the fishermen's association, we commissioned a review. The report recommended that we stay within the FFMC. Mr. Chairman, I have agreed to that recommendation.

With regard to the fish freight subsidies, the department has established a steering committee. Its purpose is to recommend changes to the subsidy that will encourage the hiring of northern workers by commercial fishermen as well as encouraging greater efficiency.

We are not making these changes in isolation, Mr. Chairman. This spring we held a major fisheries conference to discuss the industry and the role of government. Many of the changes I have outlined developed from that conference.

Another major target is country meats. This spring the

department and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation conducted a musk-ox harvest involving 100 animals on Banks Island. All meat was processed and inspected by Agriculture Canada. We test marketed the product but results have been mixed. Demand seems to exist, but volume orders have not materialized. However, having samples of musk-ox meat was instrumental in the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Development Corporation obtaining a potential order for 110 tons of musk-ox in Japan. Much work remains, and I will keep Members informed of other developments.

We are also experimenting with game ranching. By using the economic development agreement and departmental funds, we were able to start work on a buffalo operation, the Hanging Ice Ranch, near Fort Smith. We have encountered some initial difficulties but we expect these to be solved shortly. I have no doubt that this operation will provide some valuable lessons for the future.

For years, Mr. Chairman, we have talked about the potential for commercial forestry, particularly in the Liard Valley. Like our other renewable resources projects, development will only proceed with community involvement and support. Working with the community and local development corporations, we have identified a number of potential investors. This is only the first step, but I think we are making substantial progress towards developing this resource for the benefit of residents in the region.

Finally, we are continuing discussions with various marketing boards on the establishment of agricultural quotas for NWT producers.

Tourism

Mr. Chairman, I attach a lot of importance to tourism. It has the potential to attract outside dollars to communities, and it is an industry which lends itself well to traditional activities. Yet, as most Members are aware, the year has not been without problems. Tourism is a very competitive industry. We have a unique product but we are operating in a competitive world. We cannot afford mistakes. This is why I attach high priority to the development of new legislation to govern the operation of the industry.

In developing this legislation we consulted extensively with tourist operators, the industry, aboriginal associations, and members of the public. The new Travel and Tourism Act proposes to establish an industry assurance fund to offer protection for tourist deposits, and a guide certification system that is not meant to restrict access, but simply ensure that guides have the necessary skills to deliver potential services and to enhance resident benefits.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot overemphasize the importance of training. We learned from the economic strategy that education is closely tied to employment and income. If people want to take advantage of the range of opportunities within the industry, in management as well as guiding and other service jobs, we have to develop skills specific to tourism.

An important objective of the economic strategy was to strengthen the linkage between tourism and our native heritage. In our new tourist ads we are including pictures of handcrafted items, and they will receive added emphasis in the "1991 Explorers Guide".

We are focussing our marketing strategy toward alternative markets, especially Japan, in addition to the US market. With regard to the Japanese market our emphasis is on the non-summer or non-peak travel. Last year our northern lights tour met with some success and this year we will be attempting to

expand into ice fishing, snowmobiling and other winter activities. Mr. Chairman, the strategy stressed the need for facility development, particularly in smaller communities. We are planning to do this.

Deh Cho

In the Deh Cho area, \$345,000 for improvements to Blackstone Park. This park will be the first one for visitors from British Columbia and is also our only outdoor recreational park. We want to upgrade some buildings, install shower facilities as well as construct a lookout tower. Group camping facilities will increase the park's value to tourists travelling in Nahanni National Park. Construction, as outlined in the plan, will continue over two years.

In Fort Liard, we are continuing development of the visitors centre, budgeting \$125,000 for next year's construction.

Fort Smith

In the Fort Smith Region we have a large number of interesting projects. Many of these focus on the historic importance of the region's trade routes. In the community we are progressing with the research and planning necessary to establish an historic park on the grounds of the former Catholic Mission residence. Such a project would be our first historic park that featured an historic building.

At Fort Resolution we have budgeted \$30,000 to start plans for development of the old mission site. We believe this could be a major development and community attraction.

Some of the major attractions south of the lake are the parks at Louise Falls, Alexander Falls and Escarpment Creek. We are planning to group these three parks and link them with a hiking and bicycling trail along the river.

We are also planning a number of developments in Hay River, including extending the current campground to the beach and developing an historic marine centre to commemorate transportation on the lake and Mackenzie River. In addition, we are assessing the possibility of developing a park along the beach at Hay River. In this year's plan we are looking at land availability, themes and concepts.

North Slave

In the North Slave much of our attention is on history. Historic parks provide a unique opportunity to combine cultural development with tourism promotion. Kekerten Historic Park in the Baffin has proven to be a real tourist attraction. To date, we have no other similar historic site in the North Slave. The development of old Fort Rae, as outlined in our capital plan, will be the first. This year we plan to acquire the site, develop a theme for its development and begin some archaeological explorations.

Nor are we neglecting existing facilities in the region. The Prelude/Ingraham Trail campsites have been one of our heaviest used. This year we plan to commit almost \$200,000 to upgrading facilities along the trail.

And finally we hope to continue with our four year plan for major renovations to the Fred Henne Park outside of Yellowknife. This is the most heavily used park in the Northwest Territories.

Kitikmeot

In the Kitikmeot, the region's historic and natural beauty is largely undeveloped. We hope to start changing this. Over the next five years we plan to include five of the region's

communities in the development of a Franklin Exhibition theme and marketing strategy for the Northwest Passage.

We will add to this historic theme work in Cambridge Bay. Over the next five years we hope to fully develop an historic park incorporating various historic sites in the community, including the old town site, the Roman Catholic Mission and the boats, the Baymaud, the Eagle and the Aklavik. Work on these sites will be co-ordinated with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

In Coppermine we are undertaking a number of projects, including the development of a Copper Inuit Exhibit. Along with a display of arts and crafts, it is hoped that this exhibit will attract tourists to the community. Other activities in the region include work on signs and campgrounds in every community.

Inuvik

In the Inuvik Region we are looking at planning some major developments which take advantage of all of the region's natural and historic resources. Some prominent examples include the development of parks and other facilities along the Dempster highway. Over the past few years there has been a 60 per cent increase in Inuvik tourism. Eighty per cent of these visitors used the Dempster highway. Along with the Yukon government we are planning to develop roadside facilities and campgrounds. We hope to have an outside display in place at the Dempster/Alaska junction by next summer. To date, we have spent almost \$600,000 developing these sites.

In Tuktoyaktuk we are committing over \$350,000 to further the development of an information centre, campground and community trail. I should add that Parks Canada has designated a Pingo Landmark Park which will complement these proposed facilities.

Baffin

In the Baffin Region we are completing over four million dollars in projects. Some of the more interesting projects include the Baffin Cultural Centre in Iqaluit. To date we have spent close to \$1.5 million on this facility. Iqaluit represents the hub of tourism in the Baffin. This facility is designed to lure tourists to outlying communities and to act as a central information point for the entire region. Another major development we are working on in Lake Harbour is the Kimmirut Soper River Park. The Soper River area has the potential of becoming a major tourist attraction. In many ways the area's geology, fauna and flora are unique to the region. Total costs for this development are estimated to be over half a million dollars.

Keewatin

In the Keewatin Region we have developments planned for most communities. However, our major investment will be in developing the Kazan and Thelon Rivers. As most Members are aware, these two rivers have been designated Canadian heritage rivers. I should add that the Coppermine and Arctic Red Rivers are also now under consideration. One of the most visible projects associated with this will be the restoration of the original Hudson's Bay store and warehouse into a centre for orienting tourists to Baker Lake and the heritage river system.

In Arviat we are planning to construct a small new visitor centre. Over the past few years the community has benefitted from package tours originating in Churchill. By next fiscal year we hope to have the building's shell completed and some temporary exhibits in place.

In Rankin Inlet we are looking at building upon the community's archaeology. We have a lot of projects in the planning stage, but the first development will be the Meliadine Thule site.

STEP

I do not believe any discussion of our budget would be complete without mention of the STEP program. As Members of this House are aware, we reintroduced the program last year in response to concerns about small community employment. We have redesigned the program so that it provides work and income opportunities for people who have difficulty obtaining a job. Last year we undertook some interesting projects, including: \$8000 to the hamlet of Aklavik to undertake grave site beautification; \$5000 to Fort Franklin to help with expansion of the drop-in centre; \$10,000 to Spence Bay to help paint hamlet buildings; over \$13,000 to the artists' association in Pangnirtung; \$20,000 to Fort Liard to assist in the construction of ski trails; \$8000 to the Fort Simpson Dene Band to help them maintain the papal grounds. In total we spent over \$400,000 to assist with around 70 projects. Similar projects are being planned for this year.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, these are only a few of the initiatives we are planning for the 1991-92 fiscal year. As you can see, we are committed to the economic strategy and its successful implementation. Over the past year we have done a lot. We have introduced the NWT Development Corporation. We have combined our business assistance programs into a new business development fund which focusses on community development. We are making a large capital investment in our parks and tourism infrastructure, much of this in our less developed areas. We are preparing new legislation to create a business credit corporation. We have developed a new policy for small loans, the SELF program, which is being developed for crafts people and small businesses, and we have developed some innovative new projects for our traditional economic sectors.

We still, however, have a long way to go. Helping people to earn a livelihood in their home community, simplifying government programs, expanding the range of goods and services available and the hope we have for a prosperous future are ideals that we all share. This proposed budget is only a small part, but with your support and advice and the involvement of other agencies throughout the NWT, we can achieve those goals in every community and in every region. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Just a question, Mr. Chairman. I was asked by Mr. Pollard if I would handle the standing committee on finance comments on this department, so at the appropriate time I will do it on his behalf.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Okay, Mr. Lewis, now is the appropriate time.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first item that the standing committee on finance dealt with was the issue of what we called "development officers". It was part of recommendation 29 of the report of the special committee on the northern economy, to provide funding to communities to hire development officers. "At present economic development

officers do not respond to the basic needs of under-developed communities and are not available in each under-developed community. The committee recognizes that recommendation 29 has an immediate priority with an immediate payback."

Recommendation 16 recommends this, Mr. Chairman: "The committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism propose reallocations to its budget during the 1991-92 fiscal year and commends providing funding to communities to hire development officers as outlined in the SCONE report."

The second item was to do with a comprehensive audit. "Recommendation 15 of the SCONE Report was to set up a comprehensive evaluation system for all economic development type policies, programs and projects. One year later the committee does not believe that the department can assure the Assembly that its operations are effective and are being carried out with due regard to efficiency and economy." Recommendation 17 of the standing committee on finance reads, Mr. Chairman, "The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly request that the Auditor General of Canada undertake a comprehensive audit of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and report thereon to the Legislative Assembly."

The third item has to do with the NWT Development Corporation, Mr. Chairman. "The government is requesting Legislative Assembly approval for 10 million dollars in investment capital for the NWT Development Corporation in 1991-92. The committee was informed by the department that plans for how the money would be spent would not be available until March 1991. No policy guidelines have been formulated and no future year amounts have been identified." Mr. Chairman, recommendation 18 of the standing committee on finance reads as follows: "The committee recommends that before the Legislative Assembly consider approving the capital expenditure of \$10 million for the NWT Development Corporation, that the Assembly should be provided with a better explanation of policy and funding guidelines and an identification of the investments to be made, and further that the NWT Development Corporation develop objectives to guide its efforts in the coming years." Those were the three recommendations, Mr. Chairman, and at the appropriate time we may want to move those recommendations.

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

Upgrading Of Lake Harbour Airstrip

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few comments that I would like to make concerning the park around my area. I think it is called Soper River. I am glad that this is happening and the people of my community are very happy about these plans. I also think that while we are on this subject the economic development officers would probably come into our communities by air and because of that I think there should be more changes made to the airstrip in Lake Harbour so that it is well maintained for tourism. It is good to see that they are setting up a new park in that area that was mentioned. It would be good to have our airstrips upgraded. I am not saying that this might be a hindrance to the tourism growth in our community but I think we should still be reminded that it needs to be upgraded.

My other comment is about the fisheries project in the Cape Dorset area. The people of Cape Dorset have said that at Nettilling Lake they would like to do some fishing in the summertime. Because they normally do this activity in the summer they have indicated an interest in making this project grow, especially at a time when carvings are selling at very low prices. Lake Harbour should also be remembered if they

are going to do studies on the potential of fisheries in Lake Harbour. The hunters and the people have to have revenue and income. In fact, shrimp and cod and the fishing industry should be encouraged in the areas where I was elected. This is what I would like to see being studied in my constituency.

The people from Lake Harbour are not selling any more carvings and the co-op is not buying any more carvings at all. Once in a while they will buy carvings, but this is very limited. They will not be selling any more carvings in the future. We would like to see the sale of them for a while yet. The people from Baffin South would like to see if we could sell more carvings and we are asking the Department of Economic Development if they could assist us. Perhaps we could get funding from the department. There used to be a program and perhaps we could start using that program again if the Department of Economic Development could give us that funding.

Another concern we have is that we do not have an economic development officer in our community. I know that there is one in Cape Dorset and he covers Sanikiluaq. But I think his travel schedule is not very well organized. He does not come to our communities. I do not know if he goes to Sanikiluaq, because it is further. It must be hard to travel there.

The people of Lake Harbour are supporting the constituency of Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset but when it comes to economic development officers it becomes a problem. I think it would be better if an economic development officer comes to our community from Iqaluit. Perhaps this could be arranged.

Those are all the concerns that I had with regard to economic development. I fully support the tourism study in Lake Harbour and I would like to get assistance from the other Members, as well, for those concerns that I have expressed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the meeting just started, we were talking about economic development, that there should be more said. The subject is economic development now and the other Members seem to be not in the room any more.

We were told that money is going to be very hard to get. The prices on furs are low. For example, it is harder to sell sealskins and the carvings are very hard to sell now. Also, all the prices are going up due to inflation.

It is good to hear about a program like that. It will assist the communities. Perhaps we would like to receive funding but it also means that the GNWT has to get more funding; they have to apply for more funding from the federal government and we do not usually get everything that we want. We usually try to allocate the money that we receive to the communities in the North. We have to keep on trying as a Legislative Assembly.

We all know that the tourism industry will be growing every year, not only to the northern communities but to the entire NWT. We are going to be receiving more visitors but the question right now concerns the war. Perhaps they will be short of funding for a while. As for the future, we have to keep on trying to get what we are trying to achieve right now.

The NWT seems to be the last place in Canada where the environment is still not damaged and there are not too many communities and too many houses. It is a tourist attraction. People who want to go on holidays will be coming up to the North. The NWT is the cleanest place in Canada now and we

have to keep it clean so it will be a tourist attraction.

I also support carvings and furs because a lot of people are unemployed and I would like to assist those people. At that time we were saying we were not discussing that subject but now since the subject has come up, most of the Members are out of the room. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I would like to recognize the mayor of Fort Providence, Mr. Sonny Jenkins.

---Applause

General comments. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comments that I listened to from the Minister convince me more than ever that we are never going to be able to solve our economic problems by assuming that the Economic Development department is really going to have the major impact on the way that our economy is going to develop. It is a very small proportion of the total amount of money that we get in revenues in the NWT. It is therefore going to have a very limited impact. If there is to be an acceptance that you have a planned economy -- and more modern thinking suggests that you cannot do it that way, you cannot plan economies from the top down, they have to come the other way.

But we have a unique set of circumstances in the NWT and you can only really successfully have a centrally planned economy if in fact you have some system for doing that. Having one department of government with a very small proportion of the total government resource in order to achieve that, is never going to go very far because we have a completely unco-ordinated attempt to get our economy on the road. We have very often been critical of one of the weaknesses of our system, which is that we have departmental government.

So we have \$1.1 billion that we know is spent in the NWT every year; from this year onward, we can assume that we are always going to have a billion dollar budget. The amount of that money that really impacts on the economy -- and by the admission of the Minister it trickles elsewhere, it does not stay here, it goes somewhere else, into travel to distant places, investments in different places, many of the purchases we make; it still goes south. So we can never really take a top-down approach unless we find a way of co-ordinating that expenditure in such a way that the economy really does take advantage of it.

Nearly all modern thinking, it seems to me, has really contested the idea of centrally planned, top-to-the-bottom economies. It is something of the past. The only way we could justify it in our government is if we were to really look at the vast amount of money in the Territories, basically all government money, and say, "Okay, it would work if we accept that this is the reality; this is the money we have got and we have got to make it work as well as we can make it work." My own particular preference is that we look at it from the opposite end. Things are only going to happen if you get somebody moving stuff locally.

We have talked very often about these movers and shakers, people who get things done, that are good thinkers who can see opportunities, and because they are on the ground can actually make things move. We have given examples of people like that from the past who have been able to shake things up and move things. I very often use the example of the previous mayor of Hay River, Mr. Pollard, who is a good example of somebody on the ground who can get things moving and get things done. When he was living there he was very successful in doing something about power rates,

gas rates, very successful in bringing economic enterprises into the community, because you have a vested interest there, you live there and you want to see something happen. People expect you to do something. So unless you get people of that kind in the community that will actually get things moving, then it's going to be very, very difficult to see things develop in those communities. If you are always going to be the recipient of something from somewhere else, you are never going to be very successful in developing a strong local economy.

So that would be my major concern, Mr. Chairman. We have a department that is trying to develop a top-to-the-bottom type of economy but with very limited resources; that department's work, that is all. Whereas if we had a total government approach, not a departmental approach, but a total government commitment to a plan to do things, then it seems to me that that \$1.1 billion could do more good for us than it does right now.

We have made recommendations in our SCONE committee that we try to solve that problem. We would accept that there can be some trickle down, one trickle if you like, if we accepted that premise that the \$1.1 billion can be working better than it really is.

I read recently, Mr. Chairman, just about a month ago, an article by a very prominent American economist who really questions nearly everything that all the professionals have said about economics over the last couple of thousand years as it relates to putting money into the hands of people that can really make it grow and develop a capitalist system where things would move to such an extent that so much wealth would be created, so many more jobs would be created, and eventually there would be a trickle down so that everybody would benefit by helping these movers and shakers at the top who could really get things done and create wealth.

The other philosophy, that the States should find ways of distributing wealth, that is the main job of governments; that they get money and they do not really worry much about where they get it from but they find some way of distributing it equally among people.

Three Basic Elements For Developing An Economy

It seems to me, from reading this particular article by a man called Reich, a Harvard professor, a very, very eminent individual, that the current thinking is that those outworn ideas of the difference between socialist approaches and capitalist approaches are worn ideas. If you were to boil down the things that really mattered for developing an economy, you could boil it down to three simple basic elements:

1) You have got to have people that have good skills; clever, adaptable people that really can do things, because it is people that develop economies and they have to be clever, trained, able, motivated people. So the key element is your human resource and you have to find a way of developing that so that they will, in fact, become important players in your economy.

2) The second important issue, and the Minister has referred to this in the past, is that you can never really get a well-developed economy if you do not have a good infrastructure, and he has begun to develop this as it relates to transportation. But when we talk about infrastructure we do not just mean airlines and roads and wharves and docks and so on. You mean the total support system for those human beings, those clever human beings that you are going to have in the centre of your plan who really need to have some support, like hospitals and schools and so on. Unless you have got that infrastructure in place that human resource is

not going to be as productive as it could be.

3) The third most vital thing is, how do you attract money? How do you find a way of attracting wealth, getting some kind of investment in the part of the world that you would like to see this economy take off?

I am convinced by that very simple argument that those are the key things if you really want to get an economy rolling.

We have seen so many cases in the past, and we have used Japan as an example. Japan has got absolutely nothing as far as resources are concerned. They do not have all the wealth that we have got in the NWT. They have got absolutely nothing. They have no resources. And yet they have developed the most powerful economy in the world, simply because they have concentrated on those three things; on their people, on the infrastructure and finding ways of generating wealth and reinvesting it.

I am so convinced by it, Mr. Chairman, that I feel that having listened to the Minister and, earlier on, getting a briefing on some of the directions that he intends to go, that if we are going to be successful in taking the top-down approach that he seems to want -- he wants to be a hands-on Minister and make things happen and so on -- the only way that can really be successful is if we get a co-ordinated approach to economic development, for which he has a basic responsibility.

Key Recommendation Is Mover And Shaker At Local Level

I am not suggesting that we create a new CD Howe who is going to be the guy that runs the world, but we can take his approach, I think, of being a hands-on person and making sure that the best value for the dollar is obtained if we take this co-ordinated approach. However, at the same time, if that were to happen, you have to concentrate upon what we consider to be the key recommendation of the special committee on the economy, which is that you have to have a mover and a shaker at the local level; somebody that can really make things happen. I am not talking about a great intellectual that has been to fancy schools and is well qualified, like Mr. Allen and Mr. Noseworthy, who have been to places where you learn all of this stuff, but people who have got a nose for an opportunity and know how things can work and how they can happen. It would be my suggestion that if there is any key recommendation in all of the things that we learned when we did our travelling, it is that you have to really have somebody on the ground to make things move. Half the time opportunities are there and they just pass by because there is nobody there to take hold of it. I am thinking of the tremendous resources that exist, and Mr. Pedersen referred to it, with the huge musk-ox population. Maybe if there was one person who had the time and everything else to say, "Okay, this is a tremendous, glorious opportunity," just that one thing, and go for it, that is the one thing that could make the difference. And I know how to do it.

We very often find cases, Mr. Chairman, in the history of development, where the people who have made the difference -- and I am thinking now of a very significant book that appeared in the 1950s called "The Ugly American". This book described how not to do everything. You send off a bunch of money to some country somewhere in the name of aid and the people build some monument somewhere, spend millions and millions of dollars, get a whole bunch of people working on the monument, and that is finished. They contrast that with the development type who is sent off to a little village somewhere and really gets to know everybody very well, gets to understand the people very well, can see the opportunities, and suddenly he decides that they have been trying to do

something here that makes no sense; so what he would do is do something about the water supply. That is the basic problem and that is what has to be solved: an infrastructure problem. That practical guy would say, "One of the economic essentials for this community is to solve that problem. Everything sort of spins from there." Or you may find somebody who says, "The only thing that makes sense in this place is chickens," and goes ahead and he gets it moving and people go along with him because they can see it, too.

Those are just some opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I am optimistic that some things can improve as a result of the Minister's initiative, but I would be more convinced if he could find some way of co-ordinating our economic efforts in a better way than we can and, in summary, find a way of getting some of these key people, practical people, that I know are available all over the place, who can make things happen in a community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments on Economic Development. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, before I proceed into some general comments, may I ask the Minister a question, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Go ahead.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, after having listened to his introduction and having scanned through the budget for the department, if he could inform me where in this budget do I find, for the general area we could describe as Kitikmeot/Nunakput, the funding for a major slaughterhouse for musk-ox, for a wool processing plant, for a major tannery for something that will handle up to 20,000 per year, and for the manufacturing establishment to produce these things into marketable products? Are they there or are they again not there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: They are not in here but there are some initiatives under way with joint initiatives with the federal government where they would be contained.

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

Two Ways To Attract Private Enterprise

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, when we get into details of the budget, I will ask the Minister to be a bit more specific. I would like to comment on the opening remarks to the extent that -- it seems to me that there are two ways one can look at production in whatever one of the industries we are talking about, be it tourism, be it in renewable resources, be it in arts and crafts. From the beginning we have to accept the idea that we are going to do this economic development in what is by southern standards a non-competitive area. No business person in his right mind, if he is using the traditional yardstick of measuring viability, would say, "I am going to establish a plant in Gjoa Haven or Clyde River and I am going to manufacture things there in order either to sell them there or move them out." There is not enough of a market on the spot and the cost of shipping them to market is too high. Also, the production costs at these places is not competitive with the production costs for the South.

Having said that, it is, I think, unrealistic to expect industry to invest in major plants to achieve this development unless there is some sort of an incentive for them to do this. It can be done in one of two ways. It can be done in a method that is being used in Arctic Scandinavia, Lapland in particular, by all three countries, Sweden, Norway and Finland, where the government goes in and identifies an area, say for downhill

skiing or whatever, and builds a plant and then leases it out to private enterprise to operate. The cost of establishing it is then removed from the private enterprise.

The other way, it seems to me, that we could attract the private enterprise to make the major investment in capital would be to provide a production subsidy. I tend to think that may be the simplest possible way for us to do it. I would recommend that we give some consideration to providing a production subsidy in arts and crafts, an item produced from renewable resources in the Northwest Territories.

The Minister alluded to the marketing of musk-ox meat and said that the response had not been that good, yet the quantities of musk-ox that we talked about, which may be 5000 or 6000 animals per year, is considerably less than the quantity of beef that arrives in Yellowknife every year. If, in fact, we could change the eating habits of those who eat that beef that gets in here to eating musk-ox, we would not even have to do any marketing in the South of the product we have. We should be able to market it all through here. Changing people's tastes may sound difficult, but I suspect that if we, through production subsidies, made it possible to sell good musk-ox steaks, et cetera, for a dollar a pound in Yellowknife, you would see everybody switching to it very quickly. It would certainly go a tremendously long way towards establishing a market by making the price so attractive that you might say you could not afford not to take advantage of it.

I think I welcome the emphasis on arts and crafts. I do not think there is nearly enough emphasis on the oldest industry in the North, which is the fur industry. I know we are having difficulty marketing fur right now, but there is nothing inherently wrong with catering to what the market wants. If the market does not want hair on it and call it fur, then let us take it off and call it leather. The items again even sold in the North made of leather would probably absorb our entire production between leather furniture and leather garments -- leather jackets alone, I was told by somebody within what used to be the Hudson's Bay Company -- they figure they market probably about 2000 leather jackets in the NWT per year, every year. We are not making any of them up here. We are buying them but we are not making them, and we are not getting any of the labour from that.

Development Of Communities Precedes Tourism

I am a little bit afraid of the heavy emphasis on tourism development at this stage because I think it is necessary for us to develop our communities before we develop the tourism that is going to go into those communities. The Minister mentioned the cultural heritage, together with tourism development, and that is all very well if you can provide it in a controlled environment, but if we do not tackle first the unemployment problems in the communities -- and as a result of the unemployment problems the social problems that are created by this unemployment -- if we do not tackle the shortage of housing in the communities, all these bread-and-butter issues, then we may make all sorts of heritage trails and declare heritage rivers and build cairns and make the Franklin trail and whatever, but when people get into our communities, what are we going to show them? Are we going to show them the shelters for battered women, the group homes and the youth standing on the corners with their hands in their pockets, whom a former Member of this House referred to as the "great masses of walkabouts"?

The development of cultural heritage also means the return to a society where we had full occupancy at one time. Not necessarily wage employment as we know it today, but we had full occupancy at one time. We had a feeling amongst everyone that you contributed in a meaningful way to the

society you lived in. That, to a very large extent, is what cultural heritage is all about, to me. If we do not have that, then I am not so sure we are going to have a very successful tourism industry.

I think we are to some extent on the wrong track when we talk about game farming. I know the Minister did not dwell on that for very long, but he did mention it. We are talking about farming a few hundred animals that are not that different from the many thousands that we should be slaughtering on Banks Island and on northwestern Victoria Island in musk-ox. The difference between musk-ox and buffalo -- I know they are not the same animals, but we are talking meat in both cases. One is something that we should be doing for game management and for biological reasons. It is not only a necessity to vigorously start utilizing that resource; it is also one of the greatest gifts and one of the greatest opportunities we have to create employment. I do not know how many jobs, between Nunakput and Kitikmeot, that we need to create, probably 3000.

There is no better opportunity anywhere in the NWT for job creation than that one resource. It will require some fairly massive investments, but not doing so, not developing that resource, will require a heck of a lot more massive developments as years go by.

Entire Government Must Develop Economy

I agree completely with Mr. Lewis, and I have said so a number of times myself, that we must have a governmental approach to economic development. It is not the role of only the Department of Economic Development to develop our economy, it is the role of our government to develop our economy. We cannot restrict ourselves in assessing and measuring viability. We must not limit ourselves to the traditional yardstick, which is the bottom line on a balance sheet. We must take the total approach and factor in the reduction in social assistance, the reduction in social problems as a result of that, the increase in general community well-being, plus all the snowballing effects that if you create employment you buy more things in the local stores and they will increase their employment, and there will be more snowmobiles and whatever else. We must take the total approach and allow the department, with a governmental approach, to judge viability in a different manner than has been in the past.

I think, Mr. Chairman, with that -- I just do not want to sit here and repeat what I have said in the past -- it is the same Minister I am talking to, they are the same Members sitting in the House, and you know what I said last time. As I say, I am not going to sit and repeat them. I may have some comments when we go line by line, but I will restrict the opening comments to that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. General comments. Does the committee agree to go through the details? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister, do you wish to bring in any witnesses?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Go ahead, Mr. Minister. We will take five minutes before we continue with the department.

--SHORT RECESS

The committee will come back to order. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me, Mr. Dwight Noseworthy, deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism; and Mr. Jim Kennedy, director of finance and administration.

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We are on page 17.10 of your main estimates. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism, directorate, total O and M, \$2,619,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Policy And Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Page 17.11, policy and planning, total O and M, \$838,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Page 17.12, tourism and parks, total O and M, \$7,815,000. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make a brief comment on the subject of economic development and tourism. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister for preparing strategies in the tourism industry section for the Keewatin, concerning Thule archaeological sites. While I was reading this and seeing the income and possible employment for Northerners, I think now is the time to start making decisions concerning the growing population who has no employment right now. I will make a comment to that effect. I have been concerned about this, partly because of the comments yesterday. I would like the government to more or less wake up to the facts concerning the statistics of 465 people living in Repulse Bay... (Translation ends) ...and up to the age of 16 are over 250.

(Translation) I also stated that in Coral Harbour, for example, the population growth, as the Minister is aware, the statistics are increasing at a 12 per cent rate annually. This is a very rapid growth. I just wanted to remind the Minister of this information. There has to be more focus on trying to find jobs in our communities for our people. We have to create more job opportunities. Those are my comments concerning employment.

I also have two questions for the Minister. The first one is concerning Repulse Bay. In the 1800s there was an explorer who built some houses out of stone, Dr. John Rae, and many people are interested in seeing that site. I wonder if the people of Repulse Bay can get assistance to restore that historic site? It is a dwelling that he had made. I did not find this included in the budget for Economic Development.

Further, I would like to ask about a section called Uqsuriaq, around Rankin Inlet, which in English is called Marble Island. A long time ago, around the 1700s, the whalers used to go there quite often. There is a sunken ship in that area belonging to one of the early whalers. Many people who come to Rankin are very interested in seeing this historic site also. I wonder if this will also be included in one of your projects. I was concerned about those two in particular

because they can attract a lot of tourism. Those are my questions for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Community Not Wanting Park Development

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no specific money in this budget for the work on the area in Repulse that Mr. Ernerk mentioned, but it is an area that we have identified for future potential development. It is not only that area, but there is an extremely well developed Thule site in Chesterfield Inlet as well that we are going to be taking a very close look at.

With regard to Marble Island, quite frankly we wanted to spend some very major dollars there a couple of years ago and we were told by the Rankin Inlet Hamlet Council, and by the Keewatin Inuit Association, to stay away. They would not agree to our doing any work in that area. We thought it was a mistake. It is a very well known area; it has a lot of potential; and we think that we could have done the work that would not have damaged the area at all. In fact, it would probably have enhanced it. But we were, quite frankly, told to stay away by these two organizations. They would not agree to our doing any work there.

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

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, why is it that they made those decisions, the Keewatin Inuit Association and the hamlet of Rankin Inlet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: They essentially felt that it was a cultural site and it was used extensively by local people and that a park would take away from it. We had several meetings with them. Mr. Curley was very vehement in his opposition. At that time he was on the council and the KIA. We did have a fair amount of money in our budget to develop this site and we essentially had to cancel those plans. I guess they just felt that a park and visitors there would take away from local use of the site.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what the Minister is trying to get at with regard to the establishment of Marble Island. I do want to indicate to him, and I think the Minister knows this, that there are a number of boat operators in Rankin Inlet, including Robert Tatty and a number of other people, as well as the ship "World Discoverer" that comes around every summer to visit Marble Island. Mr. Chairman, those kinds of developments would seem to be a very good move on the part of the local people, in which they could employ a number of people from the community. Generally speaking, it is also good for tourism operators. That is the point I do want to make to the Minister and his department.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I cannot disagree with the Member at all. We are still very interested in Marble Island. It is one of the most historic sites that we have in the entire Eastern Arctic, not just the Keewatin. We would have spent major money there. We are sure that we could have got the federal government, through Parks Canada, involved in the whole development, and we think it could be done in such a way that would complement the site, not damage it.

However, as I said, we ran into problems with KIA and the hamlet council and my attitude has always been that if I do

not have the support of the local groups, the representatives of the local people, then I will not go ahead and do something. To this date we have not enjoyed that kind of support. In fact, I must admit that we had some very serious problems with even the Meliadine site. It has taken us three years just to get permission from the hamlet council in Rankin Inlet to do something at the Meliadine. So we have not enjoyed a very high level of local support for some of these initiatives.

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

Tourism Facility For Marble Island

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to me if he would begin any kinds of discussions again with the hamlet council of Rankin Inlet with regard to working to establish some kind of tourism facility, or whatever, within or around Marble Island. To me, I have not lived in Rankin for many years but 10 years is a good number of years. I am aware that tourists do not normally destroy anything within Marble Island. They walk around Marble Island. Marble Island happens to be a very different island from any other island within the region. I think it would be very good for the Minister to talk to the hamlet council of Rankin Inlet, and other interested organizations, especially the boat owners like Robert Tatty who depend quite a bit on the income that he receives from tourist operators in the region.

I am trying to be positive in my remarks. You have to grab what you can because, as I said, we have to worry about so many people who are without employment at the community level. I wanted to make that point to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, because I think it is extremely important, and to me tourism is very important for the communities that I represent. It creates employment opportunities, plus we have a lot of things very different to offer in our communities, places like Marble Island.

Even Dr. John Rae's house up in Repulse Bay is very different and would be good for tourists to see. Thank you.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I would be more than pleased to once again go back to the hamlet council and KIA, and any assistance that the Member can give me with those two organizations, particularly KIA, I would appreciate it. We have preliminary plans for the sites. It is something that we can reactivate very quickly. I will in the very near future, once again, write to those organizations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Tourism and parks, total O and M, \$7,815,000. Mr. Lewis.

The Selling Of Economic Opportunity Ideas

MR. LEWIS: Just a brief comment, Mr. Chairman. I think the Minister has demonstrated exactly the point that I was trying to make. If you have an idea in Yellowknife about something you may want to do, it is very difficult to just go into a place, even though you are familiar with it, you know all the people, and say, "Look, this is a great idea." In other words, you have to sell it. Whereas if it had come the other way and they say, "Look, we know all the potentials here and so on", and it was their initiative and their idea, then it would not be so difficult.

That seems to be the problem we have not solved, how do you get people to see the economic opportunities around them? This was one thought that we had in fact originally, to simply look at every single place in the NWT, make a big catalogue of all the economic opportunities that were there, all the things perhaps that could be done -- because over the

years there were lists made, or studies done, of different regions of the Territories -- so that local communities would have not only a list of possible things that could be done but also an assessment of them, the kind of potential that they had for local employment, the potential they had for investment. In that way, a lot of these things would be coming from communities rather than have the department having this selling job of going into a place and say, "This is a great idea; I would like you to think about it." What invariably happens is that because it is from outside, you are going to have a big selling job that may take you years and years. I think you have demonstrated exactly the point that we were making. It is much more difficult to do it that way.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I would agree with the Member in general. However, without going into it and saying too much, with the Rankin Inlet situation there was a certain element of local politics involved that had nothing to do with economic development or job creation, but I would not want to expand upon that. I think that at least the Member for Aivilik understands what I am talking about.

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

Creating Employment With Tourism

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions. I understood what the Minister was talking about regarding tourism. I have been involved with this and understand it. It is a fun job dealing with tourism. I know some unemployed people could find jobs if there was a lot of tourism in their community. There is a place near Pangnirtung called Ummanarjuaq. I cannot remember the English name. They were starting to plan for that area to deal with tourism and I wonder if you will be continuing your plans to promote tourism in those old whaling sites. I think it would be very beneficial because a lot of my people have boats. Do you have further plans to that effect?

My other question relates to planning. In the constituency of Clyde River there is the least attention being focussed concerning tourism. They have tried to start some initiatives in an old whaling site. There are a lot of whales in that area. I wonder if you have plans to include these in the budget, or have they been forgotten about? I would like a response either way, Mr. Chairman, through you. Thank you.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. With regard to the continuing development of the old whaling sites, we very much are going to continue to develop them. The money you will see in the capital site, when the department's capital estimates come up, you will see money in there. This year we intend to complete the restoration program for the old blubber station.

We are also going to be doing work on developing exhibits for the interior of the old whaleboat storehouse. So we are going to continue to put money into those.

With regard to Clyde River, there is no money in here for Clyde River, but it is not to say we are not doing anything. We are still working with the community and the federal government to develop that marine park. When we get all of the problems worked out with that, then money will start to go into the development of little lookout sites and things like that. It is very much a part of our plans; it is just that we have some problems in terms of the agreement that still have to be worked out on the whale reserve and with the federal government and the community. That is very much part of

our plan.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I knew that you would say something like that, but I just want it to be remembered for the future. There are a lot of young people who are half white and they do not know very much about these cultural things, so you have to remember that. It should not be on the bottom of the list of priorities, particularly for the Clyde River region. I hope that you put emphasis on this on your agenda. It would be good to see this in reality. I hope you will consider it as one of the priority jobs that needs to be done. I would be very happy to see that happening. My statements will be on record, and I emphasize you should keep this on your priority list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Building Of Roads To Promote Tourism

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, speaking of a project having the public support, there is a potential project in Pelly Bay which would facilitate recreation, hunting and tourism and that is building a road between the community and Barrow Lake, which is about 10 miles out of the community. During the construction of the project it would provide short-term employment with long-term implications if the tourism should become a reality in that community. I wonder if the Minister has any initiative to fund this project.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Not under the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. I do not have my Transportation book here, but as part of the transportation strategy we developed a library of all potential little roads like that, right across the Territories, and I have been negotiating with the federal government, as part of the highway transfer, a program called "community roads" which is for that purpose. I just do not remember if that road is part of the list that I had. Certainly roads like that are things that we want to do and that was why we tried to develop this program, community roads program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The road we are talking about would be used for all-terrain vehicles, not a major construction. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wish to make an observation that perhaps illustrates where the need for economic development in the Northwest Territories lies and where the needs are greater than they are in other regions. I notice that there are 10 Members of the Nunavut caucus present and only three from elsewhere. Obviously, I trust the Minister will remember that in his planning, that the need for economic development obviously lies with those who seem to be most interested in this. Thank you.

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

Communities Planning Their Own Parks

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pedersen has my full support on that. Mr. Chairman, with regard to tourism and parks, there are plans in Providence that have been considered for a number of years but they have never materialized. It is one of those things that could be done in

phases through the years, but they have not even started yet. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not, in his tourism and parks budget, there are moneys that are set aside for communities to develop their own parks. I realize the department does that, and they maintain them through contracts; but there are some parks that the communities would like to have for their own residents, as well as to attract people into their communities. One of the things that I find in a lot of the parks that have been developed by the territorial government is that they are always out of the way and away from the community.

The park in Fort Providence, for example, is several miles away from the community and if the people stop there, then they are not attracted to go any further beyond just maybe camping there and going on their way to Yellowknife, without actually going into the community. The one they have in Hay River, you have to go through the community in order to get to it. The one in Fort Smith, you do not have to go through the community to get to it. In Fort Simpson you do not have to get into Fort Simpson to go to the park there, either.

I believe the location is sometimes out of the way so the community does not really benefit, whether the tourists go through or just stop in those parks and go on their way. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not, in his budget, he has anything to give opportunities for communities to actually develop parks in their own vicinity.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bottom line is no, we do not have funds for that; we do not have any programs or policies. It has never been something that we have thought about or has been raised as a major issue, so we have nothing in our budget for that.

The Member is correct that most of our parks are sort of out of the way and that was, quite frankly, deliberate, from what I understand, in terms of when they first started to develop parks up here. Those parks were primarily designed for visitors, not for community residents, and they were in Economic Development simply because they were designed as part of the tourism program to attract people into the North to spend money here; and they were out of the way for serenity. People are camping here. They are on holiday and they want peace and quiet; they do not want to be right in the middle of town or close to a town. I guess that was what the thinking was in those days when they developed those. As to the question, no we do not have any program for what the Member is talking about.

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

Limited Resources For Park Development

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I have heard several speakers before me indicate that there is an interest in that area for the development of parks, basically parks developed by the communities rather than by this government. Further, I was not here for your opening remarks, but you did mention something about the STEP program. Is that still in the works, and is that one area communities might be able to tap into to develop parks?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. We do not have any plans to develop what the Member is talking about. Because of the very limited resources available to us, we have to try and put the money where it is going to meet the economic objectives. However, that is not to say that if we were not given the resources we could not develop such a program.

The second part of his question -- most certainly, communities can apply to the STEP program to do some work like that. That would be an acceptable project under the STEP guidelines so, yes, that money is available.

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

MR. GARGAN: With regard to the Minister's reply, he did indicate the priority of the government, because of the limited resources, is to prioritize where those developments should take place. As far as the communities are concerned -- Mr. Lewis touched on it quite strongly -- perhaps the idea of economic development starting from the top down may be realistic for the department, but I am more concerned about the communities. They have their own priorities too, and I do not think we are addressing that. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like to make a motion at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Gargan, you can do that.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism consider allocating, through their budget, moneys specifically identified for communities to develop parks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Gargan, could we have a copy of that motion please?

MR. GARGAN: I have not written it out yet, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): All of you have heard the motion. We are still on Tourism and Parks. Does anybody else have questions or comments on page 17.12? If not, we will have to take a few minutes break. Are there any further comments at this time? We will take a few minutes break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come back to order. Mr. Gargan, could you repeat your motion please?

Motion That Economic Development And Tourism Consider Developing A New Program For Community Parks, Carried

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion reads: I move that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism consider developing a new program for community parks and allocating the necessary funding, specifically for the new program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of Members did make comments on the desire for communities to develop their own parks. I think this would give a direction for the government to consider with regard to addressing some of the Members' concerns with regard to community parks. I would like Members to support it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We are on tourism and parks. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, we have another meeting at 6:30, a very important one. I would like to move that we report

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, we have another meeting at 6:30, a very important one. I would like to move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We have a motion to report progress, which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call the House back to order. Item 19, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12, and CR 2-91(1) and wishes to report progress, with one motion being adopted.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 21st.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Replies to Budget Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills

18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 11 and 12

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Thursday, February 21st, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT

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