



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Crow, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, 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 Monday, March 18, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 40-91(1): Improvements To The In-Service Training Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, since 1971 the Department of Education has been running the in-service training program to prepare Northerners for officer level positions with the Government of the Northwest Territories. These types of jobs have included correctional officers, area economic development officers or wildlife officers. In the past seven years, 156 trainees have graduated, most of whom have assumed jobs within the GNWT. In keeping with the terms of the affirmative action policy, more than 90 per cent of these people were native.

In 1989, the department reviewed the existing program to assess its effectiveness and efficiency. Today I would like to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the outcome of that review.

The purpose of the program will be broadened so that training will meet the human resource planning needs of the territorial government. Priority will be given to officer level positions such as adult educators, municipal affairs officers or administration officers, and management level positions such as superintendents or assistant superintendents of various government departments, or school principals. Training on the job and short courses will be an essential part of this plan. The name of the program will be changed to the "government career training program" to reflect this change in purpose.

The procedures manual and program directive will be revised to give direction on developing training plans. The acquisition of training positions, as well as procedures for allocating trainees in the regions, will be developed. The program will be expanded to include part-time trainees and to provide greater support to trainers and trainees. To monitor the success of these changes, the program will be reviewed again within the next five years.

Mr. Speaker, the in-service training program has already done much to prepare Northerners for employment in the territorial government. I feel confident that with these changes, the program will become even more effective and provide increased employment opportunities for Northerners. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Congratulations To Al Delmage Curling Team

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express congratulations to the Al Delmage rink of Yellowknife who represented the Northwest Territories at the Canadian Senior Men's Curling Championship. The Delmage rink, which consisted of Roy Giles, Ron Kapicki and Larry Elkin, placed second after losing a close seven to six final to the rink of Jim Ursel of Manitoba. This team had to play in tie-breakers in which they defeated British Columbia and Ontario; they had to play a semi-final game against Saskatchewan, which they won.

Mr. Speaker, there have been few occasions on which the NWT has placed so high in any Canadian curling championship. In concluding, Mr. Speaker, again I wish to express my personal congratulations to Al Delmage, Roy Giles, Ron Kapicki and Larry Elkin. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Member's Statement On Members' Attendance At National Access Awareness Brunch

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Kakfwi, Mrs. Marie-Jewell and Mr. Crow for attending the national access awareness steering committee brunch on Sunday. I have been on that board for several years now, and I am sure that I speak for all members of the board, that they very much appreciated the attendance of some busy people to listen to the real concerns of people with disabilities so that they could arrange a program so that during National Access Awareness Week, from May 27th to June 2nd, we will have a program which has the input from not only the complete community and the people that have disabilities and barriers, but also from those Members that make decisions and have the authority and power to make the difference when we deal with the various ways in which we can overcome these obstacles for disabled people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O289-91(1): Use Of Coal As An Alternate Energy Source

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a reply to an oral question asked by Mr. Whitford on March 8, 1991, regarding the use of coal as an alternate energy source. Coal

districts and prospective coal areas have been identified in the western part of the Northwest Territories, specifically: Liard-South Nahanni region west of Fort Simpson; Brackett Basin region southeast of Norman Wells, encompassing Fort Norman and extending both north and south of the Mackenzie River; western Great Bear Lake region east of Fort Franklin; Mackenzie Delta regions north of Aklavik; east Mackenzie arc region centred on Paulatuk. Coal resources have also been identified in the Arctic Islands and in the Pond Inlet area of north Baffin.

A report prepared for the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1978 identified 15 communities and possible nearby coal sources. There have been some refinements but no substantive changes to the basic geological potential for coal in the western Northwest Territories since this report was written. There are no known reserves of coal in the Horn Plateau. There has been little drilling for coal in the area, and the exploration potential is considered low.

The economics of local coal as an alternate energy source and regional economic diversification strategy will be examined and re-examined as part of the Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources overall energy strategy. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O368-91(1): Monitoring New Government Career Training Program

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Personnel or Education. With regard to your Ministers' statement today, Mr. Minister, I was very happy to hear that the government has got some new initiatives to train aboriginal people in management positions in government. Mr. Minister, in your new government career training program, how are you going to establish a watchdog over the trainers, the government employees themselves, to ensure that these people progress up the ladder at a continuing time frame? How do you plan to watch that? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O368-91(1): Monitoring New Government Career Training Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, presently there is very little that is being done to try, in a co-ordinated fashion, to get people within the government to look at ways of advancing themselves in the system. One of the things that we have asked different departments to do is to give us some affirmative action plans within their departments. Once we have that, I think we will, as a department, sit down with the various departments and try to target specific individuals that are already in the system who wish to move toward management positions in particular, and find if we can develop a plan that would be agreeable to the individual and the department and would be supported and monitored by the Department of Personnel, to make sure that the goals are met and to monitor the situation so that we avoid situations where people become frustrated internally and simply resign or ask for transfers. Thank you.

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

Question O369-91(1): Recruitment Of High Calibre People To Develop Training Program For Aboriginal People

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Mr. Minister. Back in the 1970s when the oil company was proposing the Mackenzie Valley pipeline they took a lot of aboriginal people -- the oil companies themselves -- and put them through training programs. They developed a training program that would work in any sort of situation. It was developed by consultants under NORTRAN, Art Giroux and Barry Virtue. I am wondering if the Minister would look at trying to find people of this calibre to help develop a training program for the aboriginal people who work for the government, to ensure that they progress up the ladder in a timely fashion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. New question, the honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return To Question O369-91(1): Recruitment Of High Calibre People To Develop Training Program For Aboriginal People

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, we will take the suggestion made by the Member and bring it to the attention of the department so that they can consider the matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 motions. Item 13, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 31: Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 20, 1991, I shall move that Bill 31, Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act, be read for the first time.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 27: Revolving Funds Act, No. 2

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 20, 1991, I shall move that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2, be read for the first time.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 28: Interim Appropriation Act, 1991-92

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 20, 1991, I shall move that Bill 28, An Act Respecting Interim Appropriations For the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1992, be read for the first time.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 29: Public Utilities Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 20, 1991, I shall move that Bill 29, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act, be read for the first time.

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

Item 14, motions. Motion 7-91(1). The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. The motion shall remain on the order paper. Item 15, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 5: Reciprocal Enforcement Of Judgments Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act, be read for the first 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 5 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 2, be read for the first 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 13 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

First Reading Of Bill 18: Boilers And Pressure Vessels Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, 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. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 18 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

First Reading Of Bill 24: Social Assistance Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act, be read for the first 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? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 24 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

First Reading Of Bill 15: Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: 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. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 15 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

First Reading Of Bill 25: Marriage Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Marriage Act, be read for the first 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? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Bill 25 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

First Reading Of Bill 30: Teachers' Association Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Teachers' Association Act, be read for the first 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? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Bill 30 has had first reading. First reading of bills.

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

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will come to order. On Friday in committee of the whole, we were dealing with Bill 17, Expo '92 Revolving Fund Act. Mr. Minister, will you be bringing in your witness? We were on general comments when we concluded.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through consultation with the chairperson for ajauqtit, the government would suggest we go ahead with the Housing Corporation and stand down this act for today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Bill 7: Appropriation Act, 1991-92

NWT Housing Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. We will be dealing with Bill 7. In the main estimates book, we are dealing with the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Minister, do you have any opening remarks?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make my opening remarks and then move to the witness table, at which time I would like to be joined by the president and vice-president of the Housing Corporation.

Minister's Opening Remarks

Responding to housing need is the mandate of the corporation. The corporation plans to build 400 social housing units this year. This includes 168 public housing units, 170 HAP, home-ownership assistance program, units -- 30 retrofits of older public housing, Weber homes -- and 62

northern rental replacement units. Because in many communities three or four families are sheltered in one house, northern rentals which are intended to be replaced must continue to be used.

The Housing Corporation has recently completed a comprehensive survey of housing needs in the Northwest Territories. With the exception of Fort Smith, Colville Lake and Yellowknife, every household has been canvassed to determine our real need for housing. Using CMHC Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canada-wide standards, our real need for housing in the NWT today is 3135 units.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation plays a vital role in the NWT Housing Corporation's accomplishments. Since 1974, CMHC has shared the cost of most houses built by the Housing Corporation. Given the significance of our federal partner's financial contributions, it is timely for me to emphasize to all my colleagues in the House that our relationship with CMHC has been changing dramatically since the last budget submission. The most significant change is that the NWT no longer receives its social housing budget allocation based on guaranteed numbers of units. Our allocation is now controlled through financial caps based on four main factors: the maximum unit price or "MUP"; the one year operational costs; five year operational costs and lifetime operational costs of each unit calculated in federal dollars. The joint three year plan between CMHC and the NWT Housing Corporation has taken on an increased significance in terms of planning for our social housing distribution.

In addition, more and more groups are competing for our limited funding. The housing needs of the handicapped, the homeless, single parents and our senior citizens must all be addressed from the social housing allocation given to the NWT.

In 1990 the Housing Corporation particularly focussed on the special requirements of elders. Seniors in the NWT play an important role in the stability of our communities and the preservation of our cultures. To identify the needs of the elderly, our funding partner, CMHC, and the NWT Housing Corporation sponsored a conference called "Elders' Housing - The Challenge North of Sixty" in the spring of 1990. Since then the Housing Corporation has raised the amount of the senior citizen repair program funds from \$5000 to \$7500 per household. The corporation also is ensuring that seniors are made aware of all other programs from which they can get supplementary funding for repairs of their homes.

At the community level, elders have been given special consideration. In Rae Lakes, the corporation has initiated a pilot program. This pilot program was designed specifically to meet the special needs of our elders. Through the HAP program, along with some additional unilateral funding from the Housing Corporation, elders will be able to acquire their own homes rather than rely on rental housing, or remain in the sub-standard housing they currently occupy. In Lake Harbour, a specially designed unit is currently under construction to meet the specific needs of the elderly and singles.

Housing Corporation representatives also participate on an interdepartmental committee formed to address the needs of elders. With growing demands on our resources, many and various innovative options have had to be explored. To encourage private investment in housing, the corporation is offering the access program in the 1991-92 budget year.

The access program is designed to assist households in non-market communities with the means to purchase their own homes by providing home-ownership counselling, supplementary financing, and the delivery at cost of housing

units available under the home-ownership assistance program.

The consultation phase of the federal evaluation of rural and native housing programs is scheduled for completion sometime this spring. At that point I expect CMHC to consider changes to the HAP program which the corporation recommended to them last year.

Mr. Chairman, the main emphasis for the corporation in 1991-92, as in the past, will be the delivery of critically needed housing. Our housing construction program and management operations have a major impact on local economies, especially in smaller communities. The corporation is developing an economic development strategy that is consistent with, and complements, the economic strategies of the government and the Legislative Assembly. Over the past decade the corporation has had considerable success in hiring and training residents to manage and maintain local housing. The corporation expects this trend to continue and looks forward to providing more opportunities for training in administration and the trades. The corporation is increasing its effort to encourage the hiring and training of local residents on construction projects, and the development and use of local contracting firms, as permitted by its mandate and partnership relationship with CMHC.

One method the corporation has used has been demonstration projects, four of which have been carried out in the following communities over the past two years: Fort McPherson, Pangnirtung, Coral Harbour and Snowdrift. These projects have confirmed that workers are available in small communities, and the corporation has proven that, with guidance and professional supervision, communities can participate to a greater extent in building their own public housing.

As a result of the success of such projects in the past and the encouragement received from this Assembly and the communities of our local projects in 1990, all of our construction contracts in 1991 include a specified requirement for local and northern workers' involvement. A new non-compliance clause has been added to our "standard labour only" construction contracts.

The corporation recognizes that different communities require different solutions and thus, in Hay River, Fort Smith and Fort Simpson, public housing will be built by contractors who not only build but design the units. The approach has proven to be cost effective in the market community of Hay River.

The corporation's programs are evaluated on a regular cycle using sound evaluative methodology. Such evaluations help ensure that the programs we deliver continue to meet the needs of our clients and the goals of this government as well as being cost effective. The total budget for operations and maintenance in 1991-92 is \$107,298,000.

Twelve per cent of our revenue comes from rent and interest income; 37 per cent will be provided by CMHC. This represents an increase of \$3,490,000 from last year. Fifty-one per cent is being requested from the GNWT which represents an increase of \$2,706,000 from 1990-91. The total capital budget is \$71,224,000, which represents an increase of only one half of one per cent from 1990-91.

Sixty-one per cent of capital funding comes from CMHC and 39 per cent comes from the GNWT. The GNWT share is now \$27,840,000, an increase of \$340,000 from 1990-91. All potential funding from CMHC is being accessed. Approximately \$18.5 million of our capital funding is to be allocated toward the construction of new houses and \$2.46 million is for the repair of privately owned homes, that is, HIP, home improvement program, senior citizens home repairs, and

emergency repairs.

The funds requested will provide for 400 houses. Some northern rentals which were supposed to be replaced will continue to be used. Every effort is being made to target limited funds to those households most in need of assistance.

Mr. Chairman, the corporation has shown innovation and flexibility in the provision of affordable housing. However, there is a real limit to what the corporation can do, that limit being the amount of territorial and federal dollars available for the construction, operation and maintenance of social housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

If I might take my books and move to the witness table and at the same time call Mr. Heron, the president of the corporation, and the vice-president for finance, Mr. Pratt, to attend with me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the witnesses in?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Proceed to the witness table, Mr. Butters, with your witnesses. Mr. Pollard, does your committee have any comments with regard to the NWT Housing Corporation budget?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I have some comments and some motions. The first one deals with devolution. Currently, housing associations have responsibility for the operation and maintenance of public housing but not for its construction. In line with the devolution of programs and the responsibilities to prime public authorities, the committee believes that the responsibility for public house construction may also be more effective at the community level.

Motion To Recommend Pilot Projects In Devolving Responsibility For Public Housing Construction To Local Housing Authorities, Carried

With that in mind, Mr. Chairman, I move, the committee recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation consider undertaking pilot projects in the East and in the West, so as to determine if it would be effective, efficient and economic to devolve responsibility for the construction or the construction management of public housing to housing authorities and associations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Madam Clerk, can you ring the bell?

I have a motion on the floor. Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Pollard.

Motion To Recommend To Explore The Amalgamation Of Housing Associations With Local Community Governments, Carried

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also move the following motion: The committee recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation work with the Department of

Municipal and Community Affairs to explore the amalgamation of housing associations with local community governments. 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

Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the SCOF capital book, Mr. Chairman, currently the corporation does not provide any information for capital expenditures in future years in the main estimates or SCOF books and does not provide capital, broken down by communities, in the SCOF book.

Motion To Recommend That NWT Housing Association Provide Details Of Capital Expenditures In The 1992-93 Main Estimates, Carried

With that in mind, Mr. Chairman, I would move the following motion: The committee recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation provide the detail of future years' capital expenditures in the 1992-93 main estimates and SCOF books; and further, that the corporation provide capital broken down by community in the SCOF book. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Mr. Pollard.

Motion To Recommend That Steps Be Taken To Reduce Construction Turnaround Time In Eastern Arctic, Carried

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we were told that it takes an average of three years in the Eastern Arctic to complete construction of public housing units. The committee finds that to be quite a long time, Mr. Chairman. So, I would move the following motion: The committee recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation take steps to reduce the construction turnaround time from three years to a more acceptable level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one question: a more acceptable level to whom -- us or the community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Question is being called. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Madam Clerk, ring the bell, please. I have a motion on the floor. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is to do with the housing mix in communities, Mr. Chairman. In light of the large deficiency in public housing units and limited financial resources, consideration should be given to increasing the use of apartment buildings to achieve economies of scale in the construction program. Although possibly less desirable than single units or row housing, the highest priority should be on providing as many families as possible, who are currently sharing accommodations, with their own living space.

Further, the committee was not satisfied with the corporation's explanation with respect to the mix of housing units provided vis-a-vis CMHC, contributions to ensure maximum benefit of CMHC funding available.

Motion To Recommend That Housing Corporation Undertake Study To Ensure Optimum Mix Of Housing Units To Maximize CMHC Funding, Carried

I would move the following motion, Mr. Chairman: The committee recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation undertake a study to ensure the optimum mix of housing, apartment and other multiple units are built taking maximum advantage of CMHC funding available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, this next motion deals with the operating surplus. We know or believe that on March 31, 1990, the corporation had accumulated an operating surplus of \$3.3 million and unapplied capital contributions of \$15,768,000. We believe that the \$15 million pertains to the three year time frame that it takes to get some of these houses built. Therefore, we have a recommendation on the \$3.3 million, Mr. Chairman. I think it may have already been addressed.

Motion To Recommend That Government Utilize Operating Surplus In Housing Corporation To Construct Additional Public Housing Units, Carried

I move the following motion: The committee recommends that the government utilize the \$3,308,000 operating surplus in the NWT Housing Corporation to construct additional public housing units; and further, that the government not advance capital funds to the corporation until the unapplied capital contributions have been expended, thus only advancing funds when required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Pollard, does that conclude the comments from the standing committee on finance?

MR. POLLARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, although perhaps the Minister could address the issue of the \$3,308,000. I do not think we have it added up to meet that number. Maybe the Minister could run that one by us one more time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the amounts required to make up that three million dollar surplus which have not been identified were some \$752,000 which was used to fund housing associations, housing authorities, wage parity for the years 1989-90 and 1990-91. As the Member knows, the staff in the housing associations and housing authorities wish to be paid at the same level as they would enjoy as employees of our government. There is an amount of \$151,000 which was used by the GNWT to fund a committee which is looking into the costs of GNWT staff housing. They are looking at all aspects of GNWT staff housing. There is another amount of \$655,000 which would be used for the purchase of property for development of homes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): General comments, Housing Corporation. Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I am wondering if you have had your housing allocation and all the money coming from the federal government finalized. Do you know exactly what we are getting?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, no. In fact, the president was expecting to be absent this week to work out with other jurisdictions what that might be. But we are expecting that it will be made known to us in about the first week in April. We have had authorization from the previous federal Minister of Housing, Mr. Redway, to spend 70 per cent of our allocation, which is a condescension to us in that we have to supply communities in remote areas. We will be spending 70 per cent of what we anticipate our full promulgation will be. That will not be known until April.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering about the process we are going through right now. Should we even be going through it right now, Mr. Butters, since you do not really know what you are going to get? The numbers in the budget we are going to look through now may change, or do you have a contingency plan with you that you would like to add to this process so that we have a better idea of what we are talking about here? Or would you rather we maybe wait until the first week in April until you do know exactly what your budget will be so then we could pass it with better information at that time?

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

Urgency Of Ordering Materials Now

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Chairman, I believe we should go ahead. As I indicated, we cannot delay any further in ordering materials and getting the materials to the various sealift shipping points -- it is almost too late at the present time. We can still do it, but if we want delivery into the High Arctic and the remote communities, we have to go with the 70 per cent that the Minister indicated he would permit us to have. We did think for some time that with this move away from allocation by units to a lifetime cost arrangement, that we may really receive fewer houses than we had expected to in our original plan. In fact, I had at one time travelled to Cambridge Bay indicating that we may have to reduce the

number of units; but we have had confirmation recently, in the last two weeks -- and some of our officials have been in Ottawa -- that we will receive funding to provide for the original plan that was presented to the standing committee on finance. So we are going ahead on that expectation. I think not to do that would be irresponsible on our part. We must get the houses into the smaller communities. We must proceed.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the houses that are allocated for all the communities will stay the same? There will be no change?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where would you be making cuts then, if you get cut back?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: That is hypothetical now. We did look at having to reduce some public housing; however, as I say, it is hypothetical now. We are going to go ahead with the projects as originally provided to the standing committee on finance. We do not expect there will be cuts to that first plan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So we are not going to get cut by the feds; we are somehow different than everywhere else in Canada?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I have to take the responsibility to put houses in. If we are cut, then I have made that decision and that choice, and then I would have to tender my resignation to the Government Leader. But I have decided that if we do not do it, we will not get the houses into the smaller communities. We have to go with what we have. I see no reason why we should be cut back at the last moment, but I cannot provide you with a 100 per cent guarantee. Mr. Heron may go down there and find that there has been a change, but at the present time I suggest, I have said to the Executive and I say to you, that we should go with the program we have in place.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Butters, the only thing I was worried about is that I know there is a need to get the materials and that into some of these communities, but then if there does become a cut -- let us say when Mr. Heron goes down and meets with them -- then the only place left to cut is on the highway system, and that is what I am afraid of. But now I do have your reassurance that will not happen, so thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Nahendeh.

Report On Review Of Housing Corporation O And M

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to enquire of the Minister as to what has happened to the study review of the operation and maintenance of the Housing Corporation, particularly as it relates to the function of the board -- the

motion that was passed at the Assembly in the fall. Has the Minister anything to report on that?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think I might have been a little bit over-optimistic in responding to the Member earlier when his motion was made suggesting that we would have a report by this session. It has taken a while over Christmas to get the terms of reference. Proposal calls were just issued some six weeks or two months ago. The call for proposals has closed. We have 10 proposals which are being evaluated, so I doubt that we would have a final report before the end of June or into July. It did not happen as quickly as I had hoped.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Apart from that disappointment, I had really hoped that the work would have been completed and done and before us, so the Assembly would have reviewed it and perhaps made some changes to the Housing Corporation before the next government comes in, but I guess now it will really just be up to the new government to deal with the report when it gets it. I just wanted to, though, on a day-to-day basis, in terms of my dealing with the Minister and his staff, say that I have been satisfied in terms of the problems that I have brought to the Minister's attention and the responses given. I can tell the Assembly that in terms of being an ordinary MLA that most of the problems brought to my attention are problems regarding housing. It is not constitutional development; it is not anything of that sort; it is really housing that is most often brought to my attention. So housing obviously is very important to the people.

In Fort Simpson, notwithstanding that we have made a lot of progress in providing public housing and HAP houses and the odd special project house, housing is still a major problem. In terms of Fort Simpson itself, I am aware of the government's plans to provide five or seven HAP houses this summer and the possibility of some CMHC houses, and I wonder if the Minister can advise what is in store for Fort Simpson this coming year.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I am informed that there will be seven HAP houses and 11 public housing units, and that would not include some of the smaller houses that may fit under special projects, but we will not know that figure until the end of the first quarter.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering if the Minister can possibly provide some special project houses. The Minister knows of my interest in this and just how significant they are in filling gaps and providing houses to people who are not eligible for the regular housing -- people who live on the edge of town. I know the Minister has been generous in providing a couple during the past year, but there is still a need. So I am wondering, will there be a possibility, this coming summer, to get a couple of special project houses in Simpson?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The Member well knows that we do not commit until the end of the first quarter, when funds that might be surplus to our operation are identified. I would say that in the last four or five years, such funds have been identified, and I think every year we have provided a certain number of houses to Fort Simpson. So we would certainly try

and meet the special projects requirements in that community if we are able to.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I wish to tell the Minister and his staff that the new office that has been established in Simpson in the last few months is working very well. We have three local people who were born and raised in Simpson that are managing and are in charge of the NWT Housing Corporation office in Fort Simpson, and people in the area look to have the office work more closely, effectively and efficiently with them. People can identify with these people; there is continuity and there is certainty and also, I think, there will be more accountability. So I commend the Minister for having set up that office and believe that in the long run it will prove very beneficial to our area.

Foundations For HAP Houses

But there is a little bit of a problem. The Minister knows my strong views on building the HAP houses on proper foundations. I just about fired one of his staff on the spot last year when wedges were used on three houses in Nahanni Butte and a couple in Trout Lake. I learned just last week that again the corporation sent in these wedges into Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake. Inasmuch as I was shocked, I acted a little more civilly or kindly to the Fort Simpson staff and gave them an opportunity to rectify the situation. I believe they are working on it.

Does the Minister agree with me that there ought not to be any more HAP houses on building blocks, on these little wedges? Surely in this 20th century, in the 1990s, we are able to do better than put houses in our part of the North on blocks. We can provide cement foundations as a way of putting up a good solid house. Does the Minister agree with me that that is the approach we should take and that this case that has happened recently is just a slip-up in the system and it will be rectified and it will not happen again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, speaking generally the pads and wedges model has been satisfactory in a number of areas. I know I have questioned it myself because of the cost and to ensure that we are getting value for money out of that particular foundation arrangement.

With regard to the Member's particular constituency, I agree, as he informed me, that pads and wedges were transported to communities in his constituency recently. We are in the process of making alternate arrangements, so that the foundations in those communities will be a little more realistic in terms of the need. I think the corporation position has been that in each community the subsoil underlying each community is looked at to determine which foundation type is the most effective. I would agree that in Mr. Sibbeston's community the cement foundation seems to be very acceptable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Member for Hay River.

Exposure To Risk In Ordering Building Materials

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister all but tendered his resignation a few minutes ago if certain things do not pan out for him. I think that is a pretty significant statement. So I would like to come back to that and ask the Minister, what is our exposure in a dollar fashion? My understanding is that we have received assurances that 70 per cent of our program is going to be okay. So do we have

a 30 per cent exposure there? If we do, how much money are we risking?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, it is extremely difficult to determine what the promulgation will be. As I indicated to Mr. Morin, I feel that we will obtain sufficient funding to put in place those houses that we indicated to the standing committee on finance that we would be building. I say that because I have received personal assurances and letters from the federal Minister, and in subsequent conversations by my staff with CMHC personnel, there is nothing that I could determine that would indicate that we will not be getting sufficient funds to build those houses.

I have no problem with saying "Yes" and going ahead with our current program because I do not fear or feel that there will be any reduction in funding flowing to our government. The difficulty is that the promulgation is not concluded. It is late in the year and we are always facing this problem of the final figure at the last minute.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I am trying to find out what our financial exposure as a Legislative Assembly, as the government, is, because obviously if we go ahead with the whole program and we only get partial funding from CMHC, our government is going to be expected to pick up the remaining costs because the Minister has said he is going ahead with the building program.

So what I would like to know, and I do not think it is an unreasonable request, is what is the exposure in dollars that we are looking at as a Legislative Assembly and the government is going to be looking at, if there is some kind of a cut by the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: As I indicated earlier on, we do have commitment for 70 per cent. We have not ordered the material for the other remaining 30 per cent, so at the present time there is no exposure and there should not be any exposure. But I would like to assure the Member that this is a very hypothetical case. I have no grounds to suspect that there will be any way in which we will not receive the entitlement that we have been discussing with our federal colleagues for the last 10 or 12 months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: So 70 per cent has been ordered; 30 per cent has not been ordered. Can the Minister tell us where the 30 per cent of materials or housing units that have not been ordered -- which communities does the 30 per cent belong to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the highway system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: So if there is a cut, it has to come out of the highway system. Can the Minister tell me how much 30 per cent of the whole housing units -- how much will that be as a percentage on the highway system? Will it be half of the highway system's houses or will it be 90 per cent of the highway system's houses? How many housing units would the highway system stand to lose? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, it would be all of the highway system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: If that came about, Mr. Chairman, that there was a cut by the federal government and the highway system had to take the brunt of it, and I can understand why -- we have to meet those deadlines for winter roads and barging and so on and so forth, so I can understand that. What would the Minister propose in that event? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Debate Could Be Damaging

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as I said, it is a very hypothetical situation. In fact, I think this debate could possibly be very damaging. I have no grounds for believing that we are not going to get our full promulgation of moneys owing. I feel that answering the question at the present time would be addressing a hypothetical question in the extreme. To even tolerate it as a possibility may suggest that it would be acceptable, and it is not acceptable. I have no grounds to believe that it would not occur. All we do know is that the promulgation has not been carried out and it will not be concluded until April. I may add that the provinces only got 50 per cent and we, because of our specific and particular needs, were able to get a promulgation of 70 per cent. So I see no reason to expect that there would be any reduction in the houses flowing into the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has placed a budget before this House. The Minister has been told that 70 per cent of the moneys coming from the federal government are guaranteed to him. Can he guarantee the House that the other 30 per cent are going to be coming to him?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Obviously, until the full promulgation is concluded, that guarantee is not possible. However, the chances of our not getting our full amount of funding from the federal government I think is minuscule in the extreme, on what we have learned in our discussions with federal officials, what I have learned in my discussions with the federal Minister and our discussions in the past. So I would say it is minuscule in the extreme.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, now it is minuscule but a few minutes ago the Minister said, "I would have to resign if this does not come through." He has obviously thought the problem through and he has thought about what he is going to do. He is going to go to the Government Leader and say, "Hey, Dennis, I could not come across with the goodies so I am going to resign." I do not see how we can go back and forth between -- we are guaranteeing 70 per cent, and we do not know about the 30 per cent, but it is unlikely that we are going to lose it. With the federal government that we have right now and their tight fiscal policies, we may lose those 30 per cent of houses. All I am trying to find out is, if that does happen, what contingency does the Minister have to deliver housing units to the highway system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Again, in responding to a very hypothetical question, I present a very hypothetical answer.

If the money is not available, we would have to deliver the houses to the highway system next year. Again, I point out that while I cannot guarantee that we will get the full amount, I have 100 per cent expectation that we will.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I do not have to remind you or remind the Minister that Mr. Redway, who seemed to have a good relationship with the Minister and yourself personally, Mr. Chairman, seemed to be a Minister who was prepared to try and understand the difficulties in the Northwest Territories. What is the guarantee that the new Minister is going to feel the same way? Our Minister has told us that we get a large amount of funds from Canada, more per capita than other provinces. That is my concern. There has been a change of Ministers; there has been an allocation of the 70 per cent to those communities that really need to get it in right now because of the transportation systems, and as I said before, I can understand that. But there is a possibility that the highway system, however remote the possibility may be, the highway system may not get any houses this year. If the Minister is telling me that he is going to recommend that it be done next year, then somewhere down the road somebody is going to have to lose out next year in order to make up what the highway system lost this year. That is what I am trying to get to. What are the contingency plans, and how does the Minister feel the Northwest Territories will be treated by a new Minister, whoever that may be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I have a written communication from Mr. Redway indicating that the expectation I put before this House will be realized. I cannot see that his colleague at the present time, Mr. John McDermid, who is also familiar with the Northwest Territories, would go back on that. In fact, Mr. McDermid, when we approached him some two years ago about promulgating more money than the -- I think it was the 60 per cent allowed to the provinces, he allowed us to take 90 per cent. So I cannot see the federal government renege on the situation that Mr. Redway agreed would occur in the Northwest Territories.

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

Local Hiring For Housing Construction

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some comments about housing allocation. First of all I want to bring this up concerning employment in the housing authorities. For example, in Pangnirtung they built houses and hired a lot of the locals to work on the construction. While I realize that they did not start this kind of employment endeavour on their own, they did in partnership with the NWT Housing Corporation, my question arises from that situation. Will you be promoting local job hiring when it comes to construction in the other communities?

I would also like to find out what the start-up date was for the people to begin their own hiring. Did they submit proposals for hiring Inuit people? What kinds of programs are implemented to ensure that they hire locals? Because that is very good for their economy and that was a good model for the communities. I think that would be a great idea for Cape Dorset, to have it happen annually. It would be very good for the Inuit people in that community. What more can we do to benefit economically in an arrangement like that when it comes to construction of housing? Do we have to put in for contracts? Can you help us out somewhere? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the project referred to by Mr. Arlooktoo was one of four which the corporation entered into with various elements in the communities. Specifically, either the band or hamlet and local contractors. In fact, we acted as their own general contractor. But we did not do this as part of a program.

What encouraged us to look at this approach was the fact that we had tendered, as we have to tender, our contracts in accordance with Treasury Board requirements. We had tendered contracts and were quite shocked when we found that the bidders had come in between 50 and 100 per cent higher than our experts had projected for the costs of the structures. To determine whether we were projecting correctly, we withdrew the tender calls and arranged to enter into agreements with the local communities. First in the West, in Fort McPherson and Snowdrift, and in both those communities we did get a good product at a lower cost than had been indicated to us in the tender. The other two communities were both in the East. In Coral Harbour and Pangnirtung, the same type of arrangements were applied. So it is not a standard process and the communities did not ask us to do it. We were concerned at the high bids we had received from interested contractors. I may say that the projects generally worked out in that we got a good product and a higher degree of local labour and training than we may have got otherwise.

The corporation is attempting to see skills enhanced and improved in the local communities. Our contracts this year, as you are probably aware, require an increased amount of local and community labour by the successful contractors. So we would expect that this would be a major step forward to increasing the amount of participation by people in the communities and also in giving them training opportunities that they may not otherwise have had.

We are looking at running three demonstration projects this year to determine the skill level to be found in the communities and to encourage local people to become involved. I may say that in one of the communities, the group that had participated in the program successfully bid on the project the next year. So the following year they were able to bid on the project as we tendered it, and were the successful bidders, and as recently as two months ago I travelled through that community and looked at the homes that they had constructed.

So the steps may be small, but we are making steps to see more and more work contracted out in the smaller communities and performed by the skills and resources that exist in those communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand and thank you for helping me to understand. A lot of the communities are not able to start up their own businesses if they do not have anyone to help them to put them through the bidding process. If this is going to be your goal for the communities to do their own building and for you to take on local contractors, for example, in Cape Dorset if there is going to be one house built, I think that the people should be able to participate. If the community themselves are going to be able to do that, for example in Coral Harbour, I think someone from Cape Dorset could go into the community to take on the job. I think all the communities have some people who can take on employment in the construction area. I think the communities that already have resources -- there should be an exchange program considered to provide training for those communities where they are not

able to get the training.

Some of the communities do not get that much assistance from the government and some communities do not have as much access as others do. I am just using Cape Dorset as an example. I think the Cape Dorset residents should be given more opportunity to go to other communities where they are doing major construction. So Pangnirtung, for example, could take one person from Cape Dorset and that person would be able to get his training while working on the job. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

Community Training In Construction

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the situation described by the Member is one that we, in conjunction with the Department of Education, have sought to address. At the present time there is a pilot project being carried out in Fort Resolution. In fact, when I was in Fort Resolution at the opening of the ice arena recently, I took an opportunity to visit the houses that are being erected through this program. It is a program in which the Housing Corporation has provided the materials and the Department of Education has provided the course curriculum and identified the people who would participate in the course. As I understand it, it is carried out where a number of local people who wish such training are identified. For one half of the day they receive training in academic subjects and in the other half of the day, this practical experience of working on the job. We looked at a couple of units that are being built in that manner. I understand Social Services is also working on the project. So we are looking at ways in which new and innovative training opportunities can be identified and developed, not only of that nature, but also in conjunction with Arctic College and with CEIC, Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have provided me with a better understanding of this program. Are you also going to be providing any assistance to the Cape Dorset residents? Will you be able to do this kind of program in Cape Dorset, or are you going to wait for the communities themselves to make these specific requests?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I regret that I do not have any personal knowledge of specific discussions that have been going on between our regional office in Iqaluit and Cape Dorset, or for that matter any other communities in the Baffin, relative to increased training. I would just say that it is certainly an objective of the corporation to seek new ways to enhance and increase the training offered in the community, because we would wish to see not only our maintenance work but much more of the construction carried out in the communities by the skilled and talented people there.

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

HAP Houses Taken By Corporation

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another area that I would like to comment on is the people who apply for HAP housing. Sometimes the corporation takes back units if, say, a person is unable to meet the building deadlines. These units are returned to the corporation and would have been available to the Inuit. What happens to the units that are taken back? Do you look for other people who might be interested in getting those HAP units or does the corporation take the units back and make them into public housing? How do you deal with this issue? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as the Member knows, the current contract that is drawn up and signed between the corporation and the successful applicant for the home assistance package is for five years duration. I indicated a year ago, we were looking at extending that so that the contract would probably be between 10 and 15 years. We do have houses that are not completed but in the main, I believe, the incompleteness results from an allocation made which probably should not have been made. This reflects on a number of homes we have identified in the West but not because the person is slow in completing their contract. Usually we recognize that in the High Arctic communities it could take a little bit longer and that time is permitted. We have looked at taking back homes where there has been an applicant who has decided to relocate and wishes to leave the community or has become frustrated with the problems experienced in trying to complete the home; Building a home is not an easy task. In such cases, we rely very much on the recommendations of the local housing association or authority.

In some cases, and one I can think of, we have taken the house back ourselves, fixed it up and turned it into a public housing unit. In other cases, where the house has been abandoned because the owner may have left the community and no longer wishes to conclude the contract and where there is somebody else in the community who would be willing to take on the contract, accept the building as is, where is, then that person could be so designated.

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

Selling Public Housing Units To Tenants

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other comment I want to make is about the public housing units. The northern rental units are available to be sold to the general public. There is no program where you can buy public housing. This is the case in most of the communities. What is your current status? I would be interested to hear about how you are trying to work things out so that you can sell the public housing units to the tenants. I know of one applicant who was refused either through the HAP housing program or he was trying to get the northern rental unit. He was refused both of them. This is an Inuk person from Lake Harbour. He is very close to me but he is not present here. He has been trying to get housing either way. He is a very talented person. He can build his house and does good maintenance but his application has always been refused. I would like to know why. There seems to be no reason why he should be refused. I know this person very well. He looks just like me and has the same characteristics. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I believe two types of units were identified: The HAP units and northern rental replacements. The HAP unit's allocation is decided upon and recommended by a local committee which is usually comprised of the housing association, the mayor and any other organization that has an executive body in that community. Recommendations are made at that level and referred to the district manager's office. With regard to the units allocation, it is a local decision made locally on the basis of the information that is presented to them.

With regard to the northern rental unit, as I understand the process, an appraisal is made and individuals are requested to bid on the unit. The recommendation to accept the bid would, again, be made by the local authority and, again, recommended to the district office. I would expect that in the

majority of cases, the recommendations of the local committee would be accepted since it is the group on the ground which have been mandated to assist us with managing housing stock in the communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The committee will recess for a little while.

--SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The committee will come to order. We are on general comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to where my friend from Hay River left off with regard to that 30 per cent where the Minister indicated we do not know what is going to happen. I did not quite understand what the Minister's contingency plan is with regard to that 30 per cent. My understanding is that if the 30 per cent does not come through, the communities on the road system are going to lose out. Could the Minister go back to that point and clarify what his contingency plan is with regard to that 30 per cent? I have a concern about that 30 per cent because it is going to affect the people that are living on the road system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

Contingency Plan If Funding Reduced

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I will go back to that point, but I really think that we are worrying an old bone and there is no meat on it. The 100 per cent promulgation that CMHC has made in the past has always been after our budget is passed. Usually, as I indicated, the provinces are told that they will only get 50 per cent promulgation and we have successfully, over the last few years, asked a succession of housing Ministers if they would allow us to get more than the 50 per cent allowed the provinces -- in some cases 80 per cent or 70 per cent -- and this exception has been permitted us. The final promulgation does not come until later on in the year, so I see no reason to continue to hammer away at this particular aspect. It is a hypothetical question, and I do not have a contingency plan because we have not had one in the past. The expectation is that we will get all our funding, as we have in the past, and will carry out the program which we put before the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, so my understanding is that no matter what the feds do, if they provide us with that 30 per cent funding or not, we are still going to carry out the program of the Housing Corporation. If need be, the Minister would be seeking a supp or through a special warrant the additional money that would be required. Is my understanding correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I guess I have not thought of it because I do not expect that it is a real possibility and, therefore, I am not looking at it with any degree of seriousness. It is a possibility that is so very, very far out that I have not considered it, nor have I asked the housing officials to consider what would happen in that case. The provinces are in the same situation: Are they going to get their 50 per cent? We have been promised by the federal Minister that it will come forward and we will receive the moneys owing us. When we met with the officials and when we met with the Ministers of the provinces, the figures were confirmed, so I do not expect that we will be having to look at anything less than the full program projected as being delivered.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is quite confident that things are going to go forward as they have been for the last few years, but I have a concern here because this is our last budget for our term and there is no assurance, I guess, from the feds that they are going to come through with the 30 per cent. The Minister has indicated that no matter what happens, he is still going to go through with what has been planned for the Housing Corporation as it is shown in our budget. Right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Based on assurances I have received from the federal government and the federal Minister to date, yes.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to follow up on my colleague from Lake Harbour with regard to northern rentals, the Minister indicated that if people want to purchase northern rental units the recommendation comes forward from the local housing authority. My question to the Minister is, with regard to non-profit organizations wanting to purchase the northern rentals that are written off, do they still have to go through the same process as individuals, or can they go directly to the district office to acquire these northern rental units?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: As I understand it, the process is that they would use the same mechanism that any interested party would involve themselves, and that is that there would be an appraised price, they would make their interest known to the local housing association or authority, and put their request to them. If their case is accepted by the local group, then a recommendation would be made to the board of directors. That situation has happened once or twice in the past.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, who gives the final decision?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the board of directors of the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments, Housing Corporation. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I guess one issue that does concern me is how involved -- and I realize that you have a certain amount of safeguards for contractors to hire local people and I realize that you have a new program in effect where they can actually lose money or be fined a certain amount of money -- but I also know that when you have all your projects going in the summer, your project officers are run pretty ragged, too. There is a lot of work for them to do. Sometimes it may be hard for them to keep on top of all these things that they have to do, and always the best person to keep the corporation informed, or as a watchdog, is the community itself because they have a vested interest to see their people working.

I think there should be some way of involving the local community in watching how these contractors work and making sure that they live up to their obligations that are in the contract, that is, the employment of so many local people. I am going to put a motion on the floor, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, to try to address that problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Morin.

Motion That Housing Contractors Report To Local Hamlet, Settlement, Or Band Councils On A Monthly Basis

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation give consideration to require that all tenders and contracts that they award contain the provisions that all contractors report to the municipal or band councils, in the small communities, the following information on a monthly basis: the number of local people the contractor has working for them; the amount of dollars spent by the contractor in the community; the training opportunities they are offering the local hires. The motion is translated, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Your motion is in order. General comments to the motion. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In no way does this motion reflect on good reputable contractors in the NWT. I have had some good contractors working in my riding and they went out of their way to employ local people. There are contractors in the North that do work very hard to employ and train local people. But there are also some fly-by-nighters that seem to be standing in line every year to go bankrupt, and when you have a tender process that takes the lowest tender most of the time, some of those will slip into the system. Those are the types of people that we give out framing contracts, and so on, to, and they pay real cheap wages and bring in southern labour.

This motion is to help the Housing Corporation watch the contractors. I will use Fort Resolution as an example. They have seven councillors and one chief, so it gives you 16 more sets of eyes to help you with your jobs. Also, it is not reflected in this motion, but it would be good if the MLA is kept informed on a monthly basis of what is happening on the contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the president and I have examined the text of the motion and we do not feel we would have any problem with acceding to the requirement laid down therein.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in support of the motion. This has also been the case in my community. We have been trying to get a watchdog going in our community in regard to construction contracts. I think this is a very good motion that is on the floor, regarding communities being watchdogs on contracts in the community. I am sure this is going to be an ongoing issue. I know there are a lot of local people who are capable of building houses and being maintenance people. I hope this will be very helpful to the smaller communities in the future, for the aboriginal people. I hope that this will be helpful in our ridings.

I am glad the Minister is approving this motion as it is. I have consulted with the hamlet council and housing associations in this regard and I am going to support this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): To the motion. Question is being called. There is no quorum. I will have to call in a quorum. We have a quorum now. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to confirm that the words

"municipal councils" as it appears in the text would be for hamlets or tax-based municipalities as well as band councils. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Morin, could you clarify what you mean by "municipal councils"?

MR. MORIN: I will clarify what I do not mean, the City of Yellowknife, that type. It must be hamlets -- whatever in the Eastern Arctic are equivalent to band councils. I am not sure of the government system in the East.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Morin, I am sure "municipal councils" would include cities, towns, villages. In fact, it may not include hamlets and settlements. I am not sure. I just sent a request to the Law Clerk to get a definition of "municipal council" under the Municipal Act.

MR. MORIN: Mr. Chairman, can we just keep going and then come back to it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Yes. If the committee is agreed, we will defer this motion until we get an answer to that specific question on the wording as to what "municipal councils" mean. As a technicality, I need an amendment to defer the motion. Mr. Pudluk.

Motion To Amend Motion That Housing Contractors Report To Local Hamlet, Settlement, Or Band Councils On A Monthly Basis, Carried

MR. PUDLUK: I would move an amendment to the motion: Take out "municipal" and put in "hamlet, settlement" or band councils.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The amendment is that the word "municipal" be replaced by "hamlet, settlement". To the amendment. Question is being called. All those in favour?

I am sorry we do not have a quorum. We have a quorum. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The amendment to the motion is carried.

---Carried

The amendment is carried. Thank you, former Mr. Chairman. To the motion, as amended.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion That Housing Contractors Report To Local Hamlet, Settlement, Or Band Councils On A Monthly Basis, Carried As Amended

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Question has been called. To the motion as amended. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We are on general comments, Housing Corporation. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, before you put out contracts for tender, there is a process of how you establish how you are going to do it. For example, you may be thinking of tendering supply of materials and separate labour; that is, supply of material and a proposal call to supply design, build and erect. In this process that you are trying to establish, how are the community and the MLA involved in that process? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Member has not been involved in those procedures. They are administrative in nature.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: How do we get involved? Is there any leeway to that process for the community or the Member to be involved? It is a fairly important process of how you are going to tender in the community. Especially when you do have local-based contractors and if you tender one way it may make it so that they cannot bid, compared to other ways that you tender. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Obviously the overall direction that is given to the corporation is by government policy. I think that if Members have comments or suggestions they are certainly welcome to make them to myself or the president. We have heard suggestions and recommendations when we have toured the communities, but I do not know of any other manner in which an MLA could be plugged into what is an administrative process. You can make your suggestions and comments and we will see what happens.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I few years ago I read a housing report -- there was a special committee on housing in the Legislature. I thought one of their recommendations was to include Members in that process. Correct me if I am wrong, but I thought that was one of the recommendations, and that report was adopted by this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: There were 82 recommendations in that report. The bulk of them, I believe, has been implemented. I do not know of the specific recommendation that the Member has raised at this juncture, but I will ask the president to review it. Also, the vice-president for construction is in the chamber and I am quite sure he heard the concern raised and the point of interest placed by the Member before this committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Kilabuk.

Responsibility For Allocating Houses

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the NWT Housing Corporation is allocating the houses to the communities, or when they are going to be renting out the houses, who is in charge? Is it the committee from the Housing Corporation? Is the committee making the decisions as to how many houses per community are going to be allocated each year? For example, Lake Harbour is not going to receive any new houses this year; so who is in charge of allocating how many houses the communities are supposed to get? That is my question.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the answer to the question begins with the needs survey that is carried on in every community. I indicated some days ago that we have had the benefit, recently, of being able to compare two needs surveys, one carried out in 1988 and one carried out in 1990. The second survey, probably as a result of the recommendations we have received from the standing committee on finance and the Members of the House -- was a more intensive and comprehensive needs survey which

boiled down to a door-to-door examination of housing those needs.

In the case of Lake Harbour, our 1988 needs survey indicated a need of 10 or 11 units. To determine our allocation, because we are only building one-tenth of the houses that are determined to be needed in the Territories, you work out the number to be allocated by dividing 10 into the needs identified in the case of Lake Harbour, it was one unit.

We have found in the past that to get the best return for our expenditures, we would -- and you only have one house -- we would group the houses one year and then miss a year and then group them again. That is why this particular year we skipped over Lake Harbour, because we had combined the need this year. However, in examining in recent days the 1990 needs survey, we found that in the case of some Eastern Arctic communities the need has increased markedly over what was stated in 1988. In the case of Lake Harbour, I think it increased from 10 to 37; in the case of Clyde River, it has increased sixfold. So there are certain communities in which a greater need has been determined.

Once we get that allocation, we say to the community, "Okay, there are 12 units that will be put into your community this year." Then it is up to the communities, which understand the needs better, to determine which of those 12 units would be HAP and which of those 12 units would be leased units, public housing units. The determination of how that allocation is mixed between home-ownership and public housing is pretty well left up to the communities. I can only think of one case in the recent past where we have actually had an argument with the recommendation of the mix that had been put to us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Two issues, Mr. Chairman. The first one is in regard to the responsibilities of local housing authorities. The Minister appoints the Members to the authority. Now once he appoints these Members to the authority, what type of authority do they have? I realize they are appointed by the Minister to public housing, northern rentals and so forth, but is not the board that the Minister appoints supposed to look after all housing needs in that particular community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Member mentioned housing authorities, and it is true that in the case of housing authorities I do appoint people to those boards. In the case of associations, they are elected. But whether they are elected or appointed, they still perform the same function, which is to manage our housing stock in the communities. They manage them in accordance with policies that have been drawn up by the board of directors, by the senior management group. They have some flexibility in their own by-laws, but generally speaking they are carrying out our direction as our agent on the ground.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

Mandate Of Local Housing Authorities

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister answered half of the question. Would the Minister agree with me that the board that he appoints, their mandate is to deal with all housing issues of that particular community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Chairman, they do not have a mandate for our total housing responsibility. The major area

in which they function and perform a service for us is with regard to the management of public housing. They have little input into the allocation and management of the HAP contracts. In fact, they appear on a joint committee as one element of that committee when HAP allocations are made and recommended.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, should the board that the Minister appoints have that responsibility in regard to a HAP program, where the recommendations of the selection of the clients -- should not that be the group that you go to in the community, saying, "Since you guys are dealing with all the public housing, northern rentals, you guys administer everything with regard to housing," that this group should be the one that screens and looks at the client list of who is going to receive HAP units for that community? Should that group be the one that undertakes this type of task and makes recommendations to the Housing district office?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Housing authorities, housing associations, manage and are responsible for public housing. If it is an association, they are elected from the tenants in public housing. A few people in public housing would make excellent HAP clients, but in the main I think our HAP eligibility list is derived from outside of that particular area.

The present arrangement seems to be the best one to achieve full community consultation or to receive full community consultation. Because in the case of Mr. Zoe's community, Rae-Edzo, we would see the housing authority as a member on this ad hoc committee which examines and chooses HAP applicants. We would have a member of the band, the hamlet council, if they were present, and maybe the Metis Association. So you would have input from all of the interested groups in the community and, as a result of that consensus, probably achieve -- and we would appear to have achieved -- the best and fairest decision possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

Confusion Regarding Responsibility For Housing Decisions

MR. ZOE: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, that is the problem that we have in that particular community. If a HAP client is not being selected, the blame goes on the housing board members. Because they have always known the housing board to look after housing needs, no matter if it is public houses or HAP units or any type of housing, anything to do with housing they usually refer to the housing authority. They are the people that look after these types of things.

Besides, these board members are recommended to the Minister by community leaders and when these community leaders make recommendations to the Minister, they make sure that the band councillor sits on the board; they make sure a home-owner sits on the board; they make sure a public housing tenant is on the board; they make sure that a businessman from the community is on the board. They also make sure, because Rae-Edzo is basically one municipality but two communities, Edzo and Rae, they make sure there are two or three members from Edzo on the board. So when these recommendations do go to the Minister, all these factors are considered and this is the recommendation that they bring forward to the Minister to select these people to sit on the local authority. And these are the people that I thought are the people that would do selection for HAP and public housing and so forth. But now, the way they are doing it is they are creating another group, and the board members that are on there are getting criticized for not selecting the client

because it is traditionally known that it is the housing authority group that deals with all housing.

There is a confusion, I guess, within the community that the responsibility for these people is not only to administer the public housing but to do the HAP; anything to do with housing. That was my understanding when we started selecting these board members to the authority, and that was the purpose of selecting on the basis by which all these people were selected.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that the situation described by Mr. Zoe is probably a specific one and it may not exist in other communities in the Territories. I take his recommendations as valid and I will be happy to look at the process he is recommending. What I hear him saying is that the authority, which is constituted of all those community elements just described, should be able to provide full representation of the community's interests and groups, and I would expect that could be the case.

In discussing this question with the president a few moments ago, I understand that this matter has been raised with Mr. Heron when he has visited the community and he has indicated that the corporation would be willing to look at using that particular authority as representative of the total community, as well as the management of public housing. So we would be happy to look at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

Decentralizing North Slave District Office

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On another issue with regard to decentralization of the district office, could the Minister indicate as to what the status is of decentralizing the North Slave district office?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Before I respond to the immediate question. Regarding the mandate of the authority, Mr. Heron advised me that when he was in discussion with the group in Rae-Edzo he indicated that he would be interested in receiving from the other groups that I named, a disclaimer or saying that they could recognize the Rae-Edzo Housing Authority as the one body in the community to represent the total community interest. We are still awaiting those letters from those other interest groups.

With regard to decentralization, this is a subject that the Member has raised on two or three occasions in the last year and a half. I believe we have put in a couple of positions. We have a maintenance man and a programs person and we are looking at one more position to go in there, so I think since he raised it initially we have seen three positions decentralized to the Rae-Edzo centre. I must say, too, we have been in contact with the Development Corporation and are looking at identifying our space requirements and the amount of money that we would be expected to pay for rent of the premises.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think I also requested, or I asked, what the plan was. The Minister indicated, I cannot recall when, that they were working on a plan to decentralize. It has been a year and a half, as the Minister indicated, that I have been pursuing this and to this day I have not seen a plan. The Minister indicated that to

decentralize will not happen overnight and we will probably have to phase it in, either in two phases or possibly three phases. Could I ask the Minister if he could provide me with the plan? I have not seen any type of plan, and they have indicated that they have moved positions there, and so forth. I would like to see over what time period this is going to happen and when certain things are anticipated, and so forth. Could I ask the Minister if he could provide that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: We can provide the Member with an indication of those positions that will be decentralized to the Rae-Edzo community. When this discussion was entered into, initially I indicated that there were nine positions, I think it was, in the total unit and we would not be decentralizing the whole unit, that there would be a number identified and I think I said between three and four. I think we are approaching that now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

Different Understanding About Decentralizing

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, that was not my understanding. My understanding was to decentralize the whole office. Why keep a district office at headquarters? When we got into this discussion was at the same time when I was pursuing the whole issue of decentralizing the Fort Smith Region. Housing was part of the whole process when I was dealing with the Government Leader, when things were being devolved or decentralized to Fort Simpson and Rae-Edzo. Part of that, to decentralize the Fort Smith Region, was to move the district office from headquarters. Why have a district office stuck in headquarters when we have the whole headquarters here? My understanding was that we were going to devolve or decentralize that whole office, over two or three years. As the Minister said, we cannot just move everything in one year. They were working on a plan to phase it in over two or three years, but eventually the whole district office would be moved out of Yellowknife. Now the Minister is saying, "No, all I said was three or four positions." That is not decentralizing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I realize the Member may be unhappy with the answer, but my understanding was that it was only going to be a portion of the office. That office not only serves Rae-Edzo and some of the surrounding communities but it also serves Yellowknife, Dettah, and at the time we began looking at it the office also served Snowdrift. There is a large community here which has housing problems and those problems should be addressed from Yellowknife and not from Rae-Edzo.

I think another concern, and maybe this has ameliorated over the years, was with regard to availability of air service from Rae-Edzo into the smaller communities. It would seem ludicrous to service the smaller communities from Fort Rae if you have to come all the way into Yellowknife to pick up an aircraft to fly to the communities. However, the aircraft problem may be solved now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, no matter which way I tackle it, the Minister always has an answer for me. Mr. Chairman, servicing the outlying communities from Rae-Edzo is not that big of a problem. Even though we do not have a year round airstrip, the only time we have problems is freeze-up and break-up, when the planes cannot land on ice or water. That should not cause a problem. The rationale behind the Minister's comments is not warranted. They do fly out of Rae-Edzo, plus there is a charter company there. Flying out for

the employees who work out of Rae-Edzo is not a big problem, and I cannot see the rationale from the comments that the Minister has made. So he cannot use that as an argument for not moving the district office over there. Within a few years, if things go right, maybe we will have an airport, since we have taken over the Arctic airports program ourselves. Mr. Chairman, again that was my understanding of decentralizing the district office, that we were going to do it over maybe a two or three year period, and now the Minister is renegeing on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, no, I am not renegeing on it; I just never agreed to it in the initial exchange. I think that the Member has done very well, thank you, in having a number of positions transferred to Rae-Edzo, and this has occurred. We have met him more than half way on the proposal, and we have done so because we believe, as he does, that the programs and the people that benefit from those programs will be best administered and receive better service from staff closer to their place of residence. But I would also point out that Yellowknife is a large community and has housing needs, as does Dettah, and we still require a service pod here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I kind of figured that when the Minister indicated that they were working on decentralizing the district office, I questioned the person that was working on that particular project to put the plan together to decentralize his own office, and it happened to be the district manager that was assigned to undertake this task. I raised my concern with the Minister. How could you assign the manager of the district office to undertake this task when he is involved? It is a sort of conflict. If I am working for, say, the district office and you ask me to move my office, and if I did not want to, then I am going to do everything I could to delay it as long as I could, and that is exactly what happened. The Minister was aware of it, and now it looks like he is going in the direction of the person that put this plan together to decentralize. Although he indicated that it is monitored by a senior person in the Housing Corporation, I questioned it and also the community members questioned the person that was doing the plan. Now it looks like it is working in their interests, that this thing is not going to go ahead now. I am going to pursue it further, Mr. Chairman, but I will leave it at that for now and maybe I can get a comment from the Minister.

Just another point, Mr. Chairman. Rae-Edzo, as you know, is the service centre for all the outlying communities. We have our area office, and we have executive there that service Dettah and all the outlying communities, including Yellowknife. I cannot see why the district office cannot be moved out of Yellowknife. The Minister has indicated that this is a large community, and we realize that, but Rae is designated as the service centre for the outlying communities, including Dettah. Our economic development officers all work out of Rae, and they service Dettah. All the other departments do, too. I cannot agree with the rationale that the Minister has given me. That is the reason we asked for that particular department to decentralize, because housing is the only part that was not there. Everything is being done out of here. We are trying to bring the programs closer to the people. How else can you do it? You have to bring it to the service centre. We have five communities. We realize that Yellowknife is big, but Yellowknife has headquarters here, and headquarters has more power than the district office. I cannot see why the Minister is now going back on his word that they are not going to decentralize. Maybe I will go back to the Government Leader and question him on when we started

discussing decentralizing the Fort Smith Region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

More Units To Be Managed In Yellowknife Area

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I am not going back on my word. The Member may not have understood me clearly when I indicated to him that I was willing to look at decentralization and study the positions which would be most economically relocated to Rae-Edzo. I have done this. I have done this. Just by way of figures, on the management requirement from Rae-Edzo, there are 167 units; and from this office there are almost 250 units in Yellowknife, Latham Island and Dettah. So in terms of management, there is a larger number of units required to be managed from this office.

I would make a comment, too. The Member did come to me and indicate he had a concern that one of our staff members who may be affected by any decentralization was given the responsibility of looking into it and carrying it out. I checked with the president and the president informed me in no uncertain terms that no, his staff may do things under his direction, but he was the one that made the decisions regarding whatever was developed as a result of that direction.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments, Housing Corporation. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, from what I understand the Minister is saying, the reason why he is not going to move the whole district office is because of the number of units that are administered out of the Yellowknife district office.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, it is one of the factors, Mr. Chairman. I have raised a few others over the last half hour.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments. Ms. Cournoyea, you had indicated earlier that you wanted to speak, and other Members have spoken, so this is your first time. You are passing. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment. I liked the response you gave me earlier about the allocation of housing to the communities of most need. Sometimes allocations to some communities get deferred, and this creates a problem, especially when we are not notified that our allocations are going to be deferred because another community requires it more this year. I think that a lot of problems could be eliminated if we are informed ahead of time, instead of being advised all of a sudden that we are not going to be getting any housing for this year because it is needed more in another community. I think it would be better if you informed us, telling us that we will not be getting too many houses this year because there is an emergency situation in another community. I think this will eliminate a lot of the problems that we have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments. Housing Corporation. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Housing Corporation was formed in the 1960s. I realize a lot of problems we encountered then are still there. We had a special committee on housing and they were given a lot of presentations when they were visiting the communities. They went to a lot of communities to hear their concerns. Some of the problems identified at that time have still not been dealt with or incorporated into the program. I expect that this will be done sometime in the future.

Necessity Of Good Foundations

Also, the government has said that the Housing Corporation is becoming a very big and expensive organization in the NWT, and the housing that was built in 1976, which we call public housing units, those houses are now in pretty bad shape. I think that for the future we have to think about making different foundations to make sure they are going to last a long time. Unless you have a firm foundation for housing, even though they may be fairly new — even the housing units that are only 10 years old are not in very good shape any more. Some of the flooring is now coming off and some of the walls are cracking. I think that could be eliminated by changing the foundation. I know some of the communities are now using steel piles to build the units which are on a solid rock. But the houses that were just put on gravel pads are not in very good shape. It is very expensive to maintain and heat those houses because of the wear and tear they are suffering from the moving of the earth. So it is very expensive to operate them. But if they were built on proper foundations, they would still be good.

I know you are making headway about improving the foundations that are built in the North. I even showed you the unit that I was living in in Resolute Bay. The floor is no longer smooth. I was told that this would be repaired, but it has still not been fixed to date. Also, part of the problem that was encountered was that those units that would have been renovated are not renovated because of a lack of units where the family can go to stay until their houses are renovated. I know this is a major problem in the smaller communities where housing shortages are very serious.

Also, the communities want to become more involved in the design of housing that is going to be built in the communities as public housing. You were also told, when you were in Arctic Bay, about what kind of houses are going to be built in their community. Sometimes a house is built much too high, say with two floors, and they have to have long stairs because of the terrain.

Part of the problem that the communities are experiencing is there are housing authorities in almost every community and the people who serve in the associations do not have enough decision-making powers on their own. They just approve or disapprove according to NWT Housing policy. Sometimes the secretary manager has more power than the board members. Some of the communities do not really like that, and they do not even believe in having housing associations any more in some of the smaller communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The Chair would like to recognize, in the gallery, the presence of Mr. Dave Nickerson, a former Member of this House.

---Applause

Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Three comments made by the Member. I agree that we still experience difficulty in rehabilitating units where we do not have empty houses for the family to occupy while the rehabilitation goes on. I know this is a problem. It remains a problem today. I do recall that I did visit the Member's house and witnessed the conditions that he has described, and they are as he described. I had hoped that we would be doing something about his particular unit this summer, but I just cannot confirm that at the moment.

In Arctic Bay I was embarrassed because when I was there a few months previously, I had indicated that the design tour that had made a swing through some of the communities

would be visiting there, and I found out that that visit had not occurred into Arctic Bay, which is unfortunate because, as the Member pointed out, they have some unique construction problems to deal with the community being built on a rocky slope, and there were some design features that were shown me and that really should be changed. I hope that work is going ahead to change and fix those particular shortcomings. With regard to the role of the secretary manager and the board members, when I have travelled with the president, I heard this concern and this frustration expressed by board members. I have indicated to them that the decision-making power with regard to their responsibility rests with them and not with the secretary manager. I have indicated the secretary manager is there to serve them and assist them in making these decisions and providing them with information so that they can make the decisions. I think the process depends a lot on the secretary manager. In one community I remember the secretary manager saying to me that if the people did not have the material to make a rational, and proper decision, then he was failing them and not doing his job. I would agree.

So I believe there is a misunderstanding here and the boards may not really realize the authority and responsibility that they have in carrying out the mandate that we have devolved to them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments. Mr. Pudluk.

Relationship Between Housing Associations And Hamlet Councils

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I will make a short comment on it again. Has the Housing Corporation ever considered how they can put a housing association into, in the case of a hamlet council, the communities? Have you ever considered this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: We certainly have considered it. I have found in my travels in the Eastern Arctic communities that this particular situation already exists, and there is a very close working relationship between the housing authorities, or associations, and the hamlet councils. When I travelled with the Member and we visited in the communities, we usually found that the associations and the hamlet sat together. In fact, in Arctic Bay the meeting was chaired by the chairman of the housing association.

It is not only in that particular community but in many communities that I now found there is a very good working relationship between the two groups. I have talked to a number of mayors, and they do not seem to wish to take over the responsibilities and headaches of the housing authorities in obtaining land and in determining how the houses should be placed on the property that they obtained. I think there is a good working relationship between the two organizations already. I think the housing authorities and associations rely very much on the senior government, the hamlet, and work well in co-operation with them. We have considered it, and we recognize that there is a need for such co-operation, communication and co-ordination to exist.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments, Housing Corporation. If there are no other further general comments, is that an indication that the committee would like to move on? Mr. Sibbeston.

Shortage Of Eligible HAP Clients

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I think something that probably needs to be dealt with is HAP. Without question the HAP program is one of the best ever instituted in the North and has provided many people with good housing which otherwise would not be available. The alternative of social housing was a start, but it was not as good as owning your own house.

What is happening in many of the communities, I am sure, if Simpson is a good example, is that many of the families and people who are eligible under the program criteria are having their housing needs met. You get into a situation where you are running out of people who fit the criteria precisely, so we are dealing with people who do not have as much income or enough income to fit the program, or else people whose incomes are too high. When I was Minister, we talked about devising and changing the program to make it possible for people, particularly those who have higher incomes, to fit under the program, perhaps with an approach where they would not get the full amount of the grant but would get a lesser amount, depending on their incomes.

I am just wondering at this stage whether the Housing Corporation is prepared to come forth with a program that suits people with a higher income still a HAP program but with some contribution by the individuals who can afford it. Can we hear from the Minister on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, yes, with the honourable Member and the president I have a similar concern that we are running short of eligible clients. The Housing Corporation did recommend to its senior partner the program which the Member has just described, that is, where people who are over the core need would be able to get a combination of a loan/grant to assist them to construct their home. Of course, we suggested other changes to the HAP program, which we feel would be desirable and make it more realistic -- CMHC, while interested in these recommendations, has been unwilling to sit down and discuss them with us until the evaluation of the rural and native program has been concluded.

Lawrence Gladieu was named by the federal Minister some months ago to travel across the country, through the provinces and into the Territories, to examine existing programs and to recommend to the Minister with regard to rural and native programs currently being carried out. He was to have his report finished, I believe, either this month or next month. My expectation would be that as soon as that becomes public, then we could carry out discussions with CMHC to achieve the objectives that the Member has indicated are valuable and desirable. That report is still in the hands of the federal corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Housing Corporation. General comments. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I am extremely interested in this subject and portfolio, and who knows what the future may hold.

---Laughter

Seriously, I am just wondering if the Minister, while I appreciate that discussions have ensued and there have obviously been some discussions in the department and the board, I am just wondering if he should not make available the thoughts of the corporation with respect to this new program that the Minister talks about that he feels, too, is desirable. Can the Minister, at some point, either table or

make available to the Assembly the thoughts or changes that he envisages so that as MLAs we can consider them to see if they are reasonable and in tune with the MLAs and the people of the North? Recognizing, of course, that it is a subject that the federal government will eventually deal with, it seems to me that at some point there should be a public discussion and consultation about it and the views of the MLAs and the public provided so that whatever the Minister eventually agrees to is sound and will be workable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would be willing to provide that to Members. I am having a little bit of difficulty recalling what happened in the past. I know that there was a think tank at which MLAs participated with the members of the board. This was about 14 to 15 months ago now, and I do believe I circulated the elements of the current program and also the elements of the proposed program which we wish to discuss with CMHC. I thought it was translated into Inuktitut but the short answer is, yes, we can provide it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments, Housing Corporation. Is there concurrence in the committee that we now go to details for the Housing Corporation?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

NWT Housing Corporation, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.10, NWT Housing Corporation, total O and M, \$55,125,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.11, details of grants and contributions, contributions, NWT Housing Corporation, total contributions, \$55,125,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total grants and contributions, \$55,125,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Information items now, on page 3.12, program summary. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, maybe it is an appropriate time for me to move a motion before you conclude with housing. I realize you are on the program summary. Back to the question of decentralizing the office, I am not too pleased with the response I received from the Minister, from what my understanding was when we first talked about decentralizing the whole Fort Smith Region, which includes Yellowknife. That is how we managed to decentralize even housing to my colleague's riding, Nahendeh, and economic development and all these good things. I was hoping that the same would occur in my area office in Rae-Edzo.

Motion To Recommend Initiation Of Plans To Decentralize District Office From Yellowknife To Rae-Edzo

Pertaining to housing, Mr. Chairman, I move that this

committee strongly recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation immediately initiate the necessary plans to decentralize the complete operation of the Yellowknife district office from Yellowknife to Rae-Edzo. This motion has been translated and circulated, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, just to briefly comment on my motion. This motion would fit into the whole question of decentralization of the Fort Smith Region. You may recall, Mr. Chairman, that I pursued this whole question very vigorously with the Government Leader. My colleague from Nahendeh and I pursued this question, and housing is part of the Fort Smith Region. When we were discussing this whole business of decentralizing the Fort Smith Region into the area offices, housing was one area that the report mentioned could be decentralized. I know the Minister of Housing is aware of that report. It was done by their own people -- the report that was made available to the Executive on the departments that could be decentralized. Within that report, housing was one that they thought could easily be decentralized, especially from Yellowknife to Rae-Edzo.

At that time, I pursued, and also my friend, that same avenue to decentralize some programs into his area and I did the same thing, and Housing agreed that they were going to decentralize, but at that time they indicated that they could not do it in one year. My preference would have been to do it overnight, but I am a reasonable man, and I agreed that they could phase it in. I even suggested that if they could not do it in one year, then let us phase it in over two or three years, and that was agreed to. They indicated to me that the district office was working on a plan to decentralize the whole operation. However, from the comments I received today from the Minister, that was not the case.

That is the reason I am bringing forward this particular motion at this time: to conform with that report and also the commitment that was made by the Minister of Housing. What I am asking in this motion is to initiate the necessary plan, and I agree with phasing it in, so I would like to see a plan to complete -- I want the complete operation of the Yellowknife district office to be moved from Yellowknife to Rae-Edzo because that conforms with the report that the Government Leader received from the consultant that did the report. This is basically reaffirming this whole question of decentralizing the Fort Smith Region. I would urge the Members to support me in this motion. Mahsi cho.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, just briefly to indicate that it was never my understanding that we would be acquiescing to the recommendations of any report and decentralizing nine positions. Even when I spoke with representatives of the Development Corporation at Rae-Edzo, I recall being quite specific in saying that if we are looking for space it would probably be for three or four positions, and that is what we have done in the last three years. There may be one more position to decentralize, but we have, as far as I am concerned, met exactly with the commitment that I made to the Member. He may not have understood that, and he may have expected that somebody was talking about nine positions, but I believe we are meeting and will meet the full commitment I made to the honourable Member some year and a half ago.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, just to present my case, it does fit into the concept to decentralize the Fort Smith Region. I

cannot see why it could not be done. This particular district office could be anywhere in my riding. It could be moved to Lac la Martre, Rae Lakes. It would have no effect on Yellowknife. If the district office people think that by moving it to Rae-Edzo that they are not going to have an office here, they can have a sub-office here, a small one, but the main operation could be in Rae-Edzo. That is following the report that was given to the government and that was the intention. My intention was to move the whole operation. Why keep it in Yellowknife when we have headquarters here?

The Housing Corporation headquarters is situated here in Yellowknife, so I cannot see why they cannot move it. It is basically following the government's own initiatives to decentralize and this particular operation could be easily done. We agreed to phase it in. Maybe two positions this year, four positions next year and gradually increase those positions. We agreed to phase it in over a period of time. That was the intention of the corporation to develop this plan. I figured that the next year we will get more and the following year we will get even more, but apparently that is not the case now. That is why I am asking for a complete plan to decentralize the whole operation and I am seeking for Members to support me on my motion.

Motion To Recommend Initiation Of Plans To Decentralize District Office From Yellowknife To Rae-Edzo, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--Carried

We are on page 3.12, information item, program summary. Program summary, page 3.12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.13, information item, executive. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.14, information item, policy and evaluation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.15, information item, human resources. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.16, information item, community and program services. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.17, information item, finance and corporate services. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.18, information item, construction/development. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.19, information item, district operations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.20, information item, housing associations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.21, information item, distribution of contributions by district. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.9, program summary, total O and M, \$55,125,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Does the committee agree that the O and M is completed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Contributions

Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Capital, page 3.11, detail of capital. NWT Housing Corporation, contributions, headquarters, total region, \$8,845,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Fort Smith, total region, \$3,755,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Inuvik, total region, \$3,920,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Baffin, total region, \$5,172,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Keewatin, total region, \$2,906,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Kitikmeot, total region, \$3,242,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total contributions, \$27,840,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total activity, \$27,840,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.16, information item, notes to detail of capital. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): page 3.17, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.18, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.19, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.20, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.21, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.22, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.23, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.24, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.25, information item. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, seeing as we are coming to the end of the housing units, I wonder if the Minister could tell us where the 20 units that he has in the supp, that will be in addition to units in here, where those will be allocated, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable Member was absent when that particular item was discussed in the supps. What I said was that at the present time we are not able to identify exactly those settlements to which those small units would go, the reason being that we are comparing the 1990 needs survey, which is just in hand, and the 1988 survey, in which we found out in some communities quite a difference. I named a few communities in the East, and I think there might be one or two in the West. I indicated that I can come back on the first or second day of the House when we meet after the break and provide Members with a detailed listing of where each of the houses would go and the rationale for putting them in those communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.25. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, if you will allow me, on page 3.24 it says 18 units, headquarters, home-ownership assistance. Will the Minister be advising us at the same time where those 18 units will be going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We will be using the same rationale for placement again. I think in terms of the total need, if we have over 3000 in need, I think there are about 550 HAPs which could be placed and we will use the same need determinant for allocating them as we are for the smaller units. Members will see, I think, that they are being

fairly apportioned throughout the Territories. I believe we have done a quick count and of the 18 we feel that, on the basis of the 1990 needs survey, probably 10 would go into the Inuit communities and eight in the West.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.25, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.26, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.27, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 3.28, information item. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

NWT Housing Corporation, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Still in the capital book, page 3.9, program summary. Total capital expenditures, \$27,840,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Are Members agreed that the capital estimates are completed? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Are Members agreed that we are concluded with the Minister of the Housing Corporation and his officials?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Thank you, Mr. Minister and your officials. Mr. Government Leader, come Government House Leader, do you have any advice of your desires -- of something that can be legitimately carried on within the ropes, Mr. Government Leader?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, with the agreement of the committee, we propose to move to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Butters is ready and eager to give opening remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Is the committee in agreement that we proceed to Municipal and Community Affairs? Mr. Minister, are you prepared to go ahead with your opening remarks?

I would suggest, if everyone is in concurrence, that we take a five or 10 minute break while the Minister takes off his Housing Corporation robes and puts on his Municipal Affairs robes.

---SHORT RECESS

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs

The committee will now come back to order. Mr. Minister, are you prepared to make your opening remarks?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, I am, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the committee would grant me the courtesy of inviting my deputy minister to the table, and then we could go right into general comments after I have finished my remarks. It is a very short opening statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The committee is agreed. For the record, Mr. Menard, deputy minister of the department, has joined the witness chair. Mr. Minister.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the 1991-92 fiscal year, estimates for the operations and maintenance of \$58,648,000 are being proposed, an increase of 10.7 per cent from the O and M estimates in 1990-91. There are 151.8 person years proposed in 1991-92, a decrease of one person year from 1990-91. In the coming year...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Sorry, Mr. Minister, there is no interpretation coming through.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I guess I have to press that button twice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: In the coming year the department's proposed budgetary growth is directed toward helping local governments to maintain the capital infrastructure previously provided with the assistance of this government. As well, increased assistance through targeted subsidy programs is proposed to ensure that community residents receive economical and affordable municipal services, particularly water and sewer services.

Increased funding of \$1,675,000 is proposed for the water and sewage services subsidy program, which assists private residents and businesses in hamlets, charter communities and settlements by establishing subsidized rates for water delivery and sewage disposal services. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provides the water and sewage services subsidy to municipal governments to make up the difference between the subsidized rates and the economic rates.

In continuing support of the priority of providing basic and accessible recreation facilities for all community residents, increased expenditures of \$171,000 are proposed for the recreation facilities operating subsidy, as well as \$32,000 for infrastructure associated with the aquatic program. As part of the department's continuing initiative to facilitate more effective land development, an additional \$120,000 is proposed in 1991-92 for land development programs.

Mr. Chairman, communities across the Northwest Territories continue to be faced with rates of population growth well

above the Canadian average. This places additional O and M pressures on municipal infrastructure in many of our communities as recreation facilities, offices, equipment and roads are more intensively used. The department is requesting additional funding of \$902,000 for grants and contributions to assist hamlets to effectively maintain municipal infrastructure.

The department is proposing an additional \$138,000 in 1991-92 for the payment of grants in lieu of property taxes to tax-based municipalities on assessed properties owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories, but which are not subject to property taxation in the normal manner. This practice, under the grants in lieu of property taxes policy, is well established in Canadian provincial/local financial relations and recognizes that GNWT-owned properties in municipalities are consumers of municipal services provided by municipal governments.

To provide fair property tax relief to home-owners in the Northwest Territories, an additional \$134,000 in 1991-92 is proposed for the home-owners property tax relief program. I am pleased that budgetary growth in this program is reflective of the increasing development of private home-ownership in the NWT.

Mr. Chairman, the department is proposing capital expenditures of \$38,108,000 for 1991-92. Of these proposed estimates, grants and contributions to municipalities for municipal buildings, works and equipment would make up about 33 per cent, or \$12,641,000. This is an indication of our continued willingness to transfer increasing capital project authority to willing and capable municipal governments. Another 19 per cent, or \$7,304,000, is allocated for water and sanitation projects provided direct to communities by my department in co-operation with the Department of Public Works. A further 20 per cent, or \$7,248,000, is proposed for community road, site and land development projects and mapping and community planning projects.

Members are aware that for several years the department has been reviewing capital and O and M assistance policies to determine whether they are meeting the needs of municipal governments and community residents. In March 1990 a joint committee on municipal financing submitted a comprehensive review of these policies. Since then, my department and I have been giving careful and serious consideration to the joint committee's recommendations for further policy development. I intend to take forward policy proposals to the Priorities and Planning Committee of our cabinet, after my department has held a final round of consultations with municipalities through mayors' workshops. I will now be pleased to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Thank you. Under general comments, Mr. Pollard, does the standing committee on finance have any comments or debate in this area that they would like to enter on the record?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

Motion To Recommend That Mandate Be Given To Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs To Lead Devolution Process Under Charter Communities Act, Carried

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we believe that this department is not the lead agency for co-ordinating and implementing the Charter Communities Act, even though it is the department with the larger experience with local government, so I would move the following recommendation, Mr. Chairman: The standing committee on finance recommends that the Department of Municipal and

Community Affairs be given the mandate to lead and co-ordinate devolution under the Charter Communities Act; and further, that steps be taken to expedite the process of devolution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Mr. Pollard.

Motion To Recommend That Municipalities And Other Local Governments Receive Funding For Inflationary Growth, Carried

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to inflationary growth, the committee is concerned that no inflationary growth was provided to municipalities and other local governments, while departmental activities did receive some funding for salary increases. As a result, municipalities and other local governments may experience a decrease from last year in their ability to provide services. I therefore move the following recommendation, Mr. Chairman: The standing committee on finance recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs consider providing municipalities and other local governments with the same extent of funding for inflationary growth as the department received for its activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Municipal and Community Affairs, general comments. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. My question will deal with the by-law officer situation. In many of the communities they have employees who are by-law officers. In the smaller communities they have such officers now and I have come to realize that the by-law officers are enforcers of the by-laws passed by the hamlet councils. I understand they are not able to enforce any other laws above that. Is that correct? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The Member's comment is correct, but I do believe that they can enforce other restrictions, especially those that are under the Motor Vehicles Act, with RCM Police knowledge and concurrence.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Arlooktoo.

Value Of By-Law Officers Questioned

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been a concern of mine ever since the Minister of

Justice spoke on that subject. We got the impression that the by-law officers are a waste of municipal funding because of the lack of responsibilities outlined in their jobs. This might be correct for the communities with more than two by-law officers. Normally they make about \$30,000 per annum and they also are provided with snowmobiles and three-wheeled vehicles. Some people are thinking that too much money is being spent on by-law officers and their vehicles. Maybe they were putting too many by-law officer positions into the communities. This has been a bit of a concern, because I think they are using up a lot of the funding that could have been used for other purposes within the hamlets. This is a concern of mine and I thought I would find out what the feeling is from MACA.

I do not even think they need by-law officers in some of the communities, but they still have them. When you consider the funding shortages, I think there is a possibility of removing some of the unnecessary positions. That was my general comment. It was not really a question.

Further to hamlet funding, the hamlet uses up certain portions of their funding which could be used for other purposes and it causes a lot of financial problems, particularly in the smaller communities. Certain things are set aside in a budget, and I wonder if there is another way to correct this problem contained in the hamlet by-laws. For example, if they have funding for water and sewage delivery, they would allocate money toward recreational activities instead, or vice versa, because we often run out of funding for recreational activities. I wonder if they are able to reallocate these or make them more transferrable. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think the Member has made a very good comment and observation. In responding, I would point out that the third level of government is exactly that, a government, and is held accountable for its decisions and actions by the people that elect it. Having said that, I do recognize that there are hard decisions that have to be made by the municipal politicians and municipal councillors. In the time that I have had this responsibility I have noticed, in visiting with the councils, that there is a requirement for, I do not know whether it would be training, but certainly sensitizing them to the responsibilities they have. Sometimes we do this by training prior to the time they take office and sometimes during the time they are in office, because they do have the responsibility for expenditure of those funds. Probably there are occasions in which we could demonstrate that the funds could be expended more economically and more in keeping with the community's need, but in so saying, I would point out that it is their responsibility and we try to work with them as closely as possible so that the decisions they make are made in the best interests of their constituents. But that does not reduce the importance of the comment/observation being made by the Member. It will take time, I think, to improve the current situation. It will probably require more training, more involvement by our officials with municipal officials in a sense of guidance and the provision of information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments, Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say a few words about the staff of the hamlet councils and the fact that the employees who own their own housing should be subsidized by giving them additional money. Some communities do not practise this, even though others do. In the housing subsidy for staff who own their own housing, is money provided by the money that is raised in the community, or does the territorial government provide them with housing subsidies? I would like to get clarification on

that, please. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, if the municipalities wish to make that decision to fund or provide a housing allowance to their staff, they could do so. I believe that the money which we provide them with allows them that possibility should they wish to pursue it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For further clarification, since you allow them to do that sort of thing, do you contribute or grant the municipalities so that they can provide a subsidy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, in the funds we provide the communities for water and sewer services, there is a housing component, and within that formula that type of subsidy could be identified.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments. Does the committee concur with going into details now on Municipal and Community Affairs?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Municipal And Community Affairs

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Municipal and Community Affairs, page 13.12, directorate, total O and M, \$3,665,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Works And Capital Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.13, community works and capital planning, total O and M, \$2,960,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.14, community planning, total O and M, \$1,486,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Surveys And Mapping, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.15, surveys and mapping, total O and M, \$453,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Sport And Recreation, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.16, sport and recreation, total O and M, \$7,700,000. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this may not be the right activity and it may not be the right Minister, but it deals with sport. Recently athletes from the Northwest Territories won medals at a Canadian standard. My question, through you, sir, to the Minister is, now that there has been proof that young people in the Northwest Territories can compete nationally, is this government, is this department -- will the Minister of sport make some commitment to provide people with better training facilities so that they go out on an even footing with those people in southern Canada, and cultivate the youth up here and people who are involved in sports, provide them with facilities, provide them with the ability to train properly, so that they can go out and do even better than they have done in the past? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister, do you wish to answer this or defer it to another Minister?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I think the Minister for sport, national sports, would be best to answer this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: The Member is correct in that we were successful in the last Canada Winter Games, winning a gold and a bronze medal. However, I would point out that this is by no means the first time that we have been able to compete at a national level. As far back as the early 1980s or late 1970s, the Firth sisters, who come out of the Inuvik Region, were more than competing at a national level; they were competing at an international level. We have also won medals at previous Canada Winter Games as well. I think talent will shine through regardless of the kind of facilities that you have, particularly if you have an extraordinary talent like we had with the Firth sisters, or maybe even with some of the later athletes.

As you know, the government has committed itself to a major expansion of its sports facilities over the last six years, spending, I believe, something in excess of \$50,000,000 in that same period on those facilities. I know that there is a continued commitment by the department and by this government to the construction of sports facilities, and I do not see that commitment diminishing whatsoever in the next few years. It is becoming apparently obvious to people, now, that not only are the facilities resulting in increased athletic performance, increased competition between communities, but several recent studies are showing that these facilities are having a major social impact in terms of the crime rate among young people, in terms of the channelling of energies of young people into a more constructive form of activity.

I think that in terms of the capital available for sports facilities, I do not think you are going to see any diminishment of that capital for the next few years. I know that Sport North is now actively working in trying to expand their network, particularly in the smaller regions, with regard to coaching clinics, et cetera, et cetera. I would say that the program side is really, the last couple of years, where we have started to concentrate on the program side of sports and athletics. The first priority for the first five years was to get facilities in place. Now there is a small shifting of the emphasis away from the capital facilities to the program side.

I think this government has recognized, and I hope future governments will recognize, how important sport and recreation have become, particularly to the young people. In

fact, if you go to those communities and see the facilities, even the older people are heavily involved. So I think it will stay a major part of the government's program. To a certain extent, we are one of the leading jurisdictions in the country when it comes to money being spent per capita on sports and recreation. I know two or three years ago we had about the third highest capital budget of any jurisdiction in the country on these facilities. I see that program only becoming stronger, not weaker. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.16, sport and recreation. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Diverting Surplus Funds To Sport And Recreation

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking about funding for the hamlet councils. When you are talking about water and sewer money, if there should be surplus funds in the hamlet budget in a fiscal year, would that money or the surplus be available to be diverted into the recreation and sport department? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, not at the present time. The condition upon which the surplus is developed, if it is to be expended by the community, would be in projects or programs associated with the water and sewer requirement. The water and sewer program is supposed to be revenue neutral, and theoretically, if there is a surplus, it would indicate that some of the elements of the original agreement that we have with the community was more to their advantage than we had anticipated. Theoretically they should be breaking even on that program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what the Minister is saying. Is it really impossible to divert the surplus funds even though the hamlet will have a surplus from that program? If they have no money for recreational facilities such as swimming pools, hockey arenas, or community halls, would the hamlet have to close down these programs even though they may have a surplus in another area? Can you not look at this again to see if you can reallocate funds that are no longer needed for certain programs, maybe through changing an agreement with the hamlets? Would you look into that? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sport and recreation is becoming a major concern in the Northwest Territories, probably since the early 1980s, and we have come to see a lot of recreational facilities built in the communities. It is going to become more expensive to operate and maintain those facilities across the NWT. I realize that the money is wisely used for the sport and recreation departments of the hamlets. For the people who are travelling to take part in sporting events, do you know how much money is raised by fund-raising by various participants or through volunteers? Can you give me a rough estimate of how much money is raised to support the sport and recreation activities so that the athletes across the NWT can take part in major competitions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, we do not have a specific figure that we could give the Member, such as 15 per

cent, but I think if he could give us a particular sporting event in which there were grants and contributions, and volunteer money raised, then we could probably provide a figure for that particular event, but we just do not have a percentage that I could offer at the present moment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.16, sport and recreation. Mr. Kilabuk.

Funding For Sports Equipment

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that you cannot give me specifics on this, but I would just like to say that many of the communities now have hockey arenas. If the community requested ice cleaners or one of those little vehicles, if they wanted to get one of those, would you fund them?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The practice has been that it is the responsibility of the community to provide the equipment that they require or desire for servicing their particular arena. I would like to comment in a general sense in response to something the Member said earlier with regard to the cost of operating recreation complexes. Like the Member, I was concerned that possibly we were under-funding municipalities in this area. In fact, I had two audits done on two hamlets to see just how they were doing with their particular operations, and I must admit I was surprised to find out that they were managing very well, thank you. There were a few things that they could do to change their management style, but generally they were operating at a break-even point.

The department is aware that this is a concern in the communities and we are paying specific attention to the costs of maintaining and operating recreation complexes. We agree with the Member that they are a very important adjunct to the community and have given many people an opportunity to participate in sport and enjoy sports as spectators more than has ever before occurred. We are aware of the Member's concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I asked, you did not really respond to that. For example, in a hockey arena, if we wanted to obtain a piece of equipment to maintain the ice, do we have to raise so much money ourselves before you can give us a contribution or a grant, or would we have to pay for the whole machine ourselves?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I did answer the question. The answer was "No". We do not supply funds to the municipalities for that type of equipment. It is up to the municipalities to determine what kind of equipment would best serve them and to raise the funds necessary to purchase that equipment or obtain it.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Minister, for clarifying that for me. I seem to have heard that the government can provide half of the money. If the community raised half of the money to pay for the piece of equipment they want, would you not be able to do that through MACA? I think that if some communities raise so much money some departments will fund them halfway. You do not do this for sport and recreational equipment. For example, if it is going to be needed to maintain an arena you do not have a

program whereby the government will pay a certain amount and the community raises so much of it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zamboni -- I mean, Mr. Minister.

---Laughter

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time there is no such program to share costs on that type of equipment. I believe each community, if they do wish to obtain equipment, develops various stratagems, either with private industry or whomever, to obtain the equipment. We could look at the program, look at the possibility of developing a program for small communities, but at the present time there is no such shared cost arrangement for such capital equipment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to get into too much detail, but I just want to know exactly what the programs are. Our athletes are not being trained properly. For example, our hockey teams do not usually have a coach or a trainer available, even though this is a very important activity for the NWT at the present time. Their coaches or trainers are not properly trained themselves, even though they have to become competitive.

Would we go to the Department of Education or Municipal and Community Affairs where you can make arrangements to hold hockey clinics in the communities? We are getting to the stage where we are becoming competitive communities. I am aware that there was a hockey clinic in Iqaluit and some of our athletes did take part. I would not blame our hockey team if they lost a major competition because they have never had proper training to begin with. I wonder if you will be able to provide instruction in the communities; not permanently, but to hold clinics once in a while. Would that be possible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the point is well taken. There are programs being held in various communities which we fund, but as I understand it, we provide funding to the sports governing bodies. Sport North would be the body which delivers the courses in each region. We are also assisting the NWT Coaching Association to establish a base program and services for members.

So we do recognize the need and we are providing funding for the type of coaching at the community level which the Member says is very important. The program in the main would be carried out, as I said, by the sports governing bodies.

Sport And Recreation, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Municipal and Community Affairs, page 13.16, sport and recreation, total operation and maintenance, \$7,700,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Municipal Operations And Assessment, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.17, municipal operations and assessment, total O and M, \$41,399,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Lands, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.18, lands, total O and M, \$985,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.19, details of grants and contributions, grants. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.20, total grants, \$1,492,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.21, contributions. Continued on to the next page, 13.22, and on to the next page, 13.23, for a total contribution of \$42,526,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total grants and contributions, \$44,018,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Program summary, page 13.11, total operations and maintenance, \$58,648,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Does the committee agree that concludes the main estimates, operations and maintenance? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Directorate

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Now we are in the capital estimates, page 13.13, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, detail of capital, directorate, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$34,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total equipment acquisition,

headquarters, total region, \$34,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total equipment acquisition, \$34,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total activity, \$34,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Community Works And Capital Planning

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.15, detail of capital, community works and capital planning, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$180,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Fort Smith, page 13.15 through 13.16, on to page 13.17, total region, \$2,254,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Continuing on through page 13.18 to page 13.19, Inuvik, total region, \$2,415,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Continuing from page 13.19 to page 13.20, Baffin, total region, \$1,585,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Continuing from page 13.20 through page 13.21, to page 13.22, Keewatin, total region, \$4,704,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.23, Kitikmeot Region, \$735,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total buildings and works, \$11,873,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Equipment acquisition, Fort Smith, total region, \$486,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Inuvik, total region, \$509,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Keewatin, total region, \$414,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Kitikmeot, total region, \$396,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total equipment acquisition, \$1,805,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$3,875,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Detail of capital on page 13.25, Fort Smith, continuing over to page 13.26, total Fort Smith Region, \$2,731,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Inuvik Region, total region, continuing on to page 13.27, \$2,045,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Baffin Region, continuing over to page 13.28, total region, \$3,425,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total contributions, \$12,076,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Community Works And Capital Planning, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total activity, \$25,754,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Community Planning**Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.30, detail of capital, community planning, buildings and works, headquarters, \$105,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Fort Smith, total region, \$721,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Inuvik, total region, \$942,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Baffin, total region, \$1,239,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 13.33, Keewatin, total region, \$1,524,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Kitikmeot, total region, \$1,972,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total buildings and works, \$6,503,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Planning, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total activity, \$6,503,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, on the planning, I just wanted to ask the Minister, all the maps, the community plans, that they do for communities, do all the communities across the NWT have a general community plan with legally surveyed lots, et cetera?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, not all the communities have complete plans. It is an ongoing process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: I realize it is an ongoing process, Mr. Chairman, but what I am concerned with is that the unfortunate communities that do not have these proper community plans should have a priority, especially in the planning part, because on a yearly basis we do provide money to do all this planning and all this work. Especially in the smaller communities, the work there should be given priority.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, there is a priority but I just would confirm with the Member that the aspect that he is seeking to examine here is the legal surveys associated with the plan. Mr. Chairman, it is the legal surveys, I believe, the Member is discussing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister. Continue.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I was just asking the Member if it is the legal surveys aspect that he is concerned about. The plans are being done, but it is actually surveying the lots and the properties.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Well, that is exactly what I am getting at, Mr. Chairman, is that once these maps are done – and I realize it is a long process. They have to do aerial photography and from there they do all their planning and it has got to be approved. Then they develop their general plan. After that is accepted by the department, then they start putting money aside to do the legal work, the legal survey and so forth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Sorry, Mr. Zoe. I am afraid that it is now 6:30, the hour that I have to 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 11 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 Yellowknife North.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS**Third Reading Of Bill 11: Revolving Funds Act, No. 1**

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 1, 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 11 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Third Reading Of Bill 12: Write-Off Of Assets and Debts Act, 1991

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 12, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1991, 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 12 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Third Reading Of Bill 20: Petroleum Products Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products 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 20 has had third reading. 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; at 10:00 a.m., caucus.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 19th.

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 1; Bill 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 10 and 17
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 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 19th, 1991.

--ADJOURNMENT

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