



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Mr. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Thursday, March 14, 1991. Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 38-91(1): Legislative Process, Eighth Session

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the past several weeks criticism of the consultation process for proposed legislation has increased. The standing committee on legislation has also expressed concern with the situation and, in a recent report to the House, announced plans to review the legislative process during the current session.

The government acknowledges these concerns are legitimate and fully supports this initiative by the standing committee on legislation. However, until this review is complete and a new process is adopted by the Assembly, the needs of interest groups and the public at large must be met.

Mr. Speaker, I have discussed this matter with cabinet colleagues and the chairmen of the standing committee on legislation and the standing committee on finance. I wish to announce today a process to address public consultation needs during the current session.

On Monday, March 11, Mr. Allooloo tabled an amendment to the Environmental Protection Act, and this proposed bill is now a public document available to anyone who wishes to obtain a copy. Over the course of the next few days other bills containing new or significant legislative initiatives will also be tabled. By previous agreement with the standing committee on legislation, none of these major bills will be formally introduced or considered by the Assembly until the House reconvenes after the Easter recess.

In addition, prior to the Easter recess the government will give first reading to other bills already recommended to the House by the standing committees so that these documents can also be made available to the public. With the exception of legislation that must be passed prior to April 1st, bills given first reading will not receive any further consideration until after the Easter recess. A few other bills, such as the new Mine Safety Act, will be tabled during the current session but will not be introduced for formal consideration until a later session.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this interim measure is only the first step toward a better legislative process, and I invite the public to take advantage of the opportunity to become more involved. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. The

honourable Member for Sahtu.

Ministers' Statement 39-91(1): Employment Development Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, a year ago I tabled the NWT Employment Development Strategy paper. The strategy outlines how the combined and co-ordinated efforts of all government departments can prepare Northerners to take full advantage of the job market, now and in the future. I would like to tell the Legislative Assembly about progress made in implementing the strategy.

Education's northern training and employment register, also known as ENTER, now has more than 2000 people registered. The system is used to refer people to jobs or training. It also helps the Department of Education determine what kinds of training programs Northerners need. The second phase of ENTER is currently being designed and should be in place by this fall. Phase two will provide follow-up information on each client to allow the department to determine the program's effectiveness and point to areas in which improvements can be made.

To help keep Northerners informed of career choices and training opportunities, a committee has been established to co-ordinate career promotion. Additional career counselling materials have been made available to the regional offices of advanced education.

A new apprenticeship training assistance program has been established. The program provides salary subsidies to northern companies to enable them to train Northerners, particularly native Northerners, in trades. This program is being funded with \$368,000 in new moneys, as well as \$700,000 diverted from the GNWT in-service apprenticeship program.

The Department of Education is helping prepare people for the administration of land claims. Six northern aboriginal leaders are currently attending university or college under the northern leaders training support program. The program's first graduate recently accepted employment with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The department is also increasing efforts to attract young women to non-traditional areas of work. During the fall of 1990, a "Women at Work" career fair was held in Yellowknife. During 1991-92, special initiatives will promote interest in math and science among young women.

Information sessions on post-secondary training will continue, with participation from more post-secondary institutions and greater emphasis on the involvement of parents.

Counselling services to post-secondary students have been enhanced by establishing pilot projects in peer counselling at two southern university campuses. As well, a counselling service has been introduced in Edmonton. The project is being cost-shared by a number of parties. Bellanca Developments is contributing half the salary cost, with the GNWT providing the other half. Health and Welfare Canada is providing \$16,000 to help pay for operation and

maintenance costs, such as travel.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, literacy training has been a priority for this government. The National Literacy Secretariat has matched our funding, which has resulted in increased opportunities for training in most communities. During 1990, which was International Literacy Year, activities included support to the NWT Literacy Council, The Book Voyage, which included the writings of adult learners, and special awards for learners and tutors.

The training on-the-job program has been revised to better meet the employment and training needs of Northerners. Changes include the addition of classroom training, increased salary subsidies and length of training.

Mr. Speaker, the development of the northern workforce is the key to the future economic growth of the NWT. The employment development strategy is already helping to increase opportunities for Northerners and will continue to support them over the coming years.

Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Prior to proceeding with the next item, I wish to draw the attention of honourable Members to a former Member of this Legislative Assembly in our gallery, Mr. Bill Lyall.

--Applause

Speaker's Ruling

Prior to proceeding with the next item of business, I wish to deal with the matter of ruling on the point of privilege that was raised by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. Wray, on March 13, 1991.

On the matter of the point of privilege, raised by the honourable Member for Kivallivik on March 13, 1991, I have reviewed the matter and the incidents surrounding the point of privilege and it disturbs me as to the level of debate we have reached in this House.

To briefly remind Members of the circumstances leading up to the point of privilege, the point was raised during question period on a second question by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. The Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis, raised a question on the government's faith in the business community. On a supplementary question by the same Member, to the Minister, I ruled the question out of order as it was an infraction of our rules because a Member cannot impute motives to another honourable Member. The point of privilege was then raised by Mr. Wray after an intervening question.

I allowed debate on the point of privilege, which is to permit the Speaker to satisfy himself that a prima facie case of breach of privilege had taken place and that the matter was raised at the earliest opportunity.

A point of privilege is a very serious matter that should only rarely be raised and generally must be of some improper obstruction to a Member in performing his parliamentary work in either a direct or constructive way. This is opposed to a mere expression of opinion or of criticisms of the activities of a Member. Reflections on a Member, allegation or improper conduct on the surface do not constitute a breach of privilege.

Allegations of a breach of privilege by a Member in the House

which amount to complaints about procedures and practices in the House are by their very nature a matter of order.

In Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, Sixth Edition, citation 69 states: "The Speaker has reminded the House it is very important to indicate that something can be inflammatory, can be disagreeable, can even be offensive, but it may not be a question of privilege unless a comment actually infringes upon the ability of Members of Parliament to do the job properly."

I find that there is no prima facie case of breach of privilege in the matter before the Chair: As I indicated, by ruling Mr. Lewis's supplementary question out of order, in fact he was out of order with the words uttered, and the Member for Kivallivik, Mr. Wray, could have raised a point of order, but the Chair took care of it.

In considering this ruling, the comments made by some honourable Members yesterday, in particular the Member for Yellowknife Centre, and also the questioning during question period by the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, I find that some Members are bordering and may soon be in a position of contempt of this House.

Contempt of the House is as serious as the privilege of Members individually and collectively. Privileges of Members are defined and are very seldom breached, but contempt of the House has no limits. Members are entitled to go about their parliamentary business undisturbed.

The assaulting, menacing or insulting of any Member on the floor of the House or while he or she is coming or going to or from the House, or on account of his/her behaviour during the proceedings of the House, is a violation of the rights of the Assembly. Any form of intimidation of the Member for or on account of his behaviour during a proceeding in the House could amount to contempt.

The Chair would like to advise Members that the House, itself, has the right to punish actions which, while they are not breaches of any specific privileges, are offenses against its authority or dignity.

I would point out to all honourable Members that statements reflecting on the conduct of a Member in his capacity as a Member, in and out of the House, tends to lower the integrity of the House, as a whole, in the eyes of the public.

There are actions which, while not directly, in a physical way, obstructing the House or a Member, which may not be a point of privilege but nevertheless could obstruct the House in the performance of its functions by diminishing the respect due to it.

I would suggest that reflections upon Members and their activities during proceedings are equivalent to reflections on or of the House. I trust and pray that Members will reflect prior to making remarks to ensure that the dignity and integrity of this institution is held in high regard by the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you very much.

---Applause

Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Quebec's Hydro Expansion Plans

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that amount of restriction, even for the short time, the saline content of

Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, Davis Strait, will be altered, having yet unknown effects on the fish and sea mammals upon which the northern people depend for a living. Mr. Speaker, if James Bay II, III or IV are allowed to go ahead, diverting the major rivers, water fowl habitat will either be flooded or dried up. Lands once used by the aboriginal people for hunting grounds will be lost forever. It appears that little or no concern has been given to the environmental impact on the lands downstream and surrounding these mega-projects, or of the views and concerns of the people who have always lived on those lands.

Mr. Speaker, hydro power can be nature's gift to mankind. Its proper use can have little or no long-lasting effects on the land if developed properly with proper planning, consultation and a global vision in mind. The proposed development of the northern Quebec James Bay hydro projects appear to have none of the above. Here in the West we use some of our rivers to produce hydro power. We believe there are plans for expanding that program. I also believe that there is room for some expansion, proper, well thought out expansion, an expansion and development with environmental and social co-existence in mind.

Mr. Speaker, we must send a message to the Quebec government that we are very, very concerned over their expansion plans in northern Quebec and James Bay, and send a message that lets them know that whatever they do is and will affect us, not just in the immediate future, but forever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O304-91(1): Chipewyan Interpreters Available In Edmonton

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to the question asked by Mr. Morin on March 11, 1991, regarding the Chipewyan interpreters available in Edmonton. Mr. Speaker, I am responding to the question raised by the honourable Member for Tu Nede regarding this service in Edmonton.

The Edmonton patient referral service has provided the names of three individuals residing in Edmonton who are available to interpret in Chipewyan. The individuals are Joan Evans, Adeline Janassen and Emmy Yamkovy. The Edmonton patient referral service engages interpreters on an as-and-when basis. During the past year the referral service has not needed to engage Chipewyan interpreters.

Return To Question O272-91(1): Chairperson For Keewatin Regional Health Board

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Ernerk on March 7, 1991. I have been asked for more information concerning the chairmanship of the Keewatin Regional Health Board. There has been a good response to my request for nominees for this position. All the nominations, including ones that I have received recently, have been forwarded to the Keewatin board chairman, Mike Vaydik, for consideration by the board. I am awaiting the board's further recommendations and will announce the appointment as soon as it is made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O298-91(1): Release Of Kitikmeot Region Economic Strategy

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Pedersen with regard to the release of the Kitikmeot Region economic strategy. The Kitikmeot Region economic strategy, consisting of two documents titled, "The Kitikmeot Economy - A Regional Profile" and "Community Economic Development Strategies - Kitikmeot Region" have recently been prepared for publication. A copy of each has been forwarded to the mayor of Cambridge Bay, based on a request from him, and to the speaker of the Kitikmeot Regional Council, based on a further request.

The strategy was originally funded under the EDA, economic development agreement. On the expiration of the EDA funding, the work was not yet complete. The Department of Economic Development contracted over \$20,000 with the consultant involved to complete the work. The consultant was to have forwarded working papers and support material to headquarters in July. With staff turnovers, the material was left at the draft stage. On receiving a request from the mayor of Cambridge Bay in late November, staff had to first ascertain that the material on hand was the material last sent and that all the material was accounted for.

Although there remains some question that there may be additional material, the material sent for printing is the latest we have available and constitutes a framework for the economic development which will be valuable to communities in organizing for economic development. We are making further inquiries regarding any related additional material.

Copies of the two documents have been sent for printing and will be provided to each community in the region when we receive them from the printer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Oral Question O243-91(1): Status Of Territorial Park, Lake Harbour

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo with regard to the status of a territorial park at Lake Harbour. A feasibility study concerning this proposed park was completed in March, 1990, with considerable involvement by the community of Lake Harbour. The proposed park is now tentatively called Kuujuaq. The feasibility study concluded that the heritage resources of the Soper River and adjacent lands clearly warranted establishment of a territorial park. It was felt that the park would appeal to visitors of varying levels of income and physical capability and would bring social and economic benefits to the community of Lake Harbour, whose residents solidly supported the proposal.

In July, 1990, I wrote to the mayor of Lake Harbour, noting how pleased I was at the results of the feasibility study and thanking him for the community's efforts in this initiative. I then approved the next phase of the project, which involves the preparation of a park management plan. A draft version of that plan is nearing completion, Mr. Speaker, and I anticipate that my staff will be taking it to the community of Lake Harbour for their consideration during the next month.

Given the declared interest of Economic Development and Tourism in the establishment of Kuujuaq territorial park and support of the community for such an initiative, the Inuit of Lake Harbour agreed not to select the lands in question during the South Baffin land selection negotiations completed in December, 1990. They have accepted that it is our

intention to establish a park and they agree with such an endeavour.

Kuujuaq would be our first natural environment recreation park, and at approximately 490 square miles, it would be, by far, the largest park in the territorial system. It will be watched very closely and looked upon as a model for the growth of the territorial park system.

Much remains to be done before the park is actually established. If the community supports the draft management plan, we shall then solicit federal approval of land withdrawal for territorial park purposes. At that time, I shall also seek a positive recommendation from this Assembly in support of the proposed park. Given such a recommendation, I can then, by order, establish Kuujuaq as a natural environment recreation park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O350-91(1): Timely Erection Of Houses, Gjoa Haven And Spence Bay

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. The houses arrive in Pelly Bay by air and when the snow starts to go away, they start building the houses. The houses that are coming to Gjoa Haven and Spence Bay, when they barge them in by ship, do they start building them right away? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O350-91(1): Timely Erection Of Houses, Gjoa Haven And Spence Bay

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, there is a policy of building on a two-year basis in communities where the materials arrive late in the year. I believe that materials arriving anywhere after the end of August are stockpiled and then erected in the next year. However, where a contractor can guarantee that the building can be closed in before the onset of winter, I believe special dispensation is made.

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

Supplementary To Question O350-91(1): Timely Erection Of Houses, Gjoa Haven And Spence Bay

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most of the communities do not have enough housing at this time. Perhaps the hamlet council in the communities, could they be notified if they could start construction?

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

Further Return To Question O350-91(1): Timely Erection Of Houses, Gjoa Haven And Spence Bay

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I have had this question raised to me, when I visited Gjoa Haven, on a number of occasions. The practice with Gjoa Haven is, I do believe, that we build in the second year, but as I said, there is a possibility that the building could go ahead in the same year as the building materials arrive if the contractor can guarantee that it can be closed in before the onset of winter. The problem with

building in the wintertime is that you are only working at 50 per cent efficiency.

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

Question O351-91(1): Cost Of Utilizing Chipewyan Interpreters

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be for the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, in your return to my oral question today, you responded that there are Chipewyan interpreters available in Edmonton, but they were not needed in the past year. I understand, and it has been brought to my attention, that there are also Chipewyan interpreters available in Yellowknife, but the whole reason that they are not used is that your department is too cheap to pay them. They pay them only a few dollars an hour to interpret for them and it does not even cover the taxi fare to get there and back. Is that the reason that they are not needed in Edmonton, as well?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O351-91(1): Cost Of Utilizing Chipewyan Interpreters

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have that at my fingertips, that they are not needed. Perhaps most people who are Chipewyan travel with people that they prefer to travel with and bring their own interpreters, but I am not apprised of that knowledge at this time. I can check it out.

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

Supplementary To Question O351-91(1): Cost Of Utilizing Chipewyan Interpreters

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Madam Minister. I think that is basically how it works. People do travel with their own interpreters because they are needed at the airport, needed on the airplane, needed in the taxis and things like that. Do you pay those interpreters who travel with people?

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

Further Return To Question O351-91(1): Cost Of Utilizing Chipewyan Interpreters

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, by and large if a family member wants to travel with the individual we do pay their way down there and their room and board, but we do not pay them a salary to be travelling with their family. If it was an extra special occasion, I am not aware of what the payments are, if there are any. To my knowledge, if an individual is travelling and they would wish to have a person with them because of language difficulties, the accommodation, room and board are provided for, and transportation within the city or from their lodgings to the hospital. However, there is no per diem paid to that individual travelling.

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

Supplementary To Question O351-91(1): Cost Of Utilizing Chipewyan Interpreters

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has come to my

attention -- I will use Resolution as an example -- there are certain individuals that the Department of Health seeks out to escort patients who do not speak English, to Edmonton or wherever. They prefer to use these individuals and not necessarily family members because they can interpret well and they understand how to get around in the system. Would you look at possibly paying these people per day, when they are travelling, if they are not family members? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O351-91(1): Cost Of Utilizing Chipewyan Interpreters

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will check into that and provide some update on that. If the individual is not a member of the family, I am not aware of what basis or where this policy begins or where it stops. I will check into it and I will provide a report back here on those particular circumstances.

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

Question O352-91(1): Individuals Under Northern Leaders Training Support Program

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Education. In the Ministers' statement today he mentioned that there were six aboriginal leaders currently attending university or colleges under the northern leaders training support program. As the number is only six, could the Minister tell me who these people are, please?

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I cannot list them off the top of my head. I will have to provide it as an information item. We will make sure it is as extensive as we can make it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the honourable Member taking the question as notice?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, I take it as notice. Thank you.

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

Question O353-91(1): Payment To DIGAA Enterprises

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Government Leader since the Minister of Renewable Resources is not in the House. Mr. Speaker, I received a phone call from Providence this morning with regard to the manager of DIGAA Enterprises, who said that the Fort Smith office phoned. DIGAA did a service contract, Mr. Speaker, between March 8th and 15th with regard to the bison hunt. I believe it was for escorts and for observation purposes. The amount of money that was accumulated was something like \$24,000. The Fort Smith office now says that they cannot pay them because they no longer have the moneys to pay for this. I would like to ask the Minister if he would look into the matter to see whether or not that is true.

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

Return To Question O353-91(1): Payment To DIGAA Enterprises

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister, we would certainly be happy to look into that matter. Thank you.

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

Question O354-91(1): Nurses Soliciting Potential Adoption Of Unborn Children

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. It is with regard to young pregnant mothers and teenagers who go to the hospitals to have their babies. A lot of times the woman is asked whether or not she has considered giving up her child for adoption. I would like to ask the Minister what the process is on that and whether or not the nurses are asked to ask those questions, or whether or not there is a directive in that area; and, further, whether or not...

MR. SPEAKER: Just to remind the honourable Member that one is limited to a single question and allowed three supplementaries. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that is the jurisdiction of the Department of Health. I believe that would be counselling, if requested, by Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, supplementary.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should say that the people that I was asking the Minister of Health about were nurses, not social workers.

MR. SPEAKER: If I could ask the honourable Member to pose the question.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, those are nurses that, when they examine the girl or the woman who is pregnant, they ask them those questions as to whether or not the girl or woman has considered putting their child up for adoption, before the child is born. I wonder if that is proper and professional ethics to ask that.

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

Return To Question O354-91(1): Nurses Soliciting Potential Adoption Of Unborn Children

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge that is not the role of a nurse. A young girl might ask a nurse what she could do if she wanted to give up a child, but that would be referred, probably, to counselling from Social Services or a social service worker. It is not the role of the nurse to carry out the job of a social worker.

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

MR. GARGAN: I would ask the Minister, in the event a nurse does take on that role, what can a girl do?

MR. SPEAKER: I have a difficult time with the question in that it is asking the Minister what a girl might do in a situation like that. If the honourable Member could rephrase the question appropriately. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Supplementary To Question O354-91(1): Nurses Soliciting Potential Adoption Of Unborn Children

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that it is not the nurse's place to act as a social worker, but in the event that the nurse asks those questions with regard to the future of the child, is it normal practice for the nurse to ask questions of a pregnant woman as to have they considered giving up their child for adoption?

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

Further Return To Question O354-91(1): Nurses Soliciting Potential Adoption Of Unborn Children

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge -- I would not know of the circumstances and how a person would react to such a circumstance -- I would think that if you are saying that the nurse is soliciting what they are going to do with a child, I would not have any knowledge that any medical practitioner or professional nurse carries on that role.

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

Question O355-91(1): Concern Re Possible Development Of National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have basically an energy related question, but it also involves Renewable Resources. And because it concerns Alaska, and therefore the federal government and our relationship with the federal government, the Minister responsible for the Executive may be interested in answering as well. The concern is that the energy secretary, James Watkins of the United States, has stated that President George Bush would veto any energy legislation that failed to lift the long standing ban on oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I know this concerns your riding and two or three of the Ministers who are from your region and I would like to ask the Government Leader or the Minister responsible for Energy, what knowledge they have of this situation and what interest is being taken by our government, either by Renewable Resources or the cabinet as a whole, and what type of work the cabinet has asked to be done in this area to External Affairs; if they are looking after Canada's interests in this area, which is the calving ground for the Porcupine caribou herd. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O355-91(1): Concern Re Possible Development Of National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can assure the honourable Members that this government is aware of the recent actions by the United States president about opening the wildlife refuge to oil and gas exploration and development. We are very alarmed and concerned. This is actually not the first time there have been intentions on the part of the United States government to open that reserve to exploration and development. Our intention, Mr. Speaker, is to do what we did in the past when the issue came up before and that is to work closely with the Porcupine caribou management boards and the appropriate Inuvialuit resource management boards to assist them in developing appropriate courses of action which would include lobbying the United States Senate and Congress, and financial assistance to support those activities. Thank you.

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

Member for Pine Point, supplementary.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: As a supplementary to this, if the US government and the Alaskan government are considering changing the status and protection of this area, I would like to ask the Government Leader if he would pursue this with our Minister of Defence as well. If the bans are going to be taken off this area, perhaps he might ask the Minister of Defence to tell the United States it might be a good place to test cruise missiles from now on too.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe that might be a good suggestion. I do not know if it is necessarily a question nor is it really in the administrative responsibilities of the Government Leader to take care of cruise missiles. Will we be afraid of where you would send them? That is the problem. Oral questions, the honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Question O356-91(1): Programs In Hospitals For Mothers Considering Adoption

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, right now the process with regard to adoption is if a young girl signs a paper for adoption, she only has four days in which to change her mind in order for the courts to invalidate the signature. The young girl has to be able to do that within four days if she decides to keep the child. I would like to ask the Minister of Health what process is now in place in the hospitals in order to give the best possible advice to a young pregnant girl who might be a confused or is having problems with what to do with her unborn child?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That does come under the Child Welfare Act. I would like to take that question as notice. Thank you.

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

Question O357-91(1): Time Frame For Proposed Cultural Centre, Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Titus Allooloo who is not present so I will redirect my question to the Government Leader. It concerns my question about Cape Dorset and the proposed cultural centre. I wonder what the time frame is going to be whereby the Minister in charge from Ottawa has to give his consent, and what can we do to have this process speeded up because this thing is of an urgent nature for the Cape Dorset residents? They would like to see the building begun as soon as possible. The people of Cape Dorset also know that the Minister in Ottawa is in support of this building and we also know that the territorial government can help us in obtaining funding, at least this is the information I have before me. It is being dragged on. They are hoping to have it begin at an earlier date if possible. We have to start the construction in Cape Dorset. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O357-91(1): Time Frame For Proposed Cultural Centre, Cape Dorset

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think I understood the question to be what more can be done, what more will the government do to secure a satisfactory response

from the federal Minister. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Alloo's staff are in close contact with Mr. Masse's office and they are expecting the answer soon. The Member is aware, I believe, that Mr. Alloo did meet personally with Mr. Masse on this subject quite recently. I do not know if there is much more we can do, Mr. Speaker, frankly. We have met with the Minister. We are persistently communicating with his office about the results. I think we will just have to keep the pressure on.

The Member himself could assist; his intervention would be welcome. I am not sure there is much more that the government can do that has not already been done. We are aware of the importance of this project to the community and we will not stop our efforts to secure a commitment in time for the construction season. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O357-91(1): Time Frame For Proposed Cultural Centre, Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand, but my question is, is there anything else that we could ask the federal government regarding this building because this building is urgent to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question O357-91(1): Time Frame For Proposed Cultural Centre, Cape Dorset

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am not sure I quite understood the question, Mr. Speaker. Was the question, are we aware that the matter is urgent? If that was the question, yes we are and I will undertake to see what I can do to assist it until the matter is resolved. Perhaps there is something more we can do, Mr. Speaker, but it is in Mr. Masse's hands and I think he is aware of the issue. We understand the community's concern and we will do whatever is humanly possible to get a positive decision soon. Thank you.

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

Question O358-91(1): Fort Liard's Interest In Taking Over Social Assistance

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wrote a letter a number of weeks ago to the Minister of Social Services indicating the community of Fort Liard's interest in taking over social assistance. I am just wondering what has been done by the Minister. Is she in a position today to indicate her decision in this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Return To Question O358-91(1): Fort Liard's Interest In Taking Over Social Assistance

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Particularly with the issue of Fort Liard, I am aware that they are requesting and have a desire to take over social assistance. I know in the past they have been very successful in keeping the amount of social assistance down in their community. It is our intention to try to encourage communities to take on this responsibility and I want to advise the Member that we fully support that type of request. In respect to the negotiations and the process, we will be dealing with this accordingly. Thank you.

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

Question O359-91(1): Proposal To Allow Snowdrift To Take Over Social Services Programs

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister responsible for Social Services. Madam Minister at the beginning of this session I requested your department to send someone into Snowdrift to assist the community to develop a proposal to take over social services programs in the community. Do you know when that person will be going into the community?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that under notice, to see exactly when the officials were planning to go into that particular community. We have many requests from across the North and our resources are very limited. Thank you.

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

Item 6, written questions. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 11, tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion. Notices of motion. Item 13, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 5: Reciprocal Enforcement Of Judgments Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 18, 1991, I shall move that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 15: Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I am ahead of myself. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 18, 1991, I shall move that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 18: Boilers And Pressure Vessels Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 18, 1991, I shall move that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act and to Amend An Act to Amend the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act, be read for the first time.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 24: Social Assistance Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 18, 1991, I shall move that Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act, be read for the first time.

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

Item 14, motions.

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

Item 16, second reading of bills. Second reading of bills.
Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7; CR 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 10, 17 and 20, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

Bill 7: Appropriation Act, 1991-92

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): When we concluded yesterday we were on the Department of Health, 1991-92 main estimates. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government would propose that we conclude Health and then move to the Department of Social Services next. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is there an agreement to proceed with Health and then Social Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Health

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister, would you like to bring in your witness?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, the normal question period generally goes a little longer. The officials are on their way, so it may take a couple of minutes for them to get here. I can begin myself.

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, Madam Minister. We are on pages 14.12, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, O and M. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the

Minister could tell the House when boards, who are funded under this particular activity, will be advised that their budgets will be approved? I realize that we have to wait for Bill 7, but how soon after Bill 7 is approved will the Minister be able to advise those boards and agencies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that the time that we would advise them is when the budget is complete. My understanding is that we will conclude the 1991-92 budget by the end of this sitting, by March 22nd. If this is so then they will be advised immediately after.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, O and M, total O and M, \$113,428,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Medical Care Plan, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Medical care plan, O and M, total O and M, \$13,248,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Medical Travel, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Medical travel, O and M, total O and M, \$18,789,000. Agreed? Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if her department is looking into the medical travel costs that we are experiencing in the NWT, to see if there is some way that we can get some economy of scale.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, all the health boards have been approached to try to tighten up on medical travel. As well we have engaged the Medical Association of the NWT in discussion, the doctors who belong to the Medical Association of the NWT, to help us in trying to streamline the medical travel policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Medical travel, O and M. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I know the Minister gave us an outline the other day of all the steps she is taking to make sure medical travel does not occur when it should not and that people should go to the nearest service whenever possible. At the same time I do like to keep bringing this up because I know it is a lot different when you are in a small community and there is only one doctor available or maybe no doctor available and I always sort of want to give as much public emphasis to this as I can. It is quite different in Yellowknife if you feel that a physician is not taking care of you properly or not spending enough time or you want a second opinion, you just have to walk down the block and go to another clinic and you get a second opinion and maybe a doctor that is more of an expert in that particular illness you may have or may think you have.

What I would like to say to the Minister is, at the same time she is doing the cost effective program in this area, which I support her for doing, that we should be careful not to have

patients who live in the remote outlying communities think that they have to live with the opinion that is given to them by the local nurse or by the local physician. As much public knowledge as possible should be given to the fact that if any individual in the Territories feels that the medical treatment they are receiving in their local community or from the local physician is not sympathetic or proper, they have the right to pick up the telephone and phone a doctor in another community and tell that doctor their problems. If that doctor wants to authorize it -- that doctor is then in a position to approach health officials to arrange to transfer that patient for visitation.

In other words, a patient who is unhappy with a doctor in one of the areas close to Yellowknife, could phone a Yellowknife doctor and that Yellowknife doctor can then approach officials to arrange for transportation to Yellowknife.

I just think it is very important that people who live in the small outlying communities that do not have easy access to whichever doctor they feel like seeing on a given day should know that they have that opportunity to take that initiative. I would like to hope that the Minister understands the importance of that matter, and I am sure she does, but whenever I hear we are restricting some medical services, I would like to make sure that people know that avenue is still open to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I believe that in discussions on medical travel and the utilization of medical travel and the studies to find out how we can better utilize general health funds, should not be seen as cutting back on services provided to our patients or our clients.

For example, just to talk about the Inuvik pilot study and the questions we were focussing on: Was travel required? Was the destination appropriate? Were escorts approved consistent with the criteria? Can NWT services be increased to reduce travel? So when we are looking at travel we are also looking at: Is it more cost effective to provide better service in the regions? So it should not be seen as cutting back on the care of the patients who provide medical treatment. So I hope that when we talk about the amount of medical travel, it is seen as looking at the health facilities to see if more could be provided and if we are spending the money in the right places.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): For the record I would like to ask the Minister to introduce her witnesses. As a matter of process the Minister has to request the witnesses to be admitted into committee of the whole. The witnesses cannot just come in at their own choosing. I would like to ask the Minister to introduce her witnesses.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: First of all, Mr. Chairman, when I was sitting at my desk you asked me if I was ready to invite a representative of the department in. I said, yes when they do come. So I apologize if I misunderstood the process. Sitting here at the table is the deputy minister of Health and the assistant deputy minister, Bob Cowcill and Elaine Berthelet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Medical travel, operations and maintenance. Mr. Morin.

Travel Costs Billed Unfairly

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, under medical travel the people that live in the small communities, for example if there is a specialist that comes into Yellowknife from down south, and they bring people in

from all over to see that specialist, if you are not a treaty Indian or a government employee; if you are a Metis you have to pay a portion of your fare to Yellowknife, and that is for basic health care. It is a service that is not available in the community. I do not see that as being right because the smaller communities do not get treated equally. A person in Yellowknife has all those services available, and you should do whatever is possible to make those services available to the small communities at no cost to that person. Are you doing anything to rectify that problem? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, in the request for further extended benefits we are attempting to address that and when we come forward that will be in the calculation of what expenditures would be required. I would like to say at this point in time that even though we do send a bill, a great number of people do not pay it, although we have an accounting procedure to say that this charge was incurred. When we come forward with further extended benefits, that would be one of the calculations that we would be putting in the whole package.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that is a kind of acceptable thing, you do not get paid much, people do not pay those bills that they get in the mail. I know it was a mistake when the Department of Justice sent us tax bills as well, and the word in Fort Resolution, for example, is just put them aside, throw it in the garbage, do not worry about it. Should that basically be the advice we are giving our constituents, if you get bills from the Department of Health for travel do not worry about them, it will be settled in the future once the Metis health benefits kick in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

Extended Benefits For Metis

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I would not advise anyone giving anyone that advice, but because it is a set policy and it is a coverage we have to send a bill. We recently changed it so that the bill should be paid up front, but what happens in that case, when a person cannot afford it they go to Social Services then generally it is covered but they have to meet the criteria that Social Services sets down to be eligible and that is generally covered by them. I certainly would not advise a Member to go out and tell people to throw away their bills. I think that shortly we will be coming forward with the necessary information to make a judgment on how that can be covered in the extended benefits.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess under this issue is medical travel and other things as well. I met with Mr. Bohnet, the president of the Metis Association, and by next week you are going to get the information from them that you need to cost it out and that should be a basic thing. If we pass this budget, if it gets through the House now, then you would have to come in with a supp for Metis health benefits. Or shall we just defer this and wait for that and put it all in as one, what would you prefer?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I believe, Mr. Chairperson, even though I will have the list next week, it is going to take us a while to do the work. In any event, the money is not included in this budget so it would have to come under a

supp and I think it would be much more appropriate to deal with it that way.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, I realize it will take some time but we come back on April 9th and we will be here for about another three weeks or a month, according to what I hear, and that will give you approximately a month and a half to work on a supp for the Metis health benefits. Will that be enough time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, once I receive the list I would be in a better position to reply to the honourable Member, and certainly the ability to pursue the subject, when we come back, will be there. Once I sit down with Mr. Bohnet, and see the figures he has, I would then have to go to the department and go to cabinet to discuss how we are going to apply the benefits and to whom. Also because of the issue of only extending benefits to a certain group of people within the territorial framework, I would have to get consent from other Members to make sure that when we do it that it is done in the best possible way. I do not know how much time it will take, and I would not say that I could do it in that period of time, because I have to see what further steps I may have to take.

I know we are committed to saying that we would probably do it by August, but that may not be sufficient time. What I would like to do is take a look at the list and then I can provide an update on what the following steps would be.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that part of that process would be getting, as you said, support from Members. That support has been in there in three motions, Madam Minister. I do not think you have to worry about that part of the process, without having to extend it to others, because it is basically an aboriginal issue. I do not think there has been another motion since I have been here in this Assembly that has been passed three times on one issue, I do not think there has been any other issue. It is a very high priority of Members and, hopefully, when you pass three motions in the life and time that you are here, something happens in the end. It is getting to the end of our term, so I hope the Minister realizes that and moves on it quickly. Thank you.

Medical Travel, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Morin. Medical travel, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$18,789,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Details of grants and contributions, contributions, administration, \$350,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, \$86,585,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Medical care plan, \$12,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total contributions, \$86,947,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total grants and contributions, \$86,947,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Information item on pages 14.16, 14.17, 14.18 and 14.19. Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, health and fitness in the NWT, total health and fitness in the NWT, \$24,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): North of 60 health and research program. Total North of 60 health and research program, \$42,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Community health status profiles. Total community health status profiles, \$48,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$114,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Revenues, recoveries and transfer payments. Information items. Any questions? We will go back to pages 14.9, program summary, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$168,008. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that the main estimates for 1991, Department of Health is not included? No, not yet. The main estimates is concluded in this one.

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services**Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital**

We are dealing with capital now. We are on page 14.11, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, buildings and works, headquarters. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a general question, I see that on this page on the top part, headquarters, there are minor renovations, et cetera, and I do not think any of that is actually in Yellowknife. I believe on page 14.13 there are some general expenditures which I believe would probably involve Stanton Yellowknife Hospital and some of its programs. I look at something like "Mobile Equipment-Health Centres" and some of the "Bio Medical/General Equipment" and it causes me to ask the Minister and her officials to maybe give us a little bit of an update on utilization of the hospital.

I know that several years ago when we were convinced by officials that it was a good idea to construct that facility, one of the selling points at the time was how that facility would prevent people in this area from having to go south, because there were not enough beds -- we would correct that problem; and the second thing that was a big seller on it was that we would get a lot more services out of that facility. We have built in capital facilities into that building which would provide lab services here so it could also attract physicians from down south to work here. So given some of those expenditures like mobile health equipment, my specific concern I would like the Minister or her officials to comment on is how are we doing in developing that facility in Yellowknife as a facility that will attract specialists from outside the Northwest Territories. They can service small communities by giving us the opportunity to have new types of specialists living in the Territories, and then going out to the various communities out of Yellowknife, rather than us having to bring specialists all the way from Edmonton. That is my question, how are we doing in developing that facility with capital improvements to make it attractive to specialists, and are we really making any significant progress in that area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I did give a bit of an overview the other day, but I request that Mr. Cowcill expand on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Cowcill.

MR. COWCILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the 135-bed constructed capacity of Yellowknife, we are currently funding the facility to operate approximately 99 beds. I can report that the most recent statistics we received show that there has been an upward trend in the use of the outpatient clinic. I think they were up about 16 per cent over the past year. There has also been an upward percentage increase in the use of the acute care beds. There has been an increase in the use of the extended care beds. The percentage utilization in other areas in the hospital such as the psychiatric unit and the laboratory uses also indicate some increased utilization. In the case of the psychiatric unit, not in terms of total numbers of days of inpatient care but rather than in the total numbers of patients dealt with. What the statistics show there is that we are seeing more clientele and dealing with them on a shorter term basis which is consistent with the role originally established for the psychiatric unit at the hospital.

We feel that the worrisome trend that we reported in our services and health status report tabled in the Assembly in the fall which showed that generally speaking, our occupancy levels in hospitals with the exception of Baffin, were running

at the 50 per cent or lower rate. In the case of Yellowknife, that is picking up now. As you know, in respect to some of the other facilities, we have shut down unnecessary beds in Inuvik.

In terms of attracting specialists, we have recently had arrive in town a new orthopedic surgeon and this is a position we feel will very substantially help turn around the traffic south. In fact prior to establishing this particular position, we did a careful assessment of the existing service demand and the costs associated with it which were largely being met in southern Canada and did an internal transfer to fund that function here at Stanton. We have also recently had a new general surgeon arrive on staff. We are optimistic that with the support of the medical association and the health care providers and boards, as well as the political support from this Assembly, we can make very good use of the facility that we have constructed here in Yellowknife and ensure that it does achieve its original objectives of ensuring that people do receive some of these specialty services, where warranted, closer to home.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I just want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for stretching your imagination in allowing me to ask that question which I should have asked under medical services. Thank you.

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Details of capital. Territorial Hospital Insurance Services. Buildings and works, headquarters, total region \$865,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Fort Smith, total Fort Smith. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, when we looked at the SCOF documents, Fort Providence was in there for \$12,000 residence, and then Fort Resolution, \$12,000 for residence; Pond Inlet, Baker Lake, those items are missing in these documents, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what arrangements are going to be made for those residences in those particular locations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, the standing committee on finance questioned the cost of the facilities that would be built for housing and the fact that the general trend was to privatize accommodation, therefore the capital has been changed to leasing of facilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Fort Smith, total region, \$826,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Inuvik, total region, \$673,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Baffin, total capital, \$1,925,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Keewatin, total capital. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, again I think there was considerably more money allocated in our documents for the Winnipeg boarding home and it is down to \$100,000 right now. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what is happening in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister. Mr. Cowcill.

MR. COWCILL: Mr. Chairman, at the standing committee on finance I believe we reported that the capital amount in the budget for the Ublivik boarding home in Winnipeg was under review. The Keewatin board had requested a larger facility than we thought was necessary and we have now reached agreement with the Keewatin board to lease a suitable facility in Winnipeg for a period of four or five years while we see just exactly how the demand for bed spaces in the facility develops, prior to considering what the longer-term requirement is in that particular area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Keewatin. Total region, \$589,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Kitikmeot, total region, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total buildings and works, capital, \$4,928,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Page 14.13, Department of Health, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$623,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total equipment acquisition,

\$623,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total activity, \$5,551,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): On page 14.9, Department of Health, program summary, total capital expenditures, \$5,551,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you look at the last year's estimates and this year's estimates, there is a substantial reduction in the capital expenditure. I believe there is something like \$7.6 million that has been lost in the Department of Health. I have a concern, Mr. Chairman, with the Government Leader's constituency that had plans for a hospital. I am wondering if there are still plans for a hospital in Iqaluit or whether the \$551,000 in capital expenditures is all that is going to be spent this coming fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, in the overall capital when we replaced a lot of the capital for leased spacing, that reduced the amount in the capital budget. I do not consider that lost, but more redirected to leasing facilities, in line with the privatization policy of this government and in line with the regular policy of providing accommodation to the people who work in the health units.

As for the Baffin hospital, we are doing interim renovations while the planning and overall assessment of what type of program is required in the Baffin Region. So we will be doing some interim renovations, however the actual building of a new hospital has been put off until we find out exactly what the patient referral system is going to be.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: So the \$555,000 in capital expenditures is accurate for this year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we are working with the Baffin health board and they are feeling too that they do not know enough of what type of facility is going to be required in the longer term. So rather than barrelling ahead and putting up a facility that may not have looked at all the aspects of what they intend to do in that region, we have agreed the interim renovations will be adequate and there will be some money put aside for planning.

Department Of Health, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Program summary, total capital expenditures, \$5,551,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Does the committee

agree that the Department of Health is concluded with?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you, Madam Minister and your witnesses. The next item is Social Services. We will take a 15 minute break.

--SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. Do you have any opening remarks, Madam Minister?

Department Of Social Services

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the Department of Social Services budget I would like to indicate that over the past three years the department has made significant progress in the quality of service delivery at the community level, and in the development and implementation of new programs such as child day-care, suicide prevention services, youth initiatives and the child sexual abuse program. Community social service workers are involved in the delivery of these new programs at the local level.

The major thrusts of the department for the coming year are in the child sexual abuse program; opening of an alcohol and drug treatment centre in Hay River and a new centre in Yellowknife; second stage housing for handicapped adults in Yellowknife; operation of the new territorial women's correctional centre; the employability enhancement program; the de-institutionalization of child welfare programs and an eight per cent increase in the food rates for social assistance.

As you are aware increases in administration, rather than in funds flowing to the communities and programs, are certainly not in accordance with the government's political philosophy. However, at present there is a demonstrated need to strengthen the management processes of the department to allow it to meet its mandate, expedite the devolution of services and prepare itself for the delivery of complex social programs through the 1990's. This need was identified in an operational review of the department and I have accomplished these objectives without adding any increased resources to the overall department.

As I proceed through the opening remarks I will provide you with more information on these initiatives as they relate to specific items under the program areas in both O and M and capital. First, however, I will be providing you with an overview of the budget.

Budget Overview

The proposed 1991-92 main estimates is for \$92.3 million dollars. The amount of \$88.7 million is for operations and maintenance and \$3.6 is for capital. There are 427 full-time person years and 35.6 casual person years associated with our O and M funding. There is a one per cent reduction in full-time person years from the 1990-91 revised forecast. Revenue for the period is estimated at \$25 million for operations and maintenance. All revenue is fail-safed as part of the formula financing agreement, except projected revenue of \$5.4 million which is excluded, and offsets this government's operating expenses.

New Initiatives

Family And Children's Services

New initiatives included in this budget are as follows:

Family and children's services activity directs and co-ordinates the administration of child welfare and day-care legislation and programs as well as the administration of family violence and child sexual abuse prevention services.

The budget for this division includes an additional 2.0 person years and \$629,000 which will be used for three purposes: One is to provide child sexual abuse specialist positions for two additional regions; to build a foundation of knowledge and skill through intensive training for 18 selected native social workers; and to increase contribution funds available to build on the strengths of communities in dealing with former victims who are now adults.

The issue of child sexual abuse in the Northwest Territories, as in the rest of Canada, is one which we are still struggling to understand and to find ways of addressing. Child victims, families and former victims who are now adults all have needs. Offenders are also members of families and communities, even though their behaviour is totally unacceptable.

Resources of many kinds will be called for to take on this problem: skills, personal commitment, and funding. We need to find ways to address the whole of the problem as communities work toward an understanding of the larger picture of abuse.

The family and children's services division continues to work toward home-based care for children in need. Funds and person years taken from two institutions have been moved to enhance foster care, and improve placement options for children. A substantial emphasis has been put on intervention funding in all regions, providing new funds to keep children with their families.

Corrections

The activity carries out four interrelated programs which are institutional and community corrections for adult offenders and custody and community corrections for young offenders.

The proposed corrections budget includes resources for the operation of a territorial correctional centre for women. A separate facility for women will better meet the security and program needs of female inmates in the Northwest Territories.

The department plans to have the centre in operation in the new fiscal year, utilizing the proposed new resources, and transferring 6.0 person years and \$352,000 from the other three adult facilities.

In 1990, it was the third year when the inmate capacity of the corrections service was exceeded. The system holds 238 inmates when every bed space in all three centres is full. Last year the system held an average of 248 inmates each month. The number of persons incarcerated in the NWT correctional centres reached an all-time high of 280 in December 1990.

Efforts are being made to deal with the problem. If inmates can serve their sentences in their own community, and at the same time the public can be protected against new offenses, costs can be decreased. Consideration of a community incarceration program which will keep short-term non-violent inmates in their home community is under way.

Other corrections statistics show cause for concern. Ninety-

seven per cent of the persons incarcerated are aboriginal which is considerably higher than the 61 per cent in the overall population.

Native advisory committees are operating in each correctional centre and young offender facility so that the native community can help make correctional programs more relevant. Country foods are served. A life skills program at Yellowknife Correctional Centre helps young native men to find the power within themselves to shape their lives in a more appropriate and culturally relevant way. Also, special efforts are being made to hire more aboriginal staff.

Alcohol, Drugs And Community Mental Health Services

This activity includes four program service areas: alcohol and drugs, community mental health, suicide prevention and clinical services for disturbed children and adolescents.

Funding in the amount of \$1,297,000 has been included in the proposed 1991-92 main estimates; \$566,000 for the operation of the Northern Addiction Services 20-bed facility; and partial funding of \$731,000 for the anticipated operating costs of the 30-bed treatment centre currently being planned on the Hay River Reserve.

The budget also contains funding for the Tuvvik outpatient program, and planning continues under the direction of a regional steering committee for the construction of a treatment facility for residents of the Eastern Arctic. Capital funding for this facility has been committed by the federal government and by the Government of the Northwest Territories, and also by Tuvvik.

The provision of community mental health services in the Baffin Region is being delivered through the Baffin Regional Health Board. This has resulted in a deletion of 2.0 person years from the department's base.

Community And Family Support Services

This activity provides services and financial assistance to aged and handicapped persons and to individuals and families in financial need.

The department's proposed main estimates reflect an increase of \$1.7 million in the social assistance program to meet the continued demand in this program area. In addition, effective April 1, 1991, the social assistance food rate will be increased by eight per cent at a projected cost of \$1.4 million. This budget does not address the increased level of food costs in various communities, and a survey will be conducted to find out what these increases have been.

Second stage housing for handicapped adults is in the planning stage. The former receiving home in Yellowknife will be renovated to provide a community based living setting for clients who require only minimal supervision. This facility would provide clients from across the Northwest Territories the opportunity to learn to care for themselves and enhance their chances of being able to live independently in the future. The amount of \$365,000 is included in the budget for the contractual operation of this facility.

The department is presently negotiating with the Hamlet Council of Tuktoyaktuk to transfer the administration of the social services program in that community to the municipality.

The procedures developed for the implementation strategy for this transfer will be used as a model for the future. The transfer of social services programs through the community self-government process will be a departmental priority through the 1990s.

Directorate

With respect to the directorate, this activity is responsible for the planning, development and management of the department at headquarters, including the responsibility for the youth initiative program. It also includes superintendents, social workers and supervisors who provide front line statutory and non-statutory services to the public.

As I mentioned previously, the resources in this activity have been increased through internal reallocations to implement a necessary departmental reorganization. In addition resources have been identified internally to enhance the department's ability to train and develop native northerners with the potential to be successful in management positions. As well, new emphasis will be placed on co-ordinating and supporting the capital planning and construction process within the department.

Highlights Of The Requested Capital Funding

Mr. Chairman, in respect to the requested capital funding. We do have the following proposed: a group home for Igloodik, under the family and children's services division; in the corrections services, renovations are planned for all correctional centres; in the alcohol, drugs and community mental health services, \$1.3 million has been included in the budget for the completion of the Hay River Reserve alcohol and drug treatment centre; community and family support services, planning for a handicapped adult group home is proposed for the Keewatin; also planning is proposed for senior citizens care facilities in the Inuvik and Baffin Regions.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to impress on Members the importance of social services in the Territories and the steps that are being taken to further improve these services through this budget. It is also impressive to note that there are many communities expressing interest and taking responsibilities for delivering social services, therefore the devolution of social services to the communities will, no doubt, be a priority over the next year. This ends my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, and I would be pleased to answer any questions the Members may have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Thank you. Madam Minister, would you like to bring in your witnesses? Would the chairman of the finance committee like to make a comment?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess first, Mr. Chairman, we noted as a committee that the Minister knew her department extremely well. I think she was the only Minister able to answer all the questions asked by the standing committee on finance herself, without having to refer to any of her officials. So we would compliment the Minister in that regard.

Motion To Recommend Maximizing Use Of Home Boarding, Carried

I have three motions, Mr. Chairman. The first one. I move, on behalf of the standing committee on finance, that the committee recommends that the Department of Social Services maximize the use of home boarding and that it work with the NWT Housing Corporation through a pooling of resources to use public housing to board social services recipients where possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Madam Clerk, could you ring the bell? Thank you. I have a motion on the floor. Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is

carried.

--Carried

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is ironic that there were two requests in the House today with regard to communities operating their own social services programs, Mr. Chairman. I think the Minister made reference in her opening remarks to Tuk doing the same thing. The next motion deals with that issue.

Motion To Recommend Fast Track Delivery Of A Social Services Strategy, Carried

I move, the standing committee on finance recommends, that the Department of Social Services fast track the development of a social services strategy to guide it through to delivery, based on extensive public consultation; and further, that the department enter into negotiations with communities to devolve authority for the delivery of social services programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the next motion deals with the alcohol and drug workers and their salaries and I know it is something you expressed a great deal of interest in. The standing committee on finance is concerned that alcohol and drug workers are not paid enough in the NWT and those that are trained, once getting some experience here, are often lured to other jobs that pay more in the NWT or, in fact in a number of cases, going into programs in southern Canada that pay more than our programs do up here. So our last motion deals with that.

Motion To Recommend Review Of Remuneration Levels For Alcohol And Drug Workers, Carried

I move, the standing committee on finance recommends, that the Department of Social Services review remuneration levels for alcohol and drug workers in communities to ensure that they are equitably compensated and take the necessary action to reduce the high turnover rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Your motion is in order. Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Member for Hay River, any further comments from your standing committee? If not, we are into general comments on the Department of Social Services. Is the committee prepared to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Department of Social Services in your main estimate book on page 15.2, any comments on the structure chart? Any comments on departmental overview or objectives? Any comments on page 15.5, on the objectives? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): And on page 15.6 Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Page 15.10, directorate, total O and M, \$11,442,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Family and children's services, total O and M, \$12,500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Corrections Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services, total O and M. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, some information. There has been some controversy in Hay River over the wood program and a little bit about the fishing activities of the correctional centre there. I would like the Minister to know, through you, sir, that recently the Hay River Chamber of Commerce passed a motion unanimously supporting the programs operated by the correctional centre in Hay River, and I think that is worthy of note, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you for those comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Corrections services. Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will address a couple of issues under corrections services, and also when we get to the capital book because some of the stuff I imagine by this time it will have turned into that. I feel kind of bad in a way to always raise this issue on corrections with the Minister, but I cannot help it because there is a major corrections centre in the middle of my constituency. It is probably the largest one in the Territories and probably the oldest one too. I want to point out that this place was built quite a while ago for a different level of clientele than I think is being currently admitted to that institution. I do not think that the institution has changed with the times, and it is starting to reflect that, Mr. Chairman, when in several years you have incidents such as we have had with the one on January 1st. We have had this before and, heaven forbid, we will have them again.

I know that the Minister and her department have the financial problems that any department has, but her department also has a different responsibility in dealing with people who have broken the law, dealing with people who the courts say should be incarcerated and taken out of society for a period

of time and rehabilitated. With the programs they have now, I think inmates are pretty fortunate to live in the Territories rather than in some of the provinces, but still I have some doubts about the capability of the facilities to secure people.

Problems Of Overcrowding At Yellowknife Correctional Centre

I have personal knowledge that the building is an old building and that it has certain technical flaws that I will point out to the Minister, and I will do this later on as the opportunity presents itself. I know that the building is a nice looking building, but that is where part of the problem is; it is not built out of cement, concrete and steel in order to keep people from breaking out. I have information that would indicate that any serious jail-breaker could be out of there in a matter of a few minutes given the nature of the building; built out of cement blocks without, and I reinforce the word "without", reinforcement bars between. You and I, Mr. Chairman, and I am sure the Minister knows, it is like knocking down a set of Lego. You knock one block off and the rest of them will come off pretty easy. I have not seen anything in this budget to indicate that there is going to be any correction of those defects.

When the Minister was giving her outline, she mentioned that last year would achieve maximum inmate capacity in the Territories, and of course YCC would probably be a big recipient of those inmates. I know for a fact that the place is overflowing. I have been there once, not as an inmate but as a visitor, and I would certainly like to ask the Minister's permission to go back to the facility again very shortly to observe what conditions are like there. I know it is an institution and people are there to be incarcerated, but there are limits when you start stacking them up, that is an invitation for trouble. I will ask the Minister's permission to visit the institution here in the near future for a first-hand look at the conditions there.

Getting back again to the size and number of people that we have to deal with, that seems to be one of the problems. There are just too many.

I probably will direct a question later on to ask if the Minister will look at this overall facility in the long term, to anticipate an ever increasing number of people that are in breach of the law and who do require incarceration. I hope that there are other ways of dealing with this, but unfortunately people do get into trouble and people do have to go to jail as there is no other solution. We have three ways of dealing with them, I guess: let them go; give them a fine; or put them in jail. The problem arises when the latter comes up. If we do not have the proper facilities we can expect trouble.

We can also expect a much dissatisfied individual and inmate after spending a period of time in a place where they do not get rehabilitated, they get stored and I guess that generates some problems. I am not saying make it any easier because I have been one that has said that sometimes jail is too easy, along with my other colleagues who have said this. I do not mean that but there are programs and there are facilities and we are talking facilities here. If they are too crowded you can expect problems.

Work Programs For Inmates

I also know that the Minister and her officials in corrections must be complimented for making a very conscious effort to assist the community in many ways with the people who are there. I switch from the negative to the positive, I guess, rather quickly, Mr. Chairman, but the inmates from the correctional centre have been involved in work programs in the community, both for financial gain and for community

services and are to be commended for the community service portion of it. Their department should be commended for assisting them in getting jobs that would help, not only them but their families by earning money to send home to their families while they are away. That is something that is not always found in other institutions in southern Canada and I think it is well that we are able to achieve the certain level of success in that area. I do not know of any here, offhand, here where people have run off or something like that. So it works well.

The down side, I guess, is that like Hay River where they have the wood program, I have suggested before, and my colleagues have suggested as well, that more utilization be made of persons incarcerated or taken out of society by being in the YCC, to work on projects that would not be getting into or taking away business from business people. I mentioned before, the wood program that Hay River has been so successful with, to this part of the country where we do have a lot of people who use wood. There is room for a program that Hay River has right now. A lot of people would welcome the opportunity to use alternate energy if it could be obtained here in the city, and wood is one way of doing it. There is lots of wood around but it is just that it is too hard to get by the business community. We have to travel many miles for it and it is spread apart.

The other was the reforestation. I will say this again, that we do nothing in the Territories to reforest the natural die-off or natural kill trees, or have woodlots to put the trees back so that they can grow and reproduce themselves to useable size. We do nothing like that at all and that is one way, in the provinces that I know of, that reforestation programs are administered or delivered. I would like to see some serious thought being given to that for -- I do not want to use the word cheap labour -- it is not cheap labour in terms of the necessity for something like that, that no one else is doing. One department in this government is sponsoring but it does not have the funding to look after, whereas another department has people but nothing for them to do. There is the possibility that departments can get together and we can see some effort being made in that area of reforestation. It may foster in people's minds a long-term career in that area and that might be one way of doing it. The possibilities are endless, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Whitford, your time is up. Corrections services. The Member for Baffin Central.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few comments about the corrections services. I think some of the facilities are very well organized, especially the ones that have been built more recently. Perhaps the older ones can be improved. The Baffin Correctional Centre is very well constructed and organized and it was just recently built. The young offender's facility is very good. I think that the facilities at the correctional centres and other secure facilities are now much better than they used to be. I am sure that some of the facilities in the NWT are still in need of improvement. Perhaps they can be brought up-to-date or renovated.

Inmates Should Have Access To Counselling Services

The inmates in the correctional facilities -- I think they think about a lot of things and they do have problems. A lot of times they do not have anybody to talk to and they have no access to counselling services. A small thing can become a big thing when they do not have anybody to talk to. I have been told by some people who have served in the correctional centres that they do not have anybody to turn to. I think that in my own mind it would be better if the inmates in the correctional facilities and other secure facilities should have

access to someone who can give them counselling so that they will have a better understanding between inmates and staff. I think that will eliminate a lot of the problems that we see in corrections today.

As ordinary Members, when we have discussions about our problems with the Minister, I know that this can fix a lot of problems. I am aware that the pastoral services are provided within the correctional services and they allow visits by relatives and friends, but that does not happen often enough. I think it would be better if the Minister could provide a counselling service or arrange for a pastoral visit more often, or make the staff aware that there is a need for them to serve the inmates in this capacity.

There have been instances when they want to talk to staff members and they just get told not to do that. I have been told that this hurts a lot of people and this causes more problems. I think that the inmates in secure or correctional facilities should be provided with counselling services. They would get a better understanding of what the implications of committing a crime are and why they have to end up in a correctional centre. Perhaps they should be given more attention in the pastoral services and counselling. I think we can reach some people this way. I have talked to people who are talking about committing suicide and I think I have assisted in some way by my just talking to the inmates. We have to provide more counselling within the facilities. I am just passing on what people who have been inmates in secure facilities have told me, even though I have never been an inmate of a correctional centre myself. I know that some people keep things within themselves even though they are seeking help. They might want to talk to somebody but they do not have anybody available, so I think they should be provided with more counselling opportunities, not just with psychiatric professionals or the ministers. I think this can help a lot of people.

I have not talked too much about my problems to anybody before, and before I did that I would always have problems, but I would feel better after I had talked to an elder or a friend. I think we should be looking into this. I think a lot of people would not be returning to correctional facilities because some people going to those centres are very smart and they can have a lot on their mind. I think we have to look at providing more counselling services to inmates in jail or in correctional centres. If we did that, I think we would see a lot of improvement in that area. This has never been tried and there is nothing to prove that it is the wrong way to do it. I am aware that sometimes a psychiatrist or a psychologist will go into the correctional facilities to talk to the inmates, also the ministers or pastoral services are provided, but I think we could improve on that. I just wanted to make general comments about the fact that ex-inmates have talked to me about it and perhaps the Minister can consider this. I think that all of us have gone through a period where we have problems and until we can talk about them to somebody else, we tend to keep them inside ourselves and it starts getting bigger and bigger. I just wanted to state this for the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services. Member for Baffin South.

Baffin Correctional Centre Too Attractive

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some general comments on correctional facilities and how the residents of the Baffin Region feel about this issue. We talk a lot about the Baffin Correctional Centre at our regional meetings, and I always seem to hear that the correctional facility is so good, it has everything in it such as recreational facilities -- it even has better recreational facilities

than some of the communities in our region. The people in the communities have said that the facility is so good people want to go there for free food or for other services.

Also, the inmates of the Baffin Correctional Centre are able to go out on the land for hunting and they are supplied with new rifles, new skidoos, they are provided with warm new clothing. This seems to be attracting people more into the correctional centre and this has been a concern of the Baffin Regional Council for a long time, but nothing has been done to change that. The general public in the region want to see a jail that is not as good as the present Baffin Correctional Centre. We see some people who, while they are not free when they are within the correctional centre, if they like something and if their mind is not quite right, they will want to keep returning to a place where they get good treatment and are provided with good services.

When I toured the Baffin Correctional Centre, I did not like it myself, but I have heard a lot of people say that that building is still good and in some way I believe that, especially with regard to their on-the-land program with their good equipment. I think that people are happy to do that, who would not have an opportunity otherwise. A lot of the people who become inmates do not have their own hunting facilities and they do not get this opportunity until they become inmates of the correctional centre. A lot of us feel that the present correctional centre is too attractive.

Another matter I wanted to talk about is the shelters, especially the shelter in Iqaluit called Nutaraq's Place. I am aware that it has helped a lot of people and I also know that it is very frightening when you are scared of your own spouse. This facility has provided an alternate place for a woman to go to, but I have also been told by my constituents that some of the people who are staying at Nutaraq's Place do not want to go back to their communities, the majority of them do not want to return to their home communities after staying there. There should be a shelter built in Cape Dorset, and I think a lot more people would not refuse to go home after their stay in a shelter, if they had a shelter right in the community. I think I am more sensitive to this problem because I am an elected official. You cannot take sides. It is very hard to decide which side of the family you are on. If these communities that have no shelter -- if they are going to use them to send someone to who wants to get away from spousal assault, I think the hamlet council should be consulted and they should agree for their community to be used as such.

Also people who have to go to jail and have to be moved to another community -- I think the same thing about that. I think the local government should be consulted if they are going to receive any open custody inmates. I know this can be difficult, but those people who are sent out by Social Services to another community -- I think the community has to agree to this sort of thing. This will improve the program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I would like to remind Members to keep their comments to the item that is under discussion. I let Mr. Arlooktoo make reference to shelters but we are dealing with corrections services. If Members could keep their comments to what is being considered. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Inmates' Access To Guns, Snowmobiles

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the standing committee on finance was examining this particular item, some Members perhaps had been watching too much television and watching the way correctional centres operate in other jurisdictions. We were amused when we found out that in one of our correctional institutions, the inmates have access both to guns and snowmobiles. This led to a little bit of humour

because in other jurisdictions you do not give inmates access to vehicles so they can escape and firearms so that they can commit more crimes.

Although we have a completely different set of circumstances in the NWT where, for example, on Baffin even with a snowmobile there are not too many places you can get access to a real escape route, I would like to ask the Minister if this poses any problems for us, the fact that you are trying to provide some correctional program so that people can continue to learn their skills, and so on, so that when they get out they at least will still be able to provide themselves with food, and so on, but does this pose any problem, the fact that once you lock somebody up you take away their freedom? That is the whole point, that you give up many, many freedoms. This seemed unusual, when the standing committee on finance was going through this particular item, that probably in no other jurisdiction would you give an inmate a firearm. Will the Minister confirm this, that in our correctional system, the fact is that they give them firearms?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the correctional centre in the Baffin has vocational training programs in the facility which consist of land skills programs and which teach hunting, survival and fishing and boating skills. There are no problems delivering the program, to date. There are many inmates that have not had the opportunity to be exposed to some of the land programs and I think our intention is to rehabilitate the inmate and also, when they get out of the facility, to ensure that they can integrate into society and make use of some of these skills that they were taught in the facility. So to date we have not had any particular concerns with respect to these programs we deliver in the facility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: I certainly do not challenge the validity of the program. I can see in our circumstance we go about corrections in a way that makes sense to the culture of the people. But I am wondering if there are any legal problems with this, the fact that someone who has been committed to an institution has been put there not only to make them secure but also to protect the public. You put someone there into this program who could be a threat to the public. Is the Minister aware that there could be a legal implication to providing inmates with firearms?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Offhand I am not aware of it. I am sure all these concerns were checked into, but I will confirm for the Member. Members should keep in mind that in these land skills programs, inmates just do not march out of the facility with guns in their hands. All the ammunition and guns are under supervision by the correctional officers and are not used until they are out on the land.

In respect to legal implications, I think being in the North and the fact being that these are correctional centres and not institutions, we are very fortunate that we do not have to be so rigid in respect to legalities when we are trying to deliver programs which are, hopefully, going to be beneficial to the inmate.

However, to confirm whether the legal implications were checked on and whether they were adhered to, I certainly can confirm for the Member, because this program has been in effect ever since the correctional centre opened in the Baffin and to date still continues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Corrections services. Member for Deh Cho.

More Community Participation In Corrections

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In corrections services there is one line item "to provide greater participation and control of justice programming by communities". What is the Minister referring to there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister. Mr. Gargan is referring to one of the structural objectives of this particular activity of corrections services, to provide greater participation and control of justice programming by communities. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Basically this means a couple of things. One, to try and enhance a more of a community corrections program. Also it is to support justice committees that are now developed in the communities, which are youth justice committees, and also consideration toward developing adult justice committees -- basically this means that these have more community participation -- and trying to find ways of dealing with inmates that are being incarcerated or possibly find ways to avoid incarceration by first time offenders.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: What does "to fund, monitor and evaluate, through contractual arrangements, community-specific open custody supervision" mean?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, we have many open custody facilities in the Territories, specifically pertaining to youth open custodies under the Young Offenders Act. This funding pertains to those specific facilities. I believe they are operated in practically every region in the Territories and they are under the Young Offenders Act, reflecting toward the youth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: In most southern correctional or federal institutions they have what they call aboriginal corrections authorities. They have programs specifically geared to addressing aboriginal people, such as spiritual sweat lodges and that sort of thing. What is the structure here in the NWT? Do we have a body of inmates that actually act as spokespeople for the inmates? Or is there any anticipation by this government to create what they have for secondary education at Sir John Franklin School, that type of a board, maybe with regional representatives on a board, to address correctional issues? Is there any movement toward that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

Native Advisory Committee

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in the past year we have formed what is called the native advisory committee. They are currently operating in each correctional centre and also the young offenders facility so that native communities can help make correctional programs more relevant. This has been initiated, developed and implemented in the past year to try to address some of the concerns with respect to what native inmates have and would like to see in the centre. With respect to the educational component, in particular the young offenders facilities, we do have an educational program in every young offender facility, with the added opportunity in our open custody, where young

offenders can take advantage of the school system during the day and generally participate in other programs in the evening. So the opportunity is there for young offenders to be able to take advantage of the educational system.

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

Violence In Corrections Facilities

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a concern with regard to violence in the corrections facility. Not after the fact, but I think the correctional system should adopt a policy regarding inmates that cause riots. If an inmate does it once, they should be shipped to a southern penitentiary, period. I do not think they should be allowed to stay in the same facility where they caused those problems. I have been a Member for eight years and there have been about four riots and there has been a lot of public property damaged. So it is every other year that we run into these situations. I think instead of sweeping it under the rug, not making an issue out of it, I think we should. I think this government should take a position regarding inmates that cause riots. I would like to ask if there are any moves with regard to those people that lead inmates to destroy public property.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, we do not have specific policies with respect to inmates that initiate any type of violence in the facilities. However, I can assure Members that whenever inmates are difficult to handle and will not participate in the programs or find it to be more acceptable to them to instigate any type of riot activities, they are taken out of the facilities and transferred to an institution in the South. I want to assure Members that there are certain inmates that if they are difficult to handle here, we certainly ship them to the South.

In regard to the recent riot in particular, in the Yellowknife facility, if there is space available in a southern institution, they are sent. After this past riot, I can tell the Members that at least 30 inmates were shipped south, probably the very next day. But at times it is difficult to identify the exact number of inmates or the exact inmate that instigated riots. In particular at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, as the Member for Yellowknife South indicated, that is an older facility with many different renovations. It was initially built in 1968 and probably when the standards were not as rigid as today's construction standards are. Certainly the structure and the additions cause problems. There are deficiencies in the way the structure is.

I want to let Members know that we are in the process of developing a master plan for corrections, to be able to try to deal with, not only community corrections, but the growing trend of inmates that are going into centres, as I indicated in my opening remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for that response with regard to inmates that do cause riots. I think it is only proper that people who instigate riots in jails should not be left in the same facility. I understand that some inmates were put in solitary confinement, but they did not stay there forever; they still go back into the mainstream of the population. That is where you may run into the same kind of situation again. I fully support the Minister's position that if inmates do cause riots they should be shipped down south, period. I want to thank the Minister for her response on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services.

Member for Kitikmeot West.

Open Custody For Young Offenders

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this activity I believe we operate some open custody for young offenders homes, both under contract in facilities which we own, but I believe we also operate some in private homes that are inspected first and then designated for that purpose. Is that correct?

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

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could advise me what the success is of these private homes that operate for us as open custody facilities, and give some sort of a cost comparison. I am not asking for anything precise, but just the Minister's opinion on the cost effectiveness of operating that way versus building young offenders homes and then staffing them under contract, the two methods we operate under.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the bed space is always cheaper when you try to privatize it as opposed to running the institutions, because of our continual costs of operating them on a 24-hour basis. There is a foster care system in every region in the Territories and there are families that provide one or two beds for young offenders with open custody. We hope that these young offenders can benefit from a family environment and will be able to take advantage of the schools and work programs, and we hope that they participate fully within their foster family. It is certainly at a lesser cost. However, the other problem we have is encouraging families to accept some of the young offenders in their home environment. Trying to meet the demand is a problem, rather than placing them in an institution. Thank you.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Madam Minister. I appreciate the comments and the Minister's feelings on this program. I do think it is an excellent program and I think that at all times, youngsters in care under a court order are better off being cared for in a home atmosphere than they are in an institutional atmosphere.

I raise the point because I know that the Minister supports the concept, and I would like her to bear that in mind if the suggestion I made in some other department should ever come to Executive Council, to perhaps provide public housing units with preselected families who have this willingness but now do not have the space, to provide public housing units of such a size that there might indeed be a couple of spare bedrooms in them. I think it could go a long way toward solving two problems, the housing shortage in the communities and also the better care that youngsters that have gotten into this trouble have in the home setting than they would in an institutional setting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I do not have any comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Go ahead, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mahsi cho. I move that the Minister of Social Services consider implementing an aboriginal corrections authority board to serve in an advisory capacity on aboriginal issues within the corrections services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan, before I make a ruling on your motion, the Chair is going to have it translated and circulated. Are there any further comments on corrections services? We will return to your motion after it is circulated. If there are no further comments on corrections services, I will stand down corrections services until we deal with the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I have two motions. Can I deal with my other motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Yes.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Minister of Social Services adopt a policy which allows inmates that cause riots to be shipped south immediately.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Can I get a copy of your motion? The Chair will also get this motion translated and circulated to the Members before I make a ruling on it.

MR. PUDLUK: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Point of order, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, I thought our rules said that there was only supposed to be one motion at a time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have not made any ruling on them yet, Mr. Pudluk. I am waiting so I can get them translated, then I will make my ruling to see if they are in order or not. Since you insist, the Chair is going to recess until we have those translated and circulated. Then we can deal with them right away. We will recess until the translation is done.

---SHORT RECESS

I will call the committee back to order. We will distribute the first motion that was made by the Member for Deh Cho. Can I get the Member to read out the motion again? Mr. Gargan.

Motion To Consider Implementing Aboriginal Corrections Authority Board

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my motion reads: I move that the Minister of Social Services consider implementing an aboriginal corrections authority board to serve in an advisory capacity on aboriginal issues in the corrections system.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, there was a national report called "Locking Up Indians" in which the task force made some recommendations on addressing the matter of native people within the correctional system. One of the recommendations was the creation of an aboriginal corrections authority within the corrections system.

In Justice we do have the Law Reform Committee that deals with aboriginal people. Basically my motion is to see whether or not -- I realize that within the corrections they have an inmate committee, but outside of that I would like to see if we could create an authority serving in an advisory capacity to the Minister, on directions that the corrections system could consider regarding aboriginal people. That is the whole intent behind the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion. Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate to the Member that not only do we have the inmate committee in each correctional centre, but we do have a native advisory committee operating in each correctional centre. That native advisory committee does consist, also, of people from the public. I am not too sure if the Member is requesting a further board in addition to this native advisory committee. I would like to ask for clarification as to who he feels this board should report to. Would it report to the director of corrections, or to myself as Minister? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. I have a motion on the floor. You cannot ask questions of the Member, Madam Minister. To the motion. The Member for Kitikmeot West.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is unfortunate that we cannot ask questions because I have a lot of questions that I would need answered in order to support this. I do not know either, serving in an advisory capacity, to whom that advisory capacity is and it is not clear to me whether this corrections authority board is one for the NWT. Would it be the same one for Inuit as for Dene, or would it be one for each institution? I find the motion very vague and I can therefore not support it.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to dealing with aboriginal issues, I am not suggesting that the people on the board would be from within the inmates. I am suggesting that people who are outside the jails would work in an advisory capacity to the Minister. The structure in which they will serve is something on which the Minister could solicit suggestions from the Members, whether it should be two boards, one serving the East and one serving the West, or one board that serves the whole Northwest Territories. It is up to the department on how we might be able to address the motion.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Consider Implementing Aboriginal Corrections Authority Board, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Question is being called. All those in favour? The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Madam Clerk, will you ring the bell? The Chair now recognizes a quorum. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Gargan.

Motion To Develop Policy To Send Inmates Who Cause Riots To The South

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I have another motion here. Mr. Chairman, my motion reads: I move that the Minister of

Social Services consider developing a policy which requires inmates that cause riots to be shipped south immediately.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The motion has been circulated to all Members. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am requesting the Minister to consider adopting a policy which new inmates who go into our facilities up here are made aware of, that there is a policy with regard to inmates who are troublemakers, who incite riots, and that the people of the North, this government or the corrections system, would not tolerate that. If there is a policy in place, then perhaps we might, in the future, stop inmates from destroying public property. That is the thought behind this motion. When I say "immediately" I do not mean as soon as the riot is over but I would certainly suggest that once everything is settled, those people are dealt with accordingly. If there are grounds for them to be shipped out, they should be.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion. The Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, it does sound kind of cruel and inhumane when you look at it in the short term, but I believe that Mr. Gargan is right, and I and a number of my colleagues have said the same thing. The institutions that we do have in the North are sometimes seen to be fairly mild and timid and nice in comparison to, say, Prince Albert or places down in Ontario and Quebec that do not have the time or the patience to deal with people that misbehave once they are inside those walls. Oftentimes I have heard this said by a lot of people here in my constituency, that that is exactly what it is; the troublemakers we perhaps do not need here and maybe troublemakers should be sent to an institution where they are going to realize that life in behind the wall is not what it is in the minimum security facilities that we do have here in the North.

Again, on the surface it may seem kind of inhumane; it is probably one thing that is going to teach a person a lesson and appreciate what they do have here.

I know that from a social worker point of view we are supposed to do as much as we can to rehabilitate people and to ease them back into society, but sometimes you can talk until you are blue in the face and nothing is going to happen. Maybe a short stint in Prince Albert will save a thousand words.

Motion To Develop Policy To Send Inmates Who Cause Riots To The South, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

MR. GARGAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Corrections services, total O and M, \$18,714,000. Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not ask the Minister too many questions on corrections services, but during the finance committee, and it has been brought up before as well, people that commit crimes in the smaller

communities are shipped to the bigger centres. It is just as though the bigger centres benefit; Hay River would benefit from the use of that labour while they are in jail. The small community does not get any benefit from their being incarcerated. We had asked before if people that commit crimes that are non-violent, if they could be kept in the community somehow. I know there are quite a few people trained and put through the training system of corrections that are guards that are originally from, for example, Resolution. We are supposed to be training people to try and create jobs in the community, but then there are never jobs to bring them back to the community. That way you would also be creating jobs in the community, as guards.

I am sure you do not need a multi-million dollar facility to house people. You could even use government staff houses that we have extra of, or some building. That way the community can use those people as well for cleaning the community up in the summer or just basically shovelling snow in the winter or working on the church, or whatever. Then you keep the people in the community and you also create some dollars floating in the community.

I believe the Minister has been requested to do that and I am just wondering where she is on that issue. Thank you.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, as I had indicated in my opening remarks, consideration is given to a community incarceration program, and this program will keep short-term, non-violent inmates in their home community. It is currently being developed. Thank you.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, at what stage is the development and when can we expect the people from your department to come to Fort Resolution to begin negotiations to implement such a program?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: We are currently working with Justice in trying to develop this program. We also have to work with the RCMP and the courts. At the same time I do want to make the Member aware that there are other programs in place, such as the fine option program, victim offender reconciliation program, and also the other program of alternative measures program, and particularly where there are youth justice committees. But we are making a concerted effort in trying to expand the youth justice committee to also address adult offenders. That is part of the component for community corrections.

I would anticipate probably looking at the program the latter part of the summer, if not the fall, once Justice and the RCMP and the courts have agreed to the concept.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, do you mean the concept is not even agreed to by those other departments yet?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Discussions are currently under way with the other departments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: The Justice department has a tendency to

move very, very slowly. Maybe it is because they are cautious; I do not know what it is, but I am hoping that the Minister can put pressure on them to come to a decision quickly. It is something that is requested by Members of the Assembly and it makes common sense. I know in government sometimes the things that make common sense do not happen but it does make common sense to do that. It may be a money-saving thing in the long run.

We have tried the fine option program in the communities, but when the judge sentences somebody to 100 hours of community labour, it might take that person a year, or whatever. They will show up in the community office and say, "I am here to work for an hour," so you cannot really plan anything around them. That does not seem to work that well, whereas if you had people incarcerated in the community and you know you have got those people to work so many days a week, it would work a lot better.

I was just wondering if the Minister would be willing to send someone into Fort Resolution as a pilot type project and negotiate with the people as well, to have their input into developing this type of program. Thank you.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Social Services has discussed this program with the Department of Justice, the courts and the RCMP. We have full co-operation of all agencies and the community certainly will be selected soon to be encouraged to participate in this program. I can advise the Member that consideration will be given to Resolution.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services. Member for Yellowknife South.

Facilities For Young Offenders In Yellowknife

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, in general comments I did mention a number of different areas that I thought corrections services could head into. I also indicated that I did have a number of questions that I wanted to ask. I am going to take a few minutes here to ask the Minister responsible for corrections about a number of areas that have concerned me for a while.

Dealing with the young offenders program to start off with. The young offenders facility, and a beautiful one it is, is located in Fort Smith. They hold young offenders there. But there are no facilities here in this city for holding young offenders. I wonder, where do young offenders go when they arrive in Yellowknife to await their hearing? What happens to them here in this city? Where are they held in custody?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, this certainly has been a concern identified in respect to specifically where young offenders are held. There have been some discussions with respect to the RCMP on remands of young offenders. I want to let the Member know that I should not say that there is no young offender facility here in the city; we do have a facility down in School Draw which is designated a young offender facility. I can indicate to the Member that many times the young offenders are kept in RCMP cells until they get through the courts. Once the courts have decided whether they are going to stay in remand or be charged accordingly, then they are taken to one of our young offenders facilities in the Territories, either Hay River or Fort Smith, or even the facility in Iqaluit.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I understand that there are times when they do stay at the RCMP cells. It is not a very nice place to be, in the lockup there. You are really close to the drunk tank; you are really close to the area where they hold people that they pick up for a variety of crimes who are still awaiting processing, so to speak. But close to the drunk tank -- is this a proper place to put young offenders waiting to appear in court?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I guess the issue at hand is that under the Young Offenders Act, once the young offenders are in the courts and charged accordingly, they become the responsibility of Social Services, who look after them and place them in the appropriate facility. There have been some discussions with the RCMP and the Department of Justice on trying to find a better way, I would put it, to deal with young offenders that are currently going into the system. If the young offender, for example, is picked up on a Friday night or on the weekend, they are automatically taken to the RCMP cells. Once they are through the courts and the courts determine what to do with these young offenders, then they are taken to the facilities under Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Corrections services. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Minister for her answer. I realize it is not really cut and dried when there are so many different variables. You pick them up today; some of them are being remanded over; and it is a tough issue, but I am sure they are dealing with it. I have been told that sometimes it may be the best place to put a young offender overnight, right next to the drunk tank, and they will see what kind of life some people live and it might be the best punishment for them.

I want to ask a question dealing with the programs that are currently being run by corrections once a person is in one of the institutions. In the Baffin there are some programs for the Inuit people to go out on the land once in a while. They have facilities located out on the land and they can go out there and learn the land skills, and they learn from the elders that are there to help them to cope with life. Sometimes that is good therapy. I remember seeing somewhere, either in a magazine article or in a newspaper or on television, that this was the only place in the world where they issue guns to inmates. It is not as bad as it sounds, of course. To live off the land you need a gun and it is carefully restricted, I realize that. I am not criticizing it, I am praising the Minister for the foresight in this program. It may have been started before her regime but nonetheless it is something that I think is needed. It is good therapy, but it does come under some criticism.

Land Programs For Inmates In The Western Territories

Are the same opportunities available here for the Dene and the Metis that may be incarcerated in this area, where they have land programs? We do have people that probably could benefit from some sort of counselling from elder participation on the land. Do we have any hunting or trapping programs that might assist the Dene and Metis to work their way back into society, so to speak, Mr. Chairman?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, keeping in mind that the Baffin Correctional Centre is more of a minimal security facility, and the same goes for the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, the Yellowknife Correctional Centre generally keeps -- I would not say more violent criminals, but more seriously charged inmates. I do want to indicate to the

Member that in the Hay River facility is included the operation of a fishing program and they also have the wood cutting operation. I am not saying that this particular program cannot be implemented in the West; it certainly can be. Sometimes, though, we find that due to the limited resources that we have in the centre, this does not give us as much flexibility or opportunity to place many different programs in these facilities, because that means taking a portion of your inmates out of the facility, requiring additional supervision at different posts.

A program like this can certainly be considered for development in the facilities, but at the same time I would like the Member to keep in mind that we are limited with our resources. I do want to make Members aware that the current collective agreement with the Union of Northern Workers gives us a fairly limited ability to address many programs, because under the agreement itself it really places a strain on our resources in many of these facilities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program in Hay River is axes, not guns, they have over there. Thank you, Madam Minister, through Mr. Chairman, for the response. I know that it takes more people to administer a program like that, but it seems to be fairly successful over in the Baffin. I would imagine that there are not too many places to go when you are on the land. You depend on other people to survive and you are certainly not going to run away. In one sense it may take fewer people to look after more in situations like that, where people are happily being rehabilitated. This is just a suggestion that the Minister have her department officials revisit that issue and see, in fact, if something like that is, in fact, possible.

I know that there are a lot of times in the summer, during the day, that there are many inmates just whiling away their time out in the yard and just walking around in circles. It just seems such a waste of time, I guess, killing time. It might be worth looking at again in a little while.

Recruiting Aboriginal People For Correctional Centres

Moving over to the person year allocation for this department, it is fairly substantial, and I have always asked questions about the numbers of native people working for departments. I would like to know how successful your department would be in a recruitment of native people in various positions in corrections, from the senior administration down to the -- from the upper to the lower levels. Has the Minister been successful in recruiting a percentage of aboriginal people into corrections?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, not as much as I had hoped. I do want to indicate to the Member that there are many facilities that have a very good success rate in implementing and recruiting aboriginal people into these correctional centres. I know the young offenders facilities have a very high rate of aboriginal people running these facilities. I know the Baffin Correctional Centre has a very high rate of aboriginal people in these facilities and there certainly is a fairly moderate rate at SMCC, South Mackenzie Correctional Centre.

With respect to the administration and in respect to YCC there certainly could be room for improvement and I have stressed that to the department. We have certainly requested that the department look and try to find other ways to increase the number of aboriginal correctional workers in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, in particular, because I feel that they have

a very low aboriginal correctional officer percentage overall.

I can let the Member know that the percentage is not as high as I would like to see, but we are always striving to increase the number of aboriginal people, particularly correctional workers in these facilities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Corrections services. Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would think that the department could step up its promotion of corrections facilities. Let me rephrase that, Mr. Chairman. That the department could step up its promotion of corrections employment opportunities. There is a whole structure there that could be promoted a little bit more in terms of career opportunities. We look at Social Services and we only think of social workers, but they are more than that. I would like to suggest that somehow or other the Minister's department look at that section of her department, and when they have those career days -- the federal government's northern careers program, career days in school, they used to have a big show here once upon a time in the major centres of Hay River, Fort Smith and Yellowknife -- where they would have people talking about their professions and they would be dressed in their uniforms if they had uniforms. It was visible at the schools and they used to have these school kids come through there and they would actually see the people that were actually in these professions and have an opportunity to talk with them and find out what is required to get to that level and what they do there, and what kind of a future it would offer them here in the Territories.

I know that the department recruits, and there seems to be a good number of people who are not from within the Territories who are working at corrections. I wonder how we could attract more people there. Is it an area that we, as a government, could promote a little more as a career opportunity? It is sad to say, but crime will be around for a long time. I would not say their futures will be secure if they get a job with corrections but it is something where you could make a contribution back to the Territories by working in there. What I would like to say is that they look at more promotion of the occupations that are within that.

Turnover Of Staff At Senior Level

While I am on the subject of personnel or staff, there seems to be a big changeover, turnover, at the senior level. Directors of corrections, or acting directors of corrections, Mr. Chairman, in the past three or four years now -- I wonder if the Minister would be able to tell me how many directors or acting directors of corrections there have been. They do not seem to stay very long and I just wonder if she would know how many there have been in the last while.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in the past three years I can advise the Member that we have had three directors of corrections in the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services, total O and M, \$18,714,000. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister would be able to indicate why there is such a turnover of that senior level of officer.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: It is difficult to determine exactly why, Mr. Chairman, for different reasons. I have not

taken an exit interview with each director of corrections to find out why they are leaving, but I would imagine that sometimes with the stress and with respect to the lack of resources, the increasing number of inmates that we have, it is sometimes probably frustrating. Also for a variety of reasons. I have always found that corrections is always one directorate that seems to be always fairly busy, having to keep on top of everything at all times and not to take anything for granted. They have the division that has all the institutions that are being run on a 24-hour basis, and I think probably any area where you have the responsibility to ensure that these institutions are run effectively causes a lot of stress, no doubt. But there is no particular reason that I can pinpoint as to why we have gone through three directors in three years.

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

MR. WHITFORD: I worked in Personnel for a while years back in my misspent youth. I learned a lot about people applying for jobs and I learned a lot about people leaving jobs. One of the things I used to do was exactly what the Minister said she did not do; it was to do an exit report. I would think that if I were running a department and I had three senior people leave in three years, I would want to know why. The Minister has suggested reasons but I would want to know why. I would certainly direct my officials to find out why. If you have had three senior individuals hired full time, you must have had acting people in the interim. So instead of three I would suggest there have been six people in that role now. I recall bumping into one of them a little while ago and all of a sudden he was gone. That is what causes me concern; that there is no continuity.

I would like to suggest that the Minister direct her senior officials to review that position. I understand one of them may have died, so there was no interview necessary there. My information is fairly complete and I had only noticed this now. I would make a suggestion that the Minister direct her officials to study that very carefully to see if this has any effect on the overall service of corrections. That lack of continuity, in my estimation, having worked in that field for awhile, would stem from having too many people not stay on the job very long.

I just want to move away from that for a minute, Mr. Chairman, to another area. Just in the last few years there were major renovations made to the Yellowknife facilities. They added on a fairly large amount of floor space; the administrative centre, I think they call it. I understand there were some training facilities put on the premises there, not physical training but conference rooms so they can do this training. I also understand that in the last little while it has been rarely used for that purpose. I believe they are renting here, next door, downstairs. I remember bumping into a number of corrections people here. It surprised me that there would be use of local facilities when they had on-board facilities. I wonder if the Minister could indicate how much these training rooms are being used for that particular purpose, or are they being used for other things?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I do not know exactly what the percentage of usage is on these training rooms. I would have to find that out from the department.

Level Of Stress In Corrections

I do want to indicate to the Member that I am somewhat concerned with some of his remarks with respect to corrections, our director of corrections exiting out and for me to take an interview. I do know that we have had three directors since I have been the Minister and two of them have

chosen to leave for personal reasons and I do not feel it is in my interest to interview exactly what their personal reasons are. So it is somewhat recognizing that, as I had said, corrections is a division that is under a currently and continually stressful requirement.

The other thing is that there is often, in my opinion, a lot of undermining in corrections. I have had correctional workers picket me as a Minister because they did not like their work environment, instead of complaining to the union as to what there work environment is, or their work hours. So there is a lot of this type of resentfulness in corrections and I find that at times when they run these facilities they do not work as a team and it causes a lot of grievances in many of the facilities.

I can say that there are a couple of facilities that run very well, but particularly Yellowknife Correctional Centre has it downfalls and there are a lot of areas that require a concerted effort among the staff, and not only the administrative staff here at headquarters, but the staff at YCC.

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

MR. WHITFORD: I hope the Minister did not take offense at my suggesting that she conduct these exit interviews herself or anything like that. It is not any slight on her. My intention was to find out why people are leaving. These are fairly senior level positions. I understand a lot of effort goes into recruitment, everything from advertising to interviewing to relocating to training and orienting people to the North, if they are from the South. That is what I meant. It would give the officials something to judge the incumbents on. If they appear to be susceptible to stress, do not hire them. They cannot hack it and they will not stay. That is what I meant. I did not mean any offense to the Minister.

Releasing Of Internal Reports

I want to conclude my concerns by moving back to what the Minister said today. Unfortunately I was out of the House when she tabled the report on how many reports have been conducted over the past little while. I think there were four of them, including the last one. That is quite a number. Some of them I have not even heard about. I have heard of the O'Handley report and certainly the Youngman report but -- I have been asking a lot of questions, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister would table the recommendations of this last episode we had in corrections. Here we have a corrections budget in the millions of dollars, and this really concerns me, what happened there, not only the fact that it is in my constituency, close to home, but I have asked a lot of questions to the Minister, if she would release this report, and she has told me plainly that she is reluctant to do this, as she has been reluctant to release the other reports, or even terms of reference for some reports, good heavens. She did say that she just did not want to let the information sort of expose corrections officers, what they may have said, or what inmates may have said to the team that is conducting this interview. But I am not interested in that. I am not interested in what Joe said to Sam or what Sam said to Harry about the wardens, or what the wardens say about the inmates, what the inmates say about the Minister. I am not interested in that. I am interested in finding out about what is the morale of the place, the situation in terms of over-crowding, lack of budget or something like that, that may come out of this report. That is what I am interested in.

The recommendations from all of those other reports have never been made public so we, the public, we, the MLAs, do not know whether they have ever been met. Maybe that is some of the problem and that is why I keep pressing the Minister for that. I am not looking for the gory details of who said what to whom. I just wonder why the Minister is so

opposed to revealing the recommendations from these reports and why cannot the Minister tell us, tell me at least, if she would consider releasing the recommendations so that I would know, and my colleagues would know, whether or not there have been any of these recommendations implemented. I do not want to know the details. I just want to know the facts so we as Members can help her. I wonder why she is so reluctant to reveal that. If it is because of that confidentiality of who said what to whom, I am not interested in that. I am interested in the general report and the recommendations so we would know what to look for and what to expect, and how we as ordinary Members can help. Perhaps the Minister can answer that and then I will leave her alone.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have in the past discussed some of the reports with the Member for Yellowknife South, so I think it is unfair for him to say that I am reluctant to release every report. I have discussed them with him at times. It is true that I have not released them publicly. As I have said before, I do not think it is in the public's interest to know the details of every report. On the latest report, I can take into consideration to discuss it with the Member. I do not feel, in all honesty, that there is anything with regard to the recommendations that I publicly have to hide and be concerned about.

I will tell the Member that if you sat down and really thought about it, as a result of many of these investigations, action has been taken. As a result of the report on the lady that got pregnant and seemed to be sexually offended at one of the facilities, we created a new facility for women to avoid this type of thing from happening in the future. The one with respect to the Beattie case is in the court process and there are officers still going through the court process to determine whether they were guilty or innocent. The one with respect to YCC disturbances, I have indicated in my opening remarks that we were at an all-time high in December and that could have caused part of the spontaneous actions which caused the riot. I certainly have no problem in discussing with the Member, and I know he respects the confidentiality, and I have worked with him before on reports; but I honestly still do not feel that it is in the public's interest to find out actually what is in the report.

There is an executive summary on some of these reports and I have no problem, I guess, in bringing them out, but I do want to indicate to the Member that with respect to some of the executive summaries the recommendations are in there and I am trying to work at these recommendations prior to making them public, and giving the public the assurance that we want to deal with these recommendations and we have dealt with them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to renege on my statement...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame!

Public Government Should Be Open

MR. WHITFORD: ... that I was not going to ask any more questions, but I do want to say that, yes, the Minister has discussed in the room right next to the caucus room a number of different things from past reports, but, Mr. Chairman, if you know me, that stayed right in that room. I forgot it the minute I walked out that door, and it does not do me any good, and it does not do the people of the Northwest Territories any good, for the Minister to tell me these things confidentially

because she knows that I will not break my word.

Although it may appease me for a period of time, I do not think that is what this government should be like. I think that this is a public government, it is a public institution, the people have a right to know what their sons and daughters who are in there are facing and what the public is facing. I cannot understand, when she said that I should sit down and think about this; I did sit down and think about it. I lay awake at night thinking about it at times. I ask myself, why is it being kept so hush-hush? I think that if we continue to operate like that it is not going to be good for the government.

I will not pursue that matter here, Mr. Chairman, because with all due respect to the Minister, she has given me an executive summary perhaps, or told me the basic information, but that is not what I want. I want the public to be able to assess for themselves, those that are concerned with it, to assess this themselves and see that their facilities are being run properly and if there are problems that they know what the problems are so they do not unnecessarily criticize the government programs that are being conducted. If they knew, I think it would take an awful lot of flack away; as a matter of fact, it could work the opposite to what the Minister fears. I will pursue it in another venue, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for your patience.

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

Protection For Inmates Who Spoke Out

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I have no further comments. I just want to make the Member understand that many times when these reports are being developed the people that are commissioned to do them interview people like the YCC staff, the correctional officers, the inmates, the different people in the court systems, the RCMP, and my concern is the fact that certain inmates are picked to be interviewed. Who is to say, once this report is made public, that the press does not hound these particular inmates? They are placed in the correctional centre but not to be harassed because they spoke out during an investigation. There are those types of concern to keep in mind when we request an investigation. These particular inmates are listed name by name and that is why I am reluctant and say that it is not in the public's interest. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services. Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, I guess if I sat quietly here, then maybe it would be perceived by the public that there was general agreement among ordinary Members that these reports that the Member for Yellowknife South is asking for should become public documents. I, for one, do not agree with that, and I commend you, Madam Minister, for holding out, I guess you could say, and doing what you are doing. You are doing the right thing, and keep it up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Corrections services. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps for the protection of the inmates those documents on the investigation should not be made public and I agree with that. I would like to ask the Minister, who else has this document been issued to? Do the corrections officers get the report too? If you are going to stop the public from seeing those documents because inmates spoke out, are you also suggesting that no one in the corrections system has received this document,

either?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, this document was received by myself, through my deputy minister. It is not given to correctional officers, I can assure you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Not even the director got it, just yourself, Madam Minister?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The director of corrections does not have a copy of the report.

Corrections Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Corrections services, total O and M, \$18,714,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, total O and M. Member for Hay River.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell us if she is going to be able to look at the salaries for alcohol and drug workers, to see that they are paid more money so that we can compete with other higher paying jobs that they are being lured away to, or to the jobs in the South that they are being offered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have started looking at the funding of workers out of these contribution fundings and we are trying to find some way to address the wages that have been causing concern to some Members. I believe it would cost somewhere to the tune, if I recall correctly, of \$1.7 million to try to address and bring the wages up to some type of pay equity.

I do want to let the Members know that we are looking at it to see, in totality, what costs – maybe I would suggest, as I had advised my department, to look at possibly a phase-in period in trying to deal with the alcohol and drug workers.

We have, in the past couple of years, addressed a pay increase to workers but a very minimal pay increase, somewhere in the tune of a cost of living allowance, the percentage that has been given to government employees, 4.5 per cent, and given in amendment and in addition to their current contribution agreement.

I recognize the Member's concern with respect to workers not having equity in their pay. For workers, wage parity is a problem with the alcohol and drug programs. We want to see the total amount and, at the same time, see how we can address it. I know since it is in excess of \$1.7 million, we would probably have to look at it over a couple of years. Thank you.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that the Minister is looking at it. I know \$1.7 million is a big bite. I would just say, for the record, that I would support her phasing in and bringing those people up to standard over a couple or three years. That may not be what they want, but I think it is also acting fiscally responsible to try and do it as we can afford it. I would support the Minister in her efforts and if it means that she has to come with a supp this year, then I think that we are going to have to take a look at it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, total O and M, \$10,419,000. Mr. Gargan.

Application Of Mental Health In Communities

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in 1986 there was a Mental Health Act that was passed in this House, in Rankin Inlet. There was an amendment to that act regarding a section which would allow for an elder or a well-known person from the community to get advice in the courts with regard to whether or not an individual that has been committed voluntarily or involuntarily is acting normally, or if that is the way he acts, sort of thing. Do you know what I mean?

Since this act passed, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the courts have ever used an elder or a person with credibility in the courts to advise whether or not an individual has mental problems or is actually okay and does not require being put into an institution.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Not that I am aware of, Mr. Chairman, but I can just make sure and check with my department to ensure that I am correct.

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

MR. GARGAN: I appreciate the Minister's assurance but I want to ask the Minister whether or not it has ever been used since 1986, when this act was passed.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of its being used, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to get back to the Member to confirm it for sure that we have not utilized it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Are there any further comments? Mr. Gargan.

Crisis Lines For Communities

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I know that they have Crime Stoppers, where a person could phone in order to report if a crime is in progress, or if he is aware that a crime has been committed and he knows who the people are. There have been several suicides committed during this Assembly. Does the department have anything with regard to a crisis line, toll free line, where a person who is having problems, whether it is in an isolated community or not, that they will be able to get in touch with someone that they might be able to talk to regarding their problems and prevent further suicides from happening? I would like to ask the Minister whether or not there is such a program like that right now.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am aware

that there are crisis lines, particularly in the Baffin. That initiative is taken on by the community. It is done through volunteer work. We have given some assistance, very little, but I know the main initiative in the thrust of creating these crisis lines is through community initiatives and by community people.

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

MR. GARGAN: Not only should it be a community initiative but it should be a government initiative. We do have these half a minute spots on CBC regarding the Motor Vehicles Act and stuff like that, but we have to bring to the public's attention that there are people out there that have problems that would like to talk about their problems, but if it is a local initiative nobody else hears about it so territorial-wise nobody thinks there is a problem out there, when in fact there is. I think this government should express that they do have a concern for the young people and, through public knowledge and advertisements, should send a message that this government is serious and that we do have a suicide problem and that we would like to do something about it, and help by suggesting that this is the number that you could reach if you have a problem or are considering ending your life. I think that kind of positive message on TV would perhaps even save a life. I would like to see if the government might be able to look at that; a life line rather than a suicide line.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: These crisis lines are located both in the Baffin and in the Keewatin. We have been taking the approach of encouraging the community people to try to address this. We have been giving the support to many of the communities in the form of funding in dealing with this. I believe that one of the main messages that we have received in dealing with suicide is that we should try to deal with prevention and also try to make people aware that it really boils down to people helping people. The government can probably give the support in respect to the finances, but I think the main and the concerted effort has to come from the community, with people willing to help other people to try to address this issue that we are facing within the North.

I recognize what the Member is saying in trying to campaign for awareness, but I am somewhat concerned, if we spend a lot of money with respect to TV ads and awareness, that we may limit our ability to assist financially the communities that want to grab hold of the problem and deal with it at a community level. Because we have received many requests from communities indicating that they want to deal with this issue at a community level. I think that is certainly fully supported by myself as the Minister.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's response. There is, as the Minister indicated, support out there. The community has got to address it at the community level and get the necessary support for that. But the Minister is aware that if a suicide is going to be committed there is nothing preventing it from happening, regardless of the amount of support that is there. Perhaps, even if a child is alone in his house or in his room or whatever the case may be, watching TV, and there is a message there sending a message out to a young person to phone this number if he feels that he needs to talk to someone or requires help, then even though he is alone he might be looking at the TV where there is a message to say that there is someone out there that cares, and maybe prevent a young person from taking his life.

Most of the suicides that are occurring are not where there is a family environment or where there are people around.

Usually young people take their lives without anybody knowing about it till after it has been done. That is where I would think that if there was a message on TV while they were alone and it said something like that, then perhaps there might be second thoughts about an individual trying to commit suicide. I know that it might mean several dollars being spent, but what is more important, the life of a person or the amount of money that is going to be spent to save a life?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Baffin South.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to the comments made by the Minister, apparently the crisis line provided in Iqaluit, I am wondering what languages are being used on that crisis line. Is it in English or is it also in Inuktitut? The majority of the residents in the Baffin area, particularly the young people who commit suicide, are more often aboriginal people. What kind of volunteers do they have and what languages are provided? What are the hours of the crisis line? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: This is a community-controlled initiative in Iqaluit. I have been advised that there are Inuit volunteers and usually the line is being manned every evening with two people and one does speak Inuktitut. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Member for Baffin South.

Funding For Crisis Lines

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I received that information but at that time I was told that the person who answers the phone does not speak Inuktitut. Perhaps at the time an Inuit was not working. I think if it is going to be on a volunteer basis, I do not think that program is going to last too long because nobody really wants to work on a volunteer basis all the time. Perhaps if it becomes a permanent position we would have the program a bit longer. A lot of people try to commit suicide. If it is only going to be on a volunteer basis, I do not think the program is going to last too long. That is how I feel about it. I wonder if there could be a position.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, we did give support for some funding to the crisis line, particularly to address the summer months. I know that the group has been very independent and they have made it very clear to government that they want to run the operation and that they want people to participate in the operation because they care, and that they want to address the issue of suicide. They have not asked for funding in respect to just obtaining funding to man those lines, for a person year, but they have encouraged local people to help with this initiative. I commend that group for doing that because I honestly believe that in addressing suicides and preventing suicides it has to take the concerted effort of individuals caring for one another. At the community level, showing the initiative from individuals caring for one another is good to see without wanting government's assistance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, do we still have the alcohol and drug board, or the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program, NNADAP, board? I met several of the board members when I was serving on the board many years ago,

Mr. Chairman. They say that they no longer serve on this. I do not see anything about it mentioned here. Is this board dissolved now? What is the situation with that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister, are there any comments?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, yes, there is an alcohol and drug board of management that is in place in respect to dealing with alcohol and drugs. One of the things that the former Minister was successful with, prior to the health transfer, was ensuring that we were able -- we are the only jurisdiction that has total control with respect to the funding of alcohol and drugs.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to know at this time if I could ask the committee's indulgence to move that we extend the sitting hours until we complete this department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Are you making a motion, Madam Minister?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor to extend sitting hours until this department is concluded. Is that the motion? The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried, nine to eight.

---Carried

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we recognize the clock.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The motion is not in order because we have to do some business between the motion just passed and the motion you are proposing. So your motion is out of order. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, total O and M. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess we will have to stay here until 12:00 o'clock. I just want to make sure that the Ministers stick around to support their colleague while this debate is going on.

HON. GORDON WRAY: We are always here.

MR. GARGAN: I would like to ask the Minister if the National Native Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program is a separate program from the alcohol and drug council.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No, Mr. Chairman, the alcohol and drug board of management is the one that determines the contributions for the alcohol and drug program. They are the ones that determine, in respect to these grants and contributions, this six million dollars and how it should be spent. It is different from the native alcohol and drug council that Mr. Gargan has mentioned.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: I would like to ask the Minister, who is presently serving on the board right now?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: If I recall correctly, Mr. Chairman, there is Nancy Peel who is the chairman of the alcohol and drug board of management. I believe the chairman is Dr. Ross Wheeler. On the board is Reverend Irvin Holm; Rosie Oolooyuk, from the Keewatin; Martha Poitras, from the South Slave area. I believe that is the board and who it is comprised of. There is also Agnes Tardiff who is from the Delta area.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, in the past it used to be that the people serving on the board served for particular native organizations. By looking at the people mentioned, not all of them are working for native organizations. They are, I guess, just a regional representation. Is that correct?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I know that Nancy Peel is a representative for the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories. I am just trying to clarify who is the particular representative for the Dene Nation, but we do have a representative. For the Inuvialuit I believe that the name that was presented was Agnes Tardiff, if I recall correctly. The other members from the Eastern Arctic are all Inuit members.

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

Source Of Funding For Alcohol And Drug Programs

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, there seems to be a bit of confusion as to who is serving on the board. I wanted to find out exactly who were on the board. I would like to get a list of the people that are on the board. What portion of these moneys is a contribution from the territorial government and what portion is a contribution of the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: There is no portion from the federal government. As I said earlier, the former Minister of Social Services was successful in obtaining the funding that was initially given to NNADAP to put with the Government of the NWT, so the total funding is Government of the NWT funding for alcohol and drug programs in the Territories.

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

MR. GARGAN: But the portion of money that is identified for the native alcohol and drug abuse program, the Department of Indian Affairs still makes a contribution on that portion, right? All the native organizations, Mr. Chairman, receive funding directly from the federal government and this is the only jurisdiction where it is actually given to the territorial government, and I would think that money is identified specifically for that program.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I would imagine that initially there was funding from the federal government identified for the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse for native people. Exactly what portion I do not know, but these dollars are total territorial dollars. We do not receive any federal funds for alcohol and drug programs.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am a bit confused on this particular task. I know that the NNADAP moneys were transferred, but there must have been an arrangement or a contribution agreement with regard to the transferring in order

for it to be part of the territorial budget. This money was transferred from Indian Affairs, and I am just trying to see how the transfer took place. I am not clear on that because if the Minister is implying that the six million dollars -- I remember that the GNWT had something like two million dollars for the alcohol and drug program but the federal government had something like four million dollars -- the combination of both was used to fund different alcohol and drug programs. What was the process when the transfer of that particular portion of money took place?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I believe when the funds were transferred over they were transferred at the same time we took over the health transfer, or just prior to it, I cannot recall exactly, but these funds that we received probably went into our base budget. None of these particular dollars that we have for grants and contributions have been specifically identified from Indian Affairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health. Mr. Gargan.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. I have a motion on the floor, which is in order. The motion is not debatable. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Madam Clerk, can you ring the bell? I have a motion on the floor which is not debatable.

MR. PUDLUK: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pudluk, can you state your point of order please?

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I remember correctly, the Minister made a motion to extend the hours until we complete this department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): On your point of order, Mr. Pudluk, a motion to report progress supersedes the previous motion. I have a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Defeated

The motion is defeated. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health. Mr. Gargan.

Agreement In Transfer Of Funds

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not she is familiar with the process used with regard to the transfer of the native alcohol and drug abuse program. I am not too clear. The Minister is suggesting that that portion of money is part of the base money, but I am not too sure what is meant by that. The federal government, maybe back in 1986, 1987 or 1988, transferred those dollars with an agreement of some sort, and that is what I would like to ask the Minister. Do we have an agreement in place, whether it is verbal or in writing? There must have been a process. You do not just let four or six million dollars go without some kind of an agreement. I would like the Minister to provide this committee information on how that money was transferred.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, if I recall correctly, initially there was some reservation and some

concern with respect to NNADAP funding being ceased with the federal government, so to avoid this, when we were doing the health transfer these funds were given to the GNWT's base funding, and with that base funding the GNWT had placed in additional moneys to the grants and contributions. This grants and contributions funding is identified in our budget and is given to every program across the Territories. There are no specific dollars that we have in our grants and contribution funding that are earmarked only for native use, as I think Mr. Gargan is trying to find out. I hope that clarifies it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Most of the communities do have these programs and they do get those contributions. What portion of that is actually given to the Northern Addiction Services?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The funding that we have been requested to give to the Northern Addiction centre is \$1,053,825, which is under contributions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Gargan. Member for Pine Point.

Help For The Homeless In Yellowknife

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I would like to ask comes partly on this page and the next, I think. Quite a few years ago plans were initiated in order to give funds to the Salvation Army in order to establish themselves in a better building. I think there are three or four different social services programs in particular that make use of the Salvation Army building. In particular, one of the things that was being looked at was for basically the homeless people or what some people call the "street people" in Yellowknife. Now we have got this big new building near the old fire hall and I just wonder if you could give us a general rundown on what commitments our government, your department in particular, has made for usage of beds in there. I do not need to have a specific amount of money or numbers of beds or bed days we have guaranteed, but generally what programs are we funding? And is it still the intention, as I believe it was once, that basically homeless people will have a place to stay there? The idea being that there is a good service provided to us by Reverend Bailey and his wife, but we cannot depend on volunteers forever to deliver that service. So the idea was to have the Salvation Army help out and maybe someday even replace what was going on in the other area. The Salvation Army is going to have some role to play in that area, I believe.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, yes, we do give assistance to the Salvation Army here in Yellowknife. I believe it is somewhere to the tune of requesting assistance for at least eight beds, or assisting the Salvation Army with eight beds -- or possibly up to 10 beds. I am just trying to confirm that through my notes. I also know that we went through the corrections program with some of the funding, but we do assist the Salvation Army through a contribution.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Pine Point.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I thank the Minister. I do not want to hold the House up on details; if she could just give me some assurance that her officials can provide details. I did not expect her to have all the details on that now, anyway. I can just receive it later.

What I would like to get at on this particular issue is that we

did make some sort of effort in the area where the Salvation Army would help out with basically what we want to call homeless people. Now at the same time I find that we have had a gentleman who is working with this group who came into the Assembly offices the other day to see some of us about this issue. They are having some problems with it. I think all Members of the Assembly have got copies of it. It bothers me that here we have another group trying to get homes for the homeless when it seems to me that we had some commitments that the Salvation Army would help us out in that area. I guess I do not want to prevail upon the Minister to get a detailed answer on this now, just if she would make a commitment that she could get back to at least me anyway, with information on what commitments we made to the Salvation Army and what this second application to get homes for the homeless is doing to us.

It seems to me that it sounds like what we envision the Salvation Army doing for us is not going to meet the needs of these people for some reason. I do not know whether there are not enough beds at the Salvation Army or whether the Salvation Army is not running the type of program that these people themselves want to see available to them.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: We do purchase 10 emergency shelter beds and the Salvation Army in turn charges us \$31.25 a day for each bed. I believe they provide two meals to the clients that utilize these beds. Under the alcohol and drug program we request eight beds for inmates and the rate there is \$51 a day.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I would like to thank the Minister for that. I would like to make the comment that I would like her to look into this situation where there is another group now trying to get homes for the homeless and why that is happening when I would say 10 emergency beds are probably adequate for the time being for the needy. There is something wrong that maybe these people do not want to use the beds; they do not like the rules that the Salvation Army has, or something like that. It would be interesting to know why this is going on. I do not expect the Minister to know all that right now.

Action On The Homeless Under The Mental Health Act

I would like to make one more comment in this area and the Minister can respond or not. One thing that concerns me, and I know it involves the Department of Health, too, because of the Mental Health Act. A lot of the people are termed "street people" or homeless people, and it is pretty sad. I have been in Yellowknife over 10 years now as an MLA and I have been involved in sports and recreation here since 1970. So I have seen a lot of these people, some of them when they were still in their late teens and early 20s, who now hang around the doorways and post office, wherever it is warm in the winter, reeking of alcohol when you walk by them, and so I would like to just present this scenario. I think that if people like the august Members of this Assembly, or the people who are in the gallery or most other people we knew, began to behave and act like that, almost to the point of its being what some people would term almost a mental illness in some cases, also affected by the abuse of alcohol, then somebody could take the initiative, a family person or friend could, under the Mental Health Act, have a person -- Mr. Gargan knows the term because he fought about it in Rankin Inlet -- involuntarily committed. It seems from my recollection of the Mental Health Act that people in the Department of Social Services could initiate something under the Mental Health Act to actually apprehend some of these people.

It is probably not necessary in all cases, but I think a lot of these people could be apprehended by some government program like that initially, that something should be tried out. Some of these people do have places to stay, they do have a reasonable amount of money -- maybe they have social assistance, or maybe their only source of money is shovelling snow off the sidewalks in the winter. But the point is that I would like to suggest to the Minister that her officials in Social Services should maybe take some action under the Mental Health Act to help these people out, because they do not have a close friend or they do not have family that would do that for them. So I would like to leave that with the Minister as a comment in that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister, any comments? Alcohol, drugs and community mental health. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, did you have contributions to regional organizations, with regard to regional specialist support services? What kind of services are they talking about here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: In the last couple of years there were regional alcohol and drug positions in the different regions. Their responsibilities are basically to assist the community programs and assist different communities initiating programs get access to the alcohol and drug program funding that is available.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, total O and M, \$10,419,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community And Family Support Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 15.14, community and family support services, total O and M, \$35,605,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: One of the objectives of Social Services is adoption. There is nothing mentioned in the objectives or in the details. Is this where I should be addressing this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: It would more appropriately fit under the family and children's services on 15.11 that we have agreed to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Can I address custom adoption under traditional lifestyle?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I guess I should advise the Member that in addressing custom adoption, you know I have stated in the House a number of times that we just facilitate the administration of custom adoption as a department and the custom adoption process goes through the courts. This is why we were trying to address it in totality with the family law review. Custom adoption in respect to family more appropriately fits under

family and children's services under 15.11 that we agreed to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I would like to request that we go back to page 15.11.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Is the committee agreed? All in favour? There is no quorum. Mr. Gargan.

Motion To Revert To Family And Children's Services, Defeated

MR. GARGAN: I move that we return to page 15.11, family and children's services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): I do not recognize a quorum. To the motion. To the motion by Mr. Gargan, to return to page 15.11 so that he can ask a question on that page.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Page 15.14, community and family support services, total O and M, \$35,605,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am interested in finding out what the emphasis is. It says, "Emphasis is placed on assisting individuals and communities to develop or restore self-sufficiency and to maintain their traditional lifestyle." What kind of assistance is the department giving with regard to this particular task, and what is the requirement for assistance?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: This task, Mr. Chairman, is basically addressing some of the issues that are faced with respect to lack of income for individuals. In addressing social assistance, a significant amount of money has been allotted to the employment enhancement agreement that allows people to have opportunities to work and be self-sufficient, and to address the needs of individuals in respect to meeting basic needs that they require. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Thank you. Community and family support services, total O and M, \$35,605,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. Am I correct in hearing the Minister say that they will assist people if they want to go back out on the land to pursue a traditional lifestyle? Does it assist them in doing that with clothing, gasoline, and food? Is that the scope of what this program is about, then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through our social assistance budget, Mr. Chairman, we have been assisting people for basic needs such as clothing, shelter and food. We have been trying to develop some kind of interim support program that would allow people to -- we can utilize our funding to address the gas needs and to encourage people to go back onto the land.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Community and family support services, total O and M, \$35,605,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe it was on Monday or Tuesday that a motion was

passed with regard to a senior citizens' supplementary benefit and it was supported with no opposition to it. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not they are anticipating an increase regarding this particular money that goes to senior citizens.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I can advise the Member that I am trying to address this issue that he put forth to the House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Rule me out of order if I am. With regard to that disability, Mr. Chairman, is there an initiative on the part of this government to see if this government could start a disability pension for disabled people who cannot get jobs because of their disability?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, as I had stated in the House, four hundred and some individuals in the North are currently receiving the benefits of special needs, or disabled benefits, which is \$125 a month under our social assistance program. What we are trying to do is take out the number of people who are receiving this funding and look at possibly some kind of pension in respect to the need for these individuals and seeing how we can encourage them to independent type living. Right now we are picking up their costs under social assistance by giving them the basic pension, which is \$125, and in addition giving them their minimum amount of food, clothing, and rent, and meeting basic needs or any type of needs that they may have, such as the requirement for wheel chairs, or whatever.

We are looking at that in totality and seeing what it is costing us, as a government, and what it would cost us to try to give them some type of pension so that it would save them from continually going to Social Services and being assisted under social assistance.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. The Minister certainly has my support when it comes to that initiative. Is the federal government in any way involved with your initiative, or is it just a territorial initiative and the federal government is not in any position to try to assist?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Well, we are certainly trying to take advantage of the cost-sharing dollars through the Canada Assistance program by being able to deliver this initiative.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Community and family support services, total O and M, \$35,605,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Details of grants and contributions, page 15.15. Grants, total grants, \$140,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: This \$50,000 for youth leadership initiatives

-- where is this taking place?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No particular community. This fund, along with all youth initiative funds are available to every community in the Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Would the Minister provide a breakdown of where the \$50,000 is spent in the communities? Last year there was \$50,000, too. Where was it spent last year, and will the same communities be provided with the \$50,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I will have to get a breakdown of where, but I know they have gone out to different youth initiatives across the Territories. I believe the \$50,000 were divided out in grants to Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Cadets.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Details of grants and contributions. Total grants, \$140,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Contributions, pages 15.16, 15.17 and 15.18, total contributions, \$14,604,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Are the youth initiative community groups the same kinds of organizations as Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Cubs and Brownies?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No, these are different initiatives that are initiated by the communities across the Territories to get access to funding to address concerns in respect to alcohol and drug prevention for youth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Would the Minister provide me with the details, and also does this also provide for youth gatherings to have workshops, that sort of thing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I would be willing to give the Member a breakdown of the contributions that have been given to youth under this initiative. It does provide for different youth groups to get together and across the Territories. There were a couple of youth forums, one in the Baffin and one in the South Slave, that were done through the YWCA. This is what this funding is utilized for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to refer to page 15.16 under family and child services. In the area of family counselling it seems odd that the amount of money that would be designated for this important program would remain the same as last year. We have the counselling services here in the city and there is a high demand for this type of service and they do not have enough funding to have the staff that is required to meet the backlog. I find it odd that it has not gone up. I am sure there have been requests for services in that area.

I also find it kind of odd that a little further down the page, in family violence prevention services, we are spending \$2.2 million. I would think that if there were more moneys spent in the counselling before violence occurred, we would have less of a problem trying to find shelters for battered people. It seems a bit of a discrepancy, and I am wondering if there is emphasis in the wrong place here. Why does this remain the same? Is there no further request for funding under family counselling?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The funding for contributions has stayed the same but the "in kind" services have increased substantially. "In kind" services are providing them with office space or better space. I believe in respect to the NWT Family Counselling Services we are currently making some significant progress in respect to providing them with a proper place in Yellowknife. We are increasing our support, not in the matter of dollars, but more so with respect to "in kind" services. I do want to advise that the budget for the NWT Family Counselling Services has gone up the past three years and a lot of the core money has come from the family violence area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Whitford.

On-The-Job Child Care Facilities

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would imagine that there are service requirements in other communities as well. Under the family and children's services, the day-care centres and homes operations, "To provide ongoing operating costs for day-care centres and homes". I would like to know if there have been any initiatives made by this government to focus the child care question to the area of employment, that is, on-the-job facilities in participating departments of this government, or businesses that have sought assistance in setting up a child care facility on the job for working parents. We have some fairly large corporations and we certainly have government in the majority of communities, and there are parents that work there that would be able to take children to work with them and maintain some contact with them throughout part of a working day.

What would be required more than anything else would be space, more than actual funding, in order to meet the day-care and child care requirements in many of the communities, if parents could take their children to work with them and have a place for them. It would reduce somewhat the contributory funding and it could be spread around to other departments, with the overall government or corporations taking some responsibility. Have any initiatives been made in that area, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: There has been some initiative, particularly by Con Mine, where they were able to provide the location and we provided the funding. I believe Nanisivik have taken their own initiative. I believe the Union of Northern Workers were going to look at an initiative like that, but it has not come to fruition. There have been some initiatives with respect to companies taking on and assisting, where they would assist with the location and we would assist with the funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not this government -- just say in the city here for example, Municipal and Community Affairs recently moved to new headquarters and they have some 25,500 square feet. I

wonder if any of that has been designated for a pilot project, if nothing else, to see if this type of a program would be successful, whenever there is an opportunity to do this. I use MACA as an example because they recently acquired new space, they have recently reorganized, there is a large number of staff and there are possibly sufficient parents working for that department that could use that kind of service, and it would serve as a pilot project for other communities doing likewise under the auspices of the government if the government sees a possibility of moving in that direction. It has been done before, and I appreciate the Minister's information where it has been done already in the private sector; but I wonder if government would consider doing that.

The government is almost the largest employer in the North and it would set some examples, it would set some guidelines, it would set an arena for testing this out to see whether it would work and how efficient and effective something like that would become.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I want to advise the Member that our program is only an interim program and it is always being monitored to see where we can make improvements. Yellowknife itself has many child day-care centres -- I believe up to seven that are licensed -- and each of them offers quite a few child care spaces. Particularly if you look at the government taking on the initiative here in Yellowknife and providing day-care spaces, I can assure you that many other communities, where there is a government office, will expect the same; and I think space is limited in the other communities. I feel that we should also continue to encourage, where we can, community groups by providing the spaces and assisting them financially. I am just somewhat concerned that if we decide to provide spaces here in Yellowknife, there will be demands on the government to provide spaces all across the North.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Whitford.

Traditional Child Care While Working

MR. WHITFORD: I am aware that we could set an example and I was afraid that would be the answer, and I can appreciate where the Minister is coming from. I want to leave the Minister with a little analogy that here in the North, traditionally, the two major aboriginal groups, the Dene and the Inuit, the mothers, for example, carried the children to work with them. They had these amautis, the child was in there, they went about their work and the child was there. In the Dene culture they had the bunting bag, wrapped up with the kids on the back. They went and did their thing, and the child was always there when they needed services. It is nothing new to take children to work.

I would like to suggest that we look beyond the fact that the other communities might want that. It is true, they might, and maybe that is one way of cutting down the cost of paying for day-care services through grants to the institutional type of thing and having it more in an area where it is associated with the work of the parent. It requires some advance planning and it requires some vision, so when you are going to look for space, even in the communities, that could be built into the program, in the school, community hall, town hall, office building here in Yellowknife. When the Power Corporation set up in Hay River, for example, something like that could have been taken into consideration at the time.

I just think we are breaking new ground here in Canada, in the provinces and the Northwest Territories, but it is not new, I guess, in totality. The analogy that I use is, it reflects the advanced thinking of the aboriginal people. They were

generations ahead of us and it is just a matter of adopting old traditional values and placing them in a modern context. I do not expect to see mothers going to work with little babies on their back, but we use a modern concept of it.

I know I will not get very far with this today, but I want to leave that with the Minister's department to mull around between now and the next fiscal year. Maybe then we will see some progress in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Any comments, Madam Minister?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The only fundamental problem that I have with the concept that the Member is asking us to consider, for the government to provide spaces and whatnot, is I think that Member should advise the union to negotiate it on behalf of the people as a benefit. What we are going to be doing is, the government is going to be subsidizing and giving another benefit for civil servants. I do not know if that is going to be acceptable to people in the North.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Details of grants and contributions, total contributions, \$14,604,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the Minister is going to be providing me with the breakdown of the \$195,000 with regard to the youth initiatives community groups. Can I also request the Minister to provide me with the breakdown of the \$392,000 with regard to youth initiatives alcohol and drugs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, I will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

Start-Up Grants For Day-Care Centres

MR. GARGAN: Also, Mr. Chairman, last year there was \$625,000 for day-care centres to start up. This year it has dropped by \$312,000. What is the reason for this drop, Madam Minister? Is it because there is no further need for start-up grants to be granted? If you look at the next task, the day-care centres and homes, funding for the operation has increased. I am just wondering if this is the reason for the changes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That is the reason. We found that many of the day-care centres have already started up and now they require an increase in funding for the operations of these day-care centres. Because we do not feel there is going to be such a demand for start-up funds, but more of a demand for operations, we have reallocated funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: The family violence prevention services, there is \$2,220,000. I would like to ask the Minister how much emergency shelters are being covered with regard to that amount of money. That is a hell of a lot of money there, over two million dollars, being spent on emergency shelters. Where are those emergency shelters?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, we do provide to the Hay River safe home network, \$235,000; to the

Tawow Society, \$273,000, that is located in Fort Smith; in Inuvik to the Tuk crisis centre, we anticipate to provide \$125,000; the Baffin Regional Aggviq Society, \$373,000; to the Keewatin, to the Kataujaq Society, \$125,000; the Kitikmeot, \$77,000; in addition we have contributions to implement programs and services to victims of family violence. There are such contributions in respect to, for example, family counselling services, \$132,000, and various types of programs that address family violence.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Madam Minister, most of these centres would focus around supporting -- for example, the Hay River one would probably be a program that supports communities like Fort Resolution, Fort Providence, Kakisa, maybe the Deh Cho region. We do not have one in Fort Simpson. So presumably it would serve all of the Deh Cho and the one in Inuvik would serve all of the Sahtu region as well. In a small community like Fort Providence they do not have a shelter, where if a person is afraid of her husband or if a husband is afraid of his wife, he could go over there. Say he does not want to drink or does not want to be hurt, he might have a place to go while the husband or wife is on a binge. You do not have moneys for that kind of a program. There is a lot of money being spent here. I am wondering if there is money identified to operate a small program in the communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: In addition, I should have mentioned that we have \$478,000 slotted for the Alison McAteer House which is located here in Yellowknife and run by the YWCA.

To the Member's concern, yes, we do have contract dollars that are allocated and the funding is for short-term emergency shelters where communities are willing to provide bed spaces, and we pay a retainer fee to the individuals in the communities that are willing to provide short-term emergency shelter. That is across the Territories, too.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total contributions \$14,604,000. Mr. Gargan.

Motion To Increase Budget For Suicide Prevention

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did express a concern over the prevention of suicide. I move that the Minister of Social Services consider increasing the budget for suicide prevention under the Department of Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) I would like to have the motion translated into Inuktitut, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The committee will recess until the translations are available.

---SHORT RECESS

I recognize a quorum. There is a motion on the floor by Mr. Gargan that the Minister of Social Services consider increasing the budget for suicide prevention under the Department of Social Services. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I did not put any conditions on where the money should be used with regard to the increase, but I would like to suggest that if they support it, they consider using it in the media, like putting on television information on crisis lines, telephone numbers and stuff like

that. If a person is troubled, they would have a line to call to talk to a person -- that sort of initiative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): To the motion. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we report progress.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is a motion on the floor.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): A motion to report progress is in order at any time. There will be no debate on the motion. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 7 and CR 2-91(1) and wishes to report progress, with five motions 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 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 22: Income Tax Act

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 22 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Third Reading Of Bill 19: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1990-91

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1990-91, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 19 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Item 20, 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 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, March 15th.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motions
13. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 10, 17 and 20
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 15th, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT

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