



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1991

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo):** Orders of the day for Thursday, April 11, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

## ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

**Ministers' Statement 56-91(1): Canadian Polar Commission**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that An Act to Establish the Canadian Polar Commission received royal assent in Ottawa on February 1st. This commission is the result of several studies commissioned by the federal government to investigate the state of Canadian polar science. Two reports, "Canada and Polar Science" and the "Shield of Achilles", to which our government and the Science Institute made significant contributions, recommended that a commission be established.

The Polar Commission will have the mandate to enhance Canada's international profile by promoting and assisting with international and domestic liaison and co-operation in circumpolar research, to encourage national institutions and organizations to promote and support the development and distribution of northern knowledge, to increase the international focus on circumpolar environmental issues such as arctic haze, the greenhouse effect, and air and water toxins in the food chain, and to support the federal government's science and technology strategy through co-ordination of the Canadian polar research community.

Mr. Speaker, activities of the commission will be managed by a board of directors made up of a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and nine other members to be appointed for three-year terms by the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

There will be at least two offices, one in the national capital region and the other at a location north of the 60th parallel.

Mr. Speaker, our government and the Science Institute have made a significant contribution to the evolution of the Polar Commission by ensuring that the initial reports reflected northern scientific objectives. We also had direct input during parliamentary and senate hearings where our interventions encouraged that "traditional knowledge" be recognized as a legitimate basis for any studies conducted by the commission. Another objective was to ensure the direct involvement of NWT residents on the commission's board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that there is a good possibility all board appointments will be made at the beginning of next month and that the commission will be in operation by the end of April. I look forward to the commission's early establishment and an ongoing role for our government and

the Science Institute in contributing to the successful realization of its objectives. Qujannamiik.

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

**Ministers' Statement 57-91(1): Conference On Aboriginal Languages**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Dene Cultural Institute and the Inuit Cultural Institute for organizing the aboriginal languages conference which was held in Yellowknife March 25 to 27.

I would like to congratulate all the volunteers and staff of the Dene Cultural Institute and the Inuit Cultural Institute for their dedicated work during the weeks preceding the conference and also throughout the three day event.

The aboriginal languages conference was an important event. It is not often that discussion on the role of governments, of communities and of individuals in the maintenance and the revitalization of our aboriginal languages can take place. Many aboriginal speakers and government representatives were given the chance to meet, share and exchange ideas on the future of aboriginal languages. I would like to thank the Dene Cultural Institute and the Inuit Cultural Institute for giving us all this opportunity.

I would also like to reiterate the commitment made by my honourable colleague, the Deputy Government Leader of the GNWT, Steven Kakfwi, that this government will carefully consider the recommendations arising from the aboriginal languages conference. The government intends to give serious consideration to the direction established by the aboriginal languages conference when we make our decisions on future aboriginal language policies and implementation plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ministers' Statement 58-91(1): In Memory Of Noel Broom**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words in memory of the late Noel Broom, who passed away recently at his home in Calgary, at the age of 53. Noel Broom first came to the Beaufort Sea in 1975 as a marine engineer with Dome Petroleum. The following year he became the company's base manager at Tuktoyaktuk. For the next seven years, he worked with Northerners to develop a set of business and social policies which were to become a standard for corporate behaviour in the North.

There were few residents of the Delta and the coast who were not affected in one way or another by this warm and happy man. He was a generous person, always unselfishly giving of his time and energy.



Noel Broom would not want any sadness of farewell. Many will miss him. I take this opportunity to acknowledge his achievements. Thank you.

---Applause.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Establishment Of Polar Commission At Yellowknife

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to begin by assuring the Government Leader that we do not have a bug inside the Executive boardroom so that we know exactly what is going on. But my statement today, Mr. Speaker, is about the Polar Commission.

Five years ago, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tom Simons of Trent University was asked by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to undertake a study on the better co-ordination of northern science. Unlike other polar countries, Canada does not have an agency to perform that function.

On February 1st, the federal government passed legislation which would establish a Polar Commission. It was the distinct hope of Northerners that following the presentation made to Professor Simons in Yellowknife, there would be a distinct northern flavour to the Polar Commission with respect to location and to membership. Professor Simons' report, called the "Shield of Achilles", did recommend that in addition to a headquarters in Ottawa there would be a northern office in Yellowknife and a regional office in Quebec City. I am a firm believer, Mr. Speaker, that investment in scientific research is a vital investment. In our highly specialized and complex world we increasingly depend on science to help solve our problems.

The preparation of the legislation to establish the Polar Commission and the study that preceded it has taken a long time, Mr. Speaker. I urge the Government Leader to press the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to place part of the operation in the Northwest Territories, preferably in Yellowknife as recommended by Professor Simons, so that it could work closely with the Science Institute. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

#### Member's Statement On Treatment Of Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds By The Justice System

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, like all Northerners I have been shocked and dismayed by reports of how a young Inuit woman was treated by the justice system in the Northwest Territories. Honourable Members have probably heard that Ms. Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds, a former resident of Iqaluit, was arrested, detained and transported from one coast to another in handcuffs. Ms. Reynolds had been the victim of sexual assault some months earlier. She was again victimized by officials within the justice system and by the police.

Police and Crown officials have attempted to justify this publicly by saying her presence was necessary to ensure that her attacker received an adequate penalty. That may be true enough, I suppose. My complaint is with the irresponsible lack of consideration shown to this woman by Crown counsel in failing to provide adequate consultation regarding her rights and responsibilities as a witness.

It is also absolutely shocking to learn about the attitudes and

the bumbling of RCMP members assigned to this case, Mr. Speaker. These law enforcement professionals slumbered through departure times, locked the victim in the same vehicle as the rapist, and consistently treated her with disrespect.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know Ms. Reynolds personally. She is not a resident of my constituency. But honourable Members do know of my strong interest in the development of a fair and culturally-appropriate northern system of justice. I know that people of the North are simply not prepared to accept this type of treatment by lawyers and police officers any longer. This government must take immediate steps to ensure that no person is ever treated with this lack of compassion and professionalism by our justice system.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on the government today to immediately implement the following:

1) A comprehensive review by our Minister of Justice for tabling in this House of the services provided by the police, by the federal Crown Attorney's office, and by Government of the Northwest Territories departments to assist victims of crime;

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order. The honourable Member, your time period has expired. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to finish my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Deh Cho is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members.

2) An independent review, external to the Department of Justice, into the manner in which federal and territorial officials dealt with Ms. Nowdluk Reynolds. If certain RCMP members and Crown attorneys are incapable of realizing the special social and personal circumstances which confront victims living in northern communities, then the Minister should ask the federal government to reassign them somewhere else. We do not want them here.

3) The review should also consider options for compensating victims of crime for emotional pain and suffering endured by the trauma of victimization and court proceedings. The officials who are involved might be federal employees, but it is now our own justice system, and our own Minister must be held accountable.

4) Also, the Department of Justice must immediately locate funds or make arrangements with the federal Attorney General to provide native court workers to assist in advising and supporting victims and other Crown witnesses and by preparing victim impact statements which tell the court about the emotional and physical effects of the offence.

Mr. Speaker, Madam Justice Conrad's report includes the transcript of our Minister's remarks during a much-publicized press conference on December 21, 1989. He is reported to have said, "The justice system is supposed to be there to protect those who cannot protect themselves. That is why it is supposed to be there; to protect people who are helpless, to protect people who are weaker."

Mr. Speaker, when I heard of this case I wondered if we need something to protect helpless and weak people from the justice system. The Minister must give this matter his full attention and ensure that such a travesty is never allowed to

occur again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Use Of Aboriginal Languages In Government Offices**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice my concern over the lack of use of the Inuktitut language in government offices across the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, when a unilingual Inuit person from a community attempts to phone a government office, he or she is not always able to receive assistance in our language. Over the past four years I have phoned government offices on a number of occasions and attempted to speak Inuktitut. Many times I have received the answer, "I am sorry, I do not speak Inuktitut."

Mr. Speaker, in June, 1954, an article in Eskimo Magazine asked if the Inuit language was condemned to disappear. The article argued that the Inuit language deserves to survive and that it will always have a role to play in educating Inuit people. The article further stated that if English was to be taught to the Inuit people it should be on the condition that Inuit language not be condemned to oblivion and that it can be used whenever possible.

Mr. Speaker, this is the problem. Inuktitut is not being used whenever possible, even though it has been declared an official language of the NWT.

I call upon this government to introduce aboriginal languages into government offices and ensure that people who speak aboriginal languages receive the service they deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Arctic Travels Of Present And Former Missionaries**

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise today to express my gratitude. Years ago when snowmobiles were not in the Arctic the missionaries and priests had to travel to small camps by dogteam. They travelled a lot of miles in the Arctic during the cold, visiting camps that were scattered all over the North.

In Port Harrison there is a minister, Andrew Attagulaluk, who has travelled from that community by snowmobile going through Great Whale River and James Bay, to try to get to Pond Inlet and be a missionary in that community. He has great courage to do this. As of today he is in the Keewatin Region and he will be going through the Aivilik area today. I think he has come through the hardest part of the trip. Looking at the map it is a very great distance from Inukjuak to Pond Inlet. He was very determined to make it to the community, and I think he deserves a very great compliment for his efforts to make it to Pond Inlet. He knows the Natilikmiot area and I am sure he will be doing fine.

So I wish to commend Andrew Attagulaluk for his great determination and his great courage. He probably knew he would make it to the community. I also wish to commend the previous missionaries that have travelled around the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Apology To Safety Officials**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday during the general comments on the Department of Safety and Public Services I was talking about the disposal of potentially dangerous gas cylinders, and I may have given the wrong impression, Mr. Speaker, that other methods would be a little bit quicker and perhaps timesaving and a little bit more efficient. After reading it and hearing comments about what I had said, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make it very clear that I had no intention of putting safety officials into any kind of a dangerous situation, nor the public. I was simply making suggestions to the Minister that she might look at other avenues besides one method which I had only heard of. I do not want to have it misconstrued that I would be putting anybody in danger.

So I wish to extend an apology to the public who may have thought that I was suggesting that the safety officials use rifles to shoot at these tanks to puncture them. I was only making suggestions to look at other ways that may be a little bit more speedy and yet do the same job, but not to be misunderstood that I want to put anybody in any danger. I would like to apologize for that, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Awarding Government Contracts To Northern Firms**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year our government spends substantial amounts of money on the construction of government projects in our communities across the NWT. However, very little of this money remains in our remote communities because most contracts are awarded to outside contractors. Consequently the majority of labour is imported by these outside contractors.

We are now beginning to see a little improvement. We must do more. God knows how much money is spent training our people in the larger centres. God knows how much money is spent in doing surveys and feasibility studies by this government to determine our economical future. God knows how much money this government spends in the form of welfare payments to individuals who otherwise could find a job if jobs were available.

Mr. Speaker, we know in reality that spending money to relieve temporary tension is not the answer to today's problems. We know that we must have enough information from the surveys in the past to know that we need jobs in the North.

Mr. Speaker, part of the answer would be to award government contracts to local corporations and businesses. By awarding contracts to local contractors we can have a very good reward. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Members' statements. Honourable Member for Amittuq.

#### **Member's Statement On Minister Andrew Attagulaluk Arriving In Pond Inlet**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish the best of luck to our future minister, Andrew Attagulaluk, who is on his way to Pond Inlet from far northern Quebec, through James Bay. I want to congratulate him and make him feel very happy about going to Pond Inlet, as they have no minister at this time. The community that I represent has a population of 900 or over. I will be informing my



constituents through the local radios that Andrew is on his way to Pond Inlet. I would want my community to welcome him with open arms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

#### ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question O422-91(1): Policy On Methods Of Government Travel

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to direct a question to the Minister of Finance but I note that he is not in the House. However, I will direct it to the Government Leader because it will involve the government policy, I would think.

This government spends a tremendous amount of money from one fiscal year to the next on travel. There are millions of dollars that are spent in sending patients south and employees travelling and all of that. I would like to ask the Government Leader if the government has a policy that looks at the methods of travel by government as a whole. I understand each department does its own thing and I just wondered if the government itself has a policy that governs travelling by this government.

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

##### Return To Question O422-91(1): Policy On Methods Of Government Travel

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance is seeing a doctor at the moment, so he is unable to be here today for question period.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe there is a policy, as such, governing travel, but I can assure the Member that our managers are urged to use travel funds at their disposal wisely, to avoid charters, for example when scheduled services can be utilized, and generally to monitor and control travel as much as possible.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the methods by which travel arrangements are made, I can further inform the Member that the Minister of Government Services has been asked to review whether or not there can be or should be a new approach taken to booking travel government-wide which might allow more efficiencies and might save staff time doing it in a more centralized manner than we do now on a department to department basis. That investigation under the leadership of Government Services will be taking place and mainly to a different approach than we now have in place as far as making travel arrangements. Thank you.

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

##### Question O423-91(1): Implementation Of Economic Development Agreement

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Minister about a month ago the Economic Development Agreement was signed and we know by now there must be individuals and businesses anxious to take advantage of the program. Mr. Minister, my question will be

what will complicate or jeopardize the limitation of the program?

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

##### Return To Question O423-91(1): Implementation Of Economic Development Agreement

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I signed about a month ago was what we call the framework agreement, which is the overall agreement. What remains to be negotiated and signed are the actual subagreements and those subagreements are where the money is contained and that is the money which would go out to regions. We have recently undergone a massive round of consultation in every region. We have brought in cross sections of business community, political organizations and native organizations. The feedback has been generally positive. The federal government insisted that we do these consultations.

There has been a couple of hiccups, nothing that I would classify as serious. We expect those rounds to be completed very shortly. Hopefully we will receive letters of support from the various organizations and groups that we consulted with so we can put that in a package to the federal government. The only real hiccup that I see or what could cause problems would be the Indian Affairs section of DIAND. It is our understanding that the Northern Affairs component of DIAND are generally supportive but I am led to believe that that support is not in Indian Affairs to agree that it is in the Northern Affairs side, so the Indian Affairs people within DIAND could try and influence the Minister of the upper levels of the bureaucracy in DIAND not to complete and sign the subagreements. That really is the only hiccup I can see preventing us from moving ahead with our EDA.

I hope it does not happen. I hope that the overwhelming support of the groups that we met with and the proposal that we are making will win the day, but when you get it into Ottawa and get it into Indian Affairs, and given that their agenda is not necessarily the same as our agenda or northern people's agenda, I do not know what can happen. That is quite frankly about the only real hiccup I can see occurring now, but it could be a major one.

So we will have to keep our fingers crossed and hope they go along with the government and the northern people. Thank you.

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

##### Question O424-91(1): Funding For New Churches In Smaller Communities

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development. Perhaps I will make a short comment on it before I ask the question. In the smaller communities the churches are so old and inadequate. Sometimes the Fire Marshal has suggested shutting down the churches in the communities because they are too old now. I am asking the Minister if he could give some funding, through the EDA, Economic Development Agreement, to smaller communities so that they could construct a new church. Even if they do not go through the Arctic Diocese of the North, perhaps he could contact the communities directly and provide the funding. I am asking the Minister if he could do this.

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



**Return To Question O424-91(1): Funding For New Churches In Smaller Communities**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Mr. Speaker, there is no such provision within the Economic Development Agreement. It has not really been an issue before. This is the first time it has been raised with me. Normally the responsibility for the repair or replacement of churches falls within the respective groups, whether it be the Anglican church or the Roman Catholic church, whichever the governing bodies of those churches are, it is their responsibility to replace their churches. On occasion there is a church which has some historical significance, maybe declared an historic site for some reason, and money is available from Culture and Communications but that is usually a building that is no longer going to be used and is being preserved for historic reasons. There is no program within the government nor is there likely to be, although I do not want to speak for my colleagues, but I cannot see us undertaking to put money into the replacement or repair of churches, given that the churches themselves have that responsibility. I do not see any possibility at least within Economic Development programs for doing that.

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

Item 6, 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. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

**ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 85-91(1), a one-page document, Mr. Speaker. It is about the Kitikmeot Regional Council's special meeting which was held today over lunch time. There were 18 people from the region present including the speaker of the Kitikmeot Regional Council, the mayors of Holman Island, Coppermine, Cambridge Bay, Spence Bay, Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay, as well as was the President of KIA, Kitikmeot Inuit Association. At this meeting a motion was unanimously passed to support the implementation of the EDA agreement and the promised impact that our region will receive. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motions.

Item 13, notices of motions for first reading of bills.

Just prior to proceeding with the next item, I would like to draw the attention of honourable Members to the presence of the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic, Ethel Blondin.

--Applause

Item 14, motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

**ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS**

**Second Reading Of Bill 23: Property Assessment And Taxation Act**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by

the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act to provide that the Minister of Finance and municipal taxing authorities may accept from the Government of Canada, payments in lieu of property taxes for federal land where the Government of Canada desires to relieve the occupant of the land from the requirement to pay the property taxes; to provide that property taxes will not be collected from an occupant of federal land where a payment in lieu of property taxes has been made for that land; to provide for the making of agreements with the Government of Canada respecting payments in lieu of property taxes; and to consequentially amend the Education Act to provide that a payment in lieu of property taxes will be treated as property taxes for purposes of ensuring that a board of education is paid moneys attributable to the levy of the education mill rate. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 23 has had second reading and is referred to committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

**Second Reading Of Bill 18: Boilers And Pressure Vessels Act**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, 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 second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to correct certain measurements; to convert measurements from imperial to metric; and to repeal a provision that has been replaced by annual inspection procedures set out in the regulations. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 18 has had second reading and is referred to committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

**Second Reading Of Bill 24: Social Assistance Act**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, 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 second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Social Assistance Act to allow the Minister to forgive debts under \$500. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The motion is order. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 24 has had second reading and will be referred to committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

#### **Second Reading Of Bill 5: Reciprocal Enforcement Of Judgments Act**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to allow a judgment given in French to be registered under the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act without being translated into English.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**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 second reading and is referred to committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 22-91(1); Bill 4; Bill 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 10, 26, 23, 18, 24 and 5, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

##### **Bill 7: Appropriation Act, 1991-92**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** The committee will come to order. When we concluded yesterday, we concluded the Department of Safety and Public Services. I would like to ask the Deputy House Leader for direction.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, with the concurrence of the committee, the government wishes to proceed with the Women's Secretariat and the Workers' Compensation Board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Does the committee agree that we do the Women's Directorate? We are in the 1991-92 main estimates, page 2.15 under Executive. Would Madam Minister like to make the opening remarks?

##### **Department Of Executive**

##### **Women's Directorate**

##### **Minister's Opening Remarks**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and Members of the House, I am pleased to appear before you today for the opening remarks in respect to the Status of Women. Significant changes have been made in 1990 in the way this government handles the Status of Women's responsibilities. I would like to take the opportunity today to discuss them in some detail.

The creation of a new and more independent Status of Women Council was completed in April 1990. It replaces the previous Advisory Council on the Status of Women. It has nine appointed members. The mandate of the council is as follows: to promote discussion and develop public awareness on issues affecting women; to promote a change in attitude in the community to enable women to enjoy equal opportunities; to advise the Minister responsible for the Status of Women on issues of concern to women; to review policies and legislation affecting women and report findings to this government; to provide assistance to the Minister and groups in promoting changes to achieve equality for women.

In order to do this job, the council has its own staff and budget. It can as a result do research, participate in programs, lobby for changes, hold workshops, do community development activities, and distribute information to groups and the public.

The council members are completing their first year. They were developed as a voice for women in communities to make their concerns known and to get support for their work.

The Women's Directorate is the new name for the Women's Secretariat. It is the internal government of the Northwest Territories office whose main job is to work within government to encourage initiatives of interest to women. It reports directly to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Their mandate is to promote and administer the women's initiative grant program which provides funding to women's projects; to provide a financial contribution to the Status of Women Council and work jointly with the council when appropriate; to do research, analysis and program and policy development in areas of concern to women and to work with other departments in doing similar work.

Special projects for the Women's Directorate this year include the continuation of action items from the five year action plan on equality for women.

##### **Ongoing Concern Of Prevention Of Violence Against Women**

The prevention of violence against women continues to be an ongoing concern where it remains a priority right across the country. We continue to support the family violence prevention programs. The collection of data at the national level has been shared and combined for provincial-territorial initiatives. Our activities currently consist of participation in the interagency committee on wife abuse and liaison with the family violence prevention program on improving public awareness. The interagency committee on wife abuse involves government and non-government agencies in an information sharing and co-ordinating forum. Both the Status of Women Council and the Women's Directorate participate.

Mr. Chairman, a report is being put together by the child sexual abuse co-ordinating committee to determine viable treatment options and to identify resources. A protocol on how to deal with victims of child sexual abuse was developed in late 1990 and is being implemented by the professionals involved, Social Services, RCMP, nurses and lawyers.

Mr. Chairman, investigation of the needs of victims of violence is ongoing and is being addressed by the Department of Justice, the Women's Directorate, Social Services and non-governmental groups such as Arctic PLEI, Public Legal Education Information, the YWCA and the Native Women's Association.

A working group on child sexual abuse meets monthly. There is participation from the Departments of Health, Education, and Social Services; the Women's Directorate, family



counselling, Arctic PLEI and the YWCA. This working group is chaired by the NWT Native Women's Association.

The women in trades orientation program will have a major impact on encouraging women to enter a trade occupancy. It will be monitored closely by the steering committee which includes the Departments of Personnel, Public Works, Transportation and Education; Arctic College and the Women's Directorate.

The Women's Directorate, the Departments of Social Services, Health and Education; as well as public affairs, are working together to update public awareness materials on family violence.

Mr. Chairman, women's groups in the communities often have difficulty accessing funding for their projects. Several women's groups have identified the need for a step by step manual to assist them. A fully revised draft of the funding manual will be completed for review early in 1991 and will be printed and distributed at the community level.

A review of gender equality has been established by the Minister of Justice to examine gender equality issues. A special advisor has been appointed by the Minister of Justice to head the review, and the Women's Directorate will assist in any way they can to ensure proper representation.

Other special projects for the Women's Directorate include job sharing, maternity leave, equal pay, sex stereotyping in the curriculum, child care and women in politics.

The total proposed budget for the activity is \$575,000. Of this amount, \$303,000 will go to the Status of Women Council under a contribution agreement. The contribution funding covers staff salaries, travel, research, council members' honoraria, meeting costs and other related O and M. A total of \$50,000 is set aside under grants to cover funding for women's initiatives. The remaining \$222,000 will cover salary costs and other O and M for the Women's Directorate.

Mr. Chairman, there is a \$50,000 budget for women's initiatives grants. In 1990-91 these funds were spent as follows: Metis Heritage Association for workshops on personal development and self-esteem for Metis women was given a contribution of \$8000; the Federation Franco-Te Noise to send NWT Francophone women to a Quebec women's conference was given assistance of \$5000; the Roman Catholic Diocese of the Mackenzie for a workshop on family violence for pastoral workers, co-funded with Justice, was given a contribution of \$6000; the Arviat Community Education Council for women's evening program, co-funded with Education, was given a contribution of \$4992.20; the Society for the Encouragement of Northern Talent to bring Cape Dorset throat singers to Folk on the Rocks was given a contribution of \$5574; the Inuit Women's Association annual general meeting in Rankin Inlet, February 1991, was given a contribution of \$10,000; Women Managing for Success, Business and Professional Women's Association of Yellowknife, was given a contribution of \$7070; the Arctic PLEI oral culture family violence theatre project was given a contribution of \$2000; Yellowknife Women's Centre to hold an International Women's Day celebration was given a contribution of \$350.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my remarks for the Status of Women, and I would be pleased to answer any questions that Members may have. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Before we proceed with general comments, I wonder if Madam Minister would like to bring in any witnesses.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, the director of the Women's Secretariat has gone to an officials meeting in Ottawa. We had anticipated the budget to come up next week, and I did give approval for her to travel, so I will take the Women's Secretariat through by myself without any witnesses. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:** Mr. Chairman, I was going to say that there does not appear to be very many people interested in this department. I think it is a very important department but this is not reflected by the number of people here.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether it is a point of order or a point of privilege, but I detect a strong smell of fuel oil in here and I wonder if it is a concern to anyone else. I find it kind of disruptive.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Any further general comments? Maybe in order for us to find out what this smell is all about, we should take a 15 minute break and by then we should know what it is. We will take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. We have pinpointed the extraordinary smell; there was a fuel tank out there. We are under the Executive, Women's Directorate, page 2.15 of the main estimates. Are there any general comments? Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have very extensive comments on the Women's Directorate, other than to say that certainly the directorate and the women's organizations that fall under the auspices of this directorate, various branches of it, have made substantial progress in women's issues in the past year or two that I can recall. They are to be applauded for the progress that has been made.

I guess there are never enough resources to do all the work that is needed to bring women's issues to the public attention and to address them in the proper way that good can come out of projects and programs that are designed to enhance the future potential of women in society and other issues that are related to this directorate.

It is a sad commentary in our society when we have to have massive influxes of moneys to combat spousal assault, for example, assault of children, both physically and sexually, and violence of every description that has come out in the last little while. It seems that it is more evident now than it was before and I guess people have questioned whether or not our society is getting worse instead of better. But I think a lot of it may have been occurring in the past; it is just that it was never brought to the forefront, never looked at.

I just reflect a moment on what my colleague, Mr. Gargan, was saying in his Member's statement and that indicates sometimes the injustices that are being put onto women through misunderstandings or a lack of understanding of human nature and humanity.

So what I would like to do is to commend the Minister and her officials who work toward this organization's objectives, for the support that they have given in the past. As I said, there never seems to be enough because I have been approached by women's organizations here, the Native Women's Association and the Yellowknife Women's Association, because they need funding to carry out some of the projects that they may wish to see happen here in our communities and other communities across the North. I would just urge the Minister

to have her officials search for every means possible to help them as their requests come on.

I know there is never enough money and never enough resources to deal with all these things, but there is progress being made. I would conclude on that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to thank the Member for his comments, but I do not really have any comments. Just to indicate to the Member that there has been concerns expressed from women's groups across the Territories on how to access funding of government and how to access contributions that are available to different groups across the Territories.

This year the Women's Directorate will be formulating a handbook to give women's groups step by step procedures on how to access funding and hopefully being able to find easier ways to access funding will give them the ability to go forth and be able to obtain new initiatives that they would wish.

I think sometimes it is the frustration of these groups not fully knowing the process that gives them the inability to be able to take on some of the initiatives that they would like to take. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Ernerk.

#### In Praise Of Inuit Women

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Minister spoke about the Women's Secretariat, I extend my thanks to her for the work that is being carried out by the women of the NWT. For a long time now I have been aware that in my riding of Aivilik, the women always receive support from us in whatever they set out to work at, and we know, being Inuit in our communities, that the women have done a great deal of work contributing to our society. They have been a great deal of help, and I think their importance will become more well-known, especially in the Inuit communities.

The Inuit across Canada, particularly of the Keewatin, are envied by other societies, even by the white people, particularly in the NWT, Quebec and the Labrador region. Our women get full support from their community members in whatever they set out to work on. You can see this in our constituencies, whether they are members of organizations or on other boards or bodies.

I have thought a great deal about many of the issues that have been raised by the women and I can see that there are a lot of things that we still have to deal with including family violence, child sexual abuse and crimes committed against women. These are three of my major concerns. Violence is not a traditional way of life for the Inuit, and neither is child sexual abuse. I was raised under the strict rule that I am not to hit or assault women or children, and this is a good way to base your lifestyle on. I would like to support my constituents further in lessening the problems that are experienced across the NWT. I think we can do this together by participating more fully to counteract these crimes of violence within our communities.

Another major concern I have is alcohol abuse because there are a lot of evil roots from that source. Alcohol abuse is the main source of evil, including violence against women. I think if we can try and lessen alcohol abuse it would also counteract the existence of family violence. We need more

educational programs, more information concerning the bad effects of alcohol and how we should be encouraged to moderate our drinking within the Territories. These have been my concerns and I have summarized them.

I think I should also add to what I have said previously, in the Territories we have to continue to support women's rights, to encourage them to have their own independence and to encourage them to run for offices. The Inuit within our communities, including the Quebec areas as well as the Labrador areas, particularly the NWT, I will be naming them and I want to thank those people who have worked to date and who will continue to work in the future; particularly Rhoda Inukshuk, past president of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, who strove to encourage recognition of women's rights in the NWT and also more recently, the president of Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Mary Simon, who has always been a supporter of her Inuit fellow people across the circumpolar regions and who has worked hard in many things, especially in environmental rights in the Territories. She has worked at many different things, including working with the United Nations. I thank her for having helped her people a great deal and I am sure she will continue to do so in the future.

Also I would like to recognize the president of Pauktuutit, Inuit Women's Association, Mary Silet. She is very high profile and is a hard worker toward the rights of women within the NWT and as well as across Canada. I would want to see many more women working in such fields as these women have done in promoting a better society and a better life for their communities. I also know, Mr. Chairman, that our women can help even more toward attaining a better lifestyle. Many women have their own children and because of that it is hard for them to obtain jobs.

I would like to thank the Minister for the work that she has done in providing day-care centres, because she has worked hard to make sure that people have adequate day-care centres and there has been an improvement in the four years that she has been Minister. Her record of having worked toward the day-care centres is something to be recognized.

But on the other hand, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate that the Inuit of the NWT and the elected officials should be further supported and vice versa to encourage provisions of more adequate day-care centres. If we can get more day-care centres and have them operating properly, many more women who are presently unable, would be able to join the work force, or who are interested in attaining further education or training, would be able to do so. They would also be able to run their own businesses, run for offices within the NWT, within their communities. There are a great deal of women out there who have a lot of potential, but due to lack of proper day-care facilities and shortage of housing, you get only a small percentage of women because of these obstacles.

I would urge the Government of the NWT to support women in their endeavours by providing day-care centres and by making day-care centres a priority in their plans, and I will be supporting this idea. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Before I give the floor to Madam Minister, I would like to recognize in the gallery two representatives of the Nordic Association of Sami Artists, Gunhild Sara of Norway and Rosemarie Huuva of Sweden.

---Applause

I hope I pronounced your names right. Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any response with respect to the Member's



comments. I thank him for his comments and I can advise him that we are continually trying to enhance our day-care program. One of our goals is to try to look at the whole day-care program and continue to obtain a full program as opposed to an interim program. I do want the Members to know that I recognize the improvement in day-care, but there are still areas that we have to improve on in the Territories to make it easier for women to take the opportunities that are available to them, whether it is to be in politics or job opportunities, and I certainly recognize that day-care is one of the main areas that allows them to take full advantage of these opportunities. I can assure Members that I will continue to work toward enhancing our day-care program that as a government we deliver. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Kilabuk.

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of the Women's Directorate perhaps I will be asking a question first. Is this the only office and is it located in Yellowknife, or do you have regional offices anywhere in the NWT?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Qujannamiik. Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, yes, unfortunately Yellowknife is the only location that we have a Women's Directorate office. Out of our \$575,000 budget we do give a contribution of \$303,000 to the Status of Women Council, which leaves us a limited amount of dollars with the staff that we currently have, and the offices are not located anywhere else but here in Yellowknife.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Qujannamiik. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### Funding Assistance In Eastern Arctic Women's Directorate

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response, Madam Minister. The way I look at it, the women have been doing a great deal of work in the Northwest Territories in the years that I have been sitting in this House, and there are many issues that have come forward in the past few years regarding women. I have heard a great deal from the women of the Eastern Arctic that the Women's Directorate is so far removed from their area, and a lot of the paperwork is delayed because of the mail and because of the distance, and a lot of their work slows down.

Since we are looking at getting more women active across the NWT, perhaps you should be considering opening an office in the eastern region if you are going to have a program that will reach more women. I am aware that you have to have resources available at close range in order to do better work, and because the NWT is so large I think you should be considering a regional office in the Baffin Region so that this program can operate better, and to address the issues that are of concern to the women. I just want you to know that I have heard that the Women's Directorate is too far removed from the communities and they have difficulty with the movement of their paperwork and other things.

Madam Minister, I would like you to consider opening a regional office at some point because I think this issue is not going to die, I think it is going to be a continuing concern. Included in that is the spousal assault, child sexual abuse and other programs that come under this area that Mr. Ernerk commented on.

Another thing that Mr. Ernerk did not mention, I think that funding is the most important thing right now because we cannot operate anything if we do not have any money. I have seen a lot of child sexual abuse and that has increased in the

NWT. A lot of times it is not the man who abuses initially, but our young people sometimes make themselves available, perhaps to make money or for other gains. I would just like to say that a lot of times it is not always the man's fault, but sometimes it is the young girls or the young men who offer themselves for profit. I have seen that and I have heard a lot about that.

People who have to go to court, even though they had not initiated the action, I think that we have to promote and inform people that people who commit sexual abuse crimes, it is not only the man who is the initiator. Sometimes it is the young girl who starts it.

Regarding shelters, I know that the program is good to some degree, and we would like to get a shelter for the abused in my own community at some point in time, if they are having family problems or are being abused in their homes. I support that program and I would like to ask the Minister on the proposal for operation and maintenance of a shelter in my community. Is that funding going to be approved so that we can get that program off the ground? I have talked to Madam Minister about this before and I know that she has supported it, and I wonder if she could give me an update on what has been happening to date, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the Member's question on the family violence shelter, I can check with the Department of Social Services to see where that proposal is at and advise the Member. I cannot recall offhand with regard to the initial request on the shelter for Pangnirtung. I believe that we had a safe home or places that were designated as a safe home and not a particular shelter in itself, but I can certainly check for the Member as to where their proposal is. It is unfortunate that remarks in respect to the young girls, as the Member has indicated how he has observed young girls encouraging or initiating sexual abuse. Regardless of who initiates the abuse, it is a criminal offense if an adult sexually abuses a young girl.

#### Dealing With Child Sexual Abuse

I want to point out to Members we have recognized this for some time, as a government, and we have been trying to deal with child sexual abuse. I think we have been making significant progress but there is still a long way to go and I believe that probably the issue has always been in the North; however it is starting to emerge mainly because the awareness is brought out into society and that as a society we are willing to deal with the total issue. I certainly feel that progress is being made, but there is still a long way to go in dealing with child sexual abuse. I want to reiterate to the Members that the areas in child sexual abuse, in respect to the courts, are areas that we have to look at where people have no control or the children have no control in being able to deal with it at their level, probably because of either fear, or whatever they may encounter. Unless they are aware of it and are told that is not allowed in society and encouraged to either let family members know or a person in a trusting position know, I do not think society would be able to deal with it in totality.

I believe that this government and communities all over, particularly certain communities -- I totally commend them for taking the issue in hand and dealing with it. I know that there are a few communities, particularly in the Eastern Arctic, such as Baker Lake, I fully commend them for the strong leadership that they have taken in the role of dealing with child sexual abuse and indicating to society it is not something they are willing to put up with and have been dealing with it accordingly. As a government when communities take on such responsibility, we have to encourage them and assist

them in any way that we can. I do want to let Members know through the Women's Directorate, the Status of Women's Council and myself as a Minister, we have been trying to assist in whatever ways we can to deal with this problem that we are facing in the Territories. Thank you.

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

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your comments and I really thank you for what you have said. I have touched upon the subject previously, but if you could just clarify for me, the Women's Directorate office, I was wondering if you would consider providing a regional office, if you are going to give that a consideration or if you are going to be thinking about it for the future, to have a suboffice in the eastern region. Also, our day-care centre in Pangnirtung has not been operating all winter and they told me that they applied for funding from your department. I wonder what is going to be happening in 1991 about the operation of the day-care centre? If you have any information about that, I would appreciate getting an answer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, I have just reviewed the response in respect to the Member's statement on the day-care and I will advise the Member tomorrow in my return to oral questions in respect to the question he posed to me on the day-care in his constituency. If the Member will bear with me I will bring forth that response tomorrow.

In respect to the regional office for the Women's Directorate, it is certainly something that can be considered and looked at; however, I want the Member to recognize that with our limited funding that we do have available there are many other areas the government has been looking at as priorities. What we have been doing is trying to find ways to encourage women to be able to take on initiatives and through the women's initiative groups and through our handbooks that maybe one idea is to try and encourage women to start a local office in the Eastern Arctic and maybe we can assist through some of our contributions that we have available in the Women's Directorate. To set up an actual office in government, I may not be able to justify the expenditure because of other pressing priorities the government is trying to address. This does not preclude to advise the Member that it is something that I would not look at. I will look at it and can indicate to him my findings at a later date. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** The Chair recognizes the interest shown by Inuit Members here. There are four of us here.

---Laughter

Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not planning to speak again, but since you recognized me, I will take the opportunity to ask one or two questions to the Minister and I will speak in my own language. (Translation) Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister, looking at the amount of funding it is nearly \$575,000 according to the estimates. How much of this money is contributed to the aboriginal women's associations or organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Madam Minister. We are not into detail yet. There will be appropriate time for the Member to raise this matter. General comments. (Translation) Any further comments? Let us go to details. (Translation ends) The Member for Aivilik.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are only four of us and we are all Inuit. Even though this is

not just an eastern issue or an eastern concern, I think this is directed to all of the NWT and there are only four of us here, and that includes you, Mr. Chairman. I think that I would like to assist or help the Minister and the women of the NWT. We are elected by these people. I would like to adjourn this meeting until there is more interest shown by the other MLAs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** (Translation) Mr. Ernerk, do you just want to recess or do you want to report progress for today?

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I just want to recess for coffee for 15 minutes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** (Translation) According to the wish of Mr. Ernerk, we will recess for coffee for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. Women's Directorate. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I ask the question, it will be more clear to the Minister whether she wants to respond to me or not. There are some women who want to get into their own business, especially in my constituency, in Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet. I have been asked a question, that some women want to get together to form a company or organization, such as a sewing centre. They would buy right into the business -- and perhaps you, too, Mr. Chairman, in your constituency. That is how women start out, getting a small business for themselves together to improve themselves and make some money for themselves. They make such things as mitts and parkas and other items of a craft nature.

I would like to ask the Minister, if women get together to form a business of that kind, does her department assist in the funding for women who would like to start their own business? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we do not have funding, particularly, that is set aside for women to access so that they can go into business, although with women's initiatives grants, we have assisted a women's association in Yellowknife to host a conference called Women Managing for Success. That way they could get some ideas as to ways that they can get into business. I believe that through the Department of Economic Development and Tourism there are possibly ways, in that department, for individuals and women's groups to access funding to get into business ventures, particularly in the area of arts and crafts. Thank you.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's response. I remember the conference she is talking about because there was a woman from the Keewatin Region, Coral Harbour, Leonie Duffy, who was awarded Businesswoman of the Year at that conference. It was a very nice thing to see at the conference in Yellowknife.

Would a conference similar to that one be attended by the different regions? Is a conference like that possible somewhere else in the Territories?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Madam Minister.



**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Yes, it is possible, and that is the purpose of the women's initiative grants funding. When women get together and decide to put forth proposals through the Women's Directorate, it is then determined whether these proposals that they submit for different purposes, such as holding annual general meetings or holding workshops, assist women. If so, then we certainly concur with them, and with that funding they can host these kinds of workshops or seminars. Thank you.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Mr. Chairperson, is there such a workshop or conference planned for the Keewatin Region in the near future?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, I have not seen a proposal as yet for anyone to host one in the Keewatin Region.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the women's organizations would have to apply to your department in order to get funding for such a workshop or such a conference, which I think is very important.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Madam Minister.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Does the committee agree we go by detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**Women's Directorate, Total O And M**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Page 2.15, Women's Directorate, under the Executive, total O and M, \$575,000. Agreed? Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** There was a question that I asked earlier with regard to contributions; are there any contributions made to aboriginal women's groups in the NWT -- I am particularly speaking of Pauktuutit -- out of this \$575,000?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, the budget is for \$575,000. But out of that budget, \$303,000 goes to the Status of Women Council under a contribution agreement, and they determine how they are to spend those funds. Out of the remaining \$272,000, we have \$50,000 under contributions from which we do assist groups of women who come forth requesting funding for different initiatives. In the past we have given the Pauktuutit Women's Association not only "in kind" services by assisting them with their annual general meetings, but also an additional \$10,000 for a contribution agreement to assist them in hosting their annual general meetings.

**Women's Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Women's Directorate, total O and M, \$575,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Page 2.19, details of grants and contributions, grants, Women's Directorate, \$50,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Page 2.20, details of grants and contributions, contributions, Women's Directorate, \$303,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Does the committee agree this concludes the discussion on Women's Directorate?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**Workers' Compensation Board**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Page 2.21, Workers' Compensation Board. Madam Minister, do you have any opening remarks?

**Minister's Opening Remarks**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories is one of three boards in Canada to be fully funded or breaking even. The board has ongoing financial responsibility to pay the future medical costs, rehabilitation costs and pension costs for all claims to date. The investment pool is the financial resource that provides the funds. If the board did not have sufficient funds in the investment pool, the Government of the Northwest Territories would be financially responsible. Some other boards have deficits ranging from \$200 million to over \$10 billion.

The goals of the board are: to deliver fair and timely service to injured workers, dependants and employers; to develop our human and other resources to meet present and future challenges; to provide a fully funded, efficient, and effective Workers' Compensation Board; to communicate and promote an understanding of workers' compensation; to communicate, promote and ensure a safe working environment; to manage Workers' Compensation Board funds effectively and to effectively administer the Workers' Compensation Act of the Northwest Territories.

It is essential for the Government of the Northwest Territories to support the Workers' Compensation Board's commitment to be fully funded or to always at least break even. At present the fund contains in excess of \$110 million.

Members will recall that the 1989 workers' compensation review panel report made significant recommendations concerning the conduct and operations of the Workers' Compensation Board. My opening remarks are detailed in order to report to you the significant work concluded and in progress as a result of those recommendations and as a result of the board's initiative in consultation with me.

Mr. Chairman, the Workers' Compensation Board's initiatives for 1991 include an increased commitment for communications with all the stakeholders. The board will be releasing information on special issues such as the rate setting formulas, classifications structures, super assessment program for 1992, vocational rehabilitation programs and the updating of all

board policies.

The Workers' Compensation Board is committed to being an outward-looking organization with a special focus on improvement in personal communication skills and to improve service to injured workers.

Meetings with the stakeholders will continue in order to improve the interaction between the board and the stakeholders. This will result in all parties having a better understanding of each others' concerns or problems. Greater emphasis will be placed on workplace safety and how it can result in a positive effect on assessment rates. The chairman will be holding meetings in each regional centre throughout 1991.

Employers are now provided with a quarterly report on the claims filed by their employees, the related costs for medical and pension, plus a similar report on the totals of all employers in the same subclass. This enables employers to compare their claims performance against their respective industry. The Workers' Compensation Board has undertaken an independent client service audit and the results will be reported in March 1991.

### Three-Year Strategic Plan

The board of directors and the administration have established a three-year strategic plan. This plan is reviewed and updated annually with input from each department of the Workers' Compensation Board. This plan is an integral part of our budgeting process.

The severe swings in economic trends in the NWT can have a significant impact on the available financial resources of the board. The budgeted operating costs are determined prior to knowing what the projected revenues will be. Revenue forecasts are completed after February 28th of each year. Those forecasts are provided to the board of directors along with a detail of program expenditures on a prioritized basis. Required changes are then implemented and the final budget approved. Therefore, it is essential that we maintain the three-year strategic plan process.

Mr. Chairman, the position of the workers' adviser is to assist injured workers with their accident claims, provide information regarding the role and operation of the Workers' Compensation Board and to represent or assist injured workers with any appeals on claims, medical services, pension adjustments and rehabilitation programs. While the position of workers' adviser is fully funded by the Workers' Compensation Board, the position reports directly to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. The position of the workers' adviser was initiated on a part-time basis in November of 1989. However, since then the demand for services in this area has grown extensively. The services offered will continue in the near future on a full-time basis.

The first level of the appeal process is the review committee, which is comprised of two directors of the board. All appeals regarding claims, rehabilitation and pensions must first come before the review committee.

The second and final level is the appeals tribunal, which is a quasi-judicial committee chaired by a director of the board, but whose commissioners are independent and not members of the board of directors. The appeals tribunal has the responsibility to ensure that the appellant receives all due consideration under the laws of natural justice and in a reasonable time period. The decisions of the tribunal must be made within the confines of the Workers' Compensation Act and the policies of the board. The appeals tribunal is

functioning well, and they will continue their involvement in developing their knowledge and skills. Until the legislation was changed in May 1990, we were unable to deal with the appeals process as effectively as we are today.

Mr. Chairman, our new training programs, which were established last year for the staff, board of directors and the appeals commissioners have proven successful. The program was designed to enhance their knowledge, understanding, abilities and interpersonal skills. The training focussed on service and teamwork.

The Workers' Compensation Board, with its expanded computer capacity, has taken over from the actuarial consultants the responsibility for storing historical data and the calculation of assessment rates. This will reduce the annual consulting costs by \$50,000 to \$70,000 per year.

Banking services and related costs have been renegotiated, which will reduce the annual administration costs by \$10,000 per year and will go out for tender again in 1991.

The board has established a clearly defined funding policy which is essential to provide the consulting actuary with the criteria for the new rate-setting formula.

The board has finalized a well defined investment policy and is recently reviewing the management and trustee services with a view to increasing investment returns and reducing investment management costs.

### New Rate-Setting Formula

Mr. Chairman, the new rate-setting formula came into effect January 1991. This was a commitment undertaken as a recommendation of the Ministerial review panel report. This new formula significantly increases the fairness and equity in the new rate-setting process. Often in the past, subjective judgment was involved, which is not acceptable. The new system will respond much more quickly to claims experience.

Included is a policy for super assessments and a special classification for major joint ventures or construction projects; for example, a pipeline project. The super assessment is a form of penalty to an employer with a high frequency of accident claims, high claims costs and a lack of commitment to providing a safe workplace. These approaches are essential so that the rates for responsible employers are not increased to pay the costs of those who are not responsible employers. Our goal is to encourage safety in the workplace.

In the past, risk classification of employers has not been handled fairly and effectively. Consequently, some employers were undercharged and some were overcharged. For the 1992 year the board will provide a substantially improved employer classification structure focussed on fairness and equity. A major undertaking in 1991 will be an in-depth review of our risk classification structure and the publishing of a policy manual for public use.

The assessment rate set for 1991 averaged \$2.57 per \$100 of assessable payroll, an increase from the 1990 average of \$2.47, but still less than the average rate for 1986 of \$2.59, after the debate.

There have been some significant changes in certain employer subclasses. The 1991 rates reflect the claims history experience of the subclass without any subjective changes.

The rates had been reduced in 1987 due to a large surplus in our contingency reserve. The surplus exceeded \$20 million. By reducing the assessment rates to employers for 1987 and 1988, this surplus was reduced by approximately \$16 million.



The contingency reserve holds funds for a disaster such as a major mine accident or plane crash with a crew of workers, et cetera. The volatile economic trends of the NWT require the maintenance of a contingency reserve. In the process of establishing the new "funding policy" and a new rate assessment structure, the formula for the contingency reserve also was reviewed.

The previous assessment rates resulted in extensive subsidization of some subclasses. Also, they did not react to the claims experience of the subclass for three or four years. This was not fair nor acceptable. The new approach is more responsive to trends and keeps the contingency reserve within the agreed range.

The number of accident claims decreased in 1990 from 3997 to 3498, but the costs have increased. An analysis is being made of the accidents statistics so that the board can better direct its efforts to reduce the accident frequency and related costs. Only 25 per cent of the cost of a claim is paid in the year of an accident; the balance of the cost can be spread over 40 years.

Mr. Chairman, the Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT has, at present, approximately 8000 claims and pension files under active administration. The mandates of occupational health and safety and the Workers' Compensation Board are closely related. A well developed and administered occupational health and safety program has a significant positive impact on WCB. Removal of hazards from the workplace is a primary objective.

Literacy is another major concern in promoting safety. The preparation and delivery of information and training must be able to overcome the high level of illiteracy in its audience. The operation of these two organizations under a board of directors comprised of business and labour -- the users and the payers -- could provide the NWT with some positive long-term benefits.

#### **Rising Cost Of Workers' Compensation**

Mr. Chairman, there are major concerns with the rising cost of workers' compensation. Improved safety practices will provide a significant reduction in the frequency of accidents and have the greatest impact on the lowering of compensation costs. The Workers' Compensation Board will be taking a more active role in workplace safety education in 1991. Every effort will be made to assure full co-operation continues between the Workers' Compensation Board and the Department of Safety and Public Services.

It is essential that our collective focus be on the community and our commitment to providing service to the stakeholders. The common goal is the enhancement of the standard of living and life expectancy of workers and the cost containment for businesses operating in the NWT.

The policies and directives of the board are under review. This will be an ongoing annual requirement. All the policies and directives are being rewritten to meet the current responsibilities and challenges of the board. The rewrite will be in a standardized format, layman's terms. Some policies and directives will be reviewed by the board's legal counsel and consulting actuary for legal clarification and financial impact. Clear, concise presentation is essential. Presentation must focus on the user audience. Once complete, a policy manual will be available to interested parties, organizations and stakeholders for a fee, which will include annual updates.

The board has a responsibility to provide an effective vocational and medical rehabilitation program for injured workers. Since 60 per cent of the injured workers live south

of the 60th parallel, spread from Cape Breton to Vancouver Island, this department faces a significant challenge. A well arranged rehabilitation program is essential to provide early intervention and return the injured worker to work earlier, either in their previous job or to be retrained in a new vocation. This program is now in place and headed by an experienced manager. He is negotiating services in the various jurisdictions in Canada to enable us to fulfil our responsibility. Earlier return to work will reduce our future costs and provide confidence and financial stability to injured workers.

Industry areas such as construction, mining, and transportation provide special problems to the injured worker. In these industry areas, the work force is very mobile, and injury claims may be filed in one or more jurisdictions. The injured worker may have a choice as to which jurisdiction they file their claim. Companies can operate in more than one jurisdiction but may not have a permanent office in each jurisdiction. The board needs to utilize the facilities of other boards for medical assessment, rehabilitation programs and for payroll audit services to enable the Workers' Compensation Board to be more effective and efficient. These arrangements are being established.

Injured workers with interjurisdictional claims who are resident in the NWT now file their claim in the NWT, and the NWT Workers' Compensation Board negotiates with the other jurisdictions on their behalf. This is necessary to ensure that each compensation board pays their share of the financial cost.

There are other areas of interjurisdictional concerns. To resolve these concerns it is essential to have interjurisdictional agreements with other boards. In the past, there were several agreements but the boards have agreed that one agreement will be much more effective. This agreement has not yet been signed, as Quebec's board has not been given permission to sign. However, we have initiated arrangements to have ongoing meetings with all the western Canada boards to improve the efficiency of handling interjurisdictional claims and services.

#### **New Workers' Compensation Act To Be Developed**

A major undertaking will be the development of a new Workers' Compensation Act in 1991-92. Input from all the stakeholders is essential for the development of a new act.

Any proposed legislative changes must be reviewed by the board's consulting actuary to determine the financial cost and how it relates to future assessment rates. There are a wide range of issues, but the main concern is that the act meets with the needs and challenges of the 1990s.

Change is a major challenge in workers' compensation boards throughout North America. The board must be prepared to constantly evaluate, analyse and retain a level of flexibility to effectively deal with the challenges presented in a changing workplace and an ageing population.

A major challenge for the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories is the fact that the claimants are spread throughout Canada. Sixty per cent live south of the 60th parallel. Most jurisdictions only have five to 10 per cent outside their jurisdictions. Because of this, the Workers' Compensation Board does not have the same level of personal contact with each claimant, nor with the professional medical staff and rehabilitation staff who are working with the claimant. However, the Workers' Compensation Board is working hard to improve the level of personal contact.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my remarks of the Workers'

Compensation Board. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Excuse me, Mr. Lewis, do you have any remarks from the finance committee? Mr. Lewis.

#### Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Pollard has had to leave, Mr. Chairman, so he has asked me to deal with the report of the standing committee on finance. There are three recommendations, and I will take direction from you, Mr. Chairman, as to when I should move these.

Under the objectives, the board has not indicated any objectives for the upcoming year in the main estimates or the material provided to the committee -- as a recommendation that they do something about that for next time. In the committee review, to facilitate the committee's review, it is highly desirable that the board provide its operating -- this is a statement of revenue and expenditure -- and capital information in a format similar to that required for the government; that is, the previous year actual, the current year original or main estimate, the current year revised estimate, and so on. The sheet we are provided by the WCB is not the same as the format that we are used to dealing with, so there is a recommendation that that be changed, too.

Under the transfer of safety functions, the board indicated that it is currently deliberating on the merits of the transfer of the occupational health and safety and mine safety functions from the Department of Safety and Public Services on the basis of the benefit of focussing the mandate in one organization, so there is a recommendation on that, as well. I take direction from you, Mr. Chairman, as to when I should move those three motions: recommendations 60, 61 and 62.

I have a problem, though, with the last motion, Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as the official document of the standing committee on finance recommends that the government expedite the transfer of safety and mine safety to the Workers' Compensation Board, but there is a written note in the margin here, in pencil, which does not tell them to do it, but just tells them to examine it and to look at the possibility of doing it. Maybe we will get into that detail if you want me to move these motions.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Lewis. This is an information item. You may wish to move those motions now, please.

#### Motion That Workers' Compensation Board Develop Objectives, Carried

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move the following motion, it is recommendation 60 of the standing committee on finance: The committee recommends that the Workers' Compensation Board develop objectives to guide its efforts in the coming year and provide them in the 1992-93 main estimates as an information item.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Lewis. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Lewis.

#### Motion That Workers' Compensation Board Provide Budget Information In Government Format, Carried

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is

recommendation 61 of the standing committee on finance: The committee recommends that the Workers' Compensation Board provide its 1992-93 operating and capital information to the committee, in a similar format as that required for the government.

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

---Carried

Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may need some help from other Members of the standing committee on finance on this recommendation. The motion that appears in the standing committee on finance book is that the committee recommends that the government expedite the transfer of occupational health and safety and mine safety to the Workers' Compensation Board in the interest of workers and employers. However, in Mr. Pollard's copy which he just left with me, the word "expedite" has been crossed out and in pencil the word "examine" appears, which means that if we take the pencilled word here, it is much weaker than the recommendation that we simply expedite the transfer. I would like to get some help from other Members of the standing committee on finance. It could be this was a typo. I cannot recall.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, if I recall correctly from the standing committee on finance's recommendations, it was proposed that the department, through the Workers' Compensation Board, look at examining whether they want to transfer the responsibilities of occupational health and safety under the responsibility of the Workers' Compensation Board. So I believe "examine" was the word that they anticipated to use at that time. Thank you.

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

**MR. LEWIS:** It is pointed out to me that these are just recommendations anyway, Mr. Chairman, so I think we could simply leave the wording as it was and it would be up to the government to look at the merits, or otherwise, of making this transfer. So I think I will just leave the original wording.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Would you read your motion again, please?

#### Motion To Transfer Occupational Health And Safety And Mine Safety To Workers' Compensation Board, Carried

**MR. LEWIS:** I move the following motion: The committee recommends that the government expedite the transfer of occupational health and safety and mine safety to the Workers' Compensation Board in the interest of workers and employers.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLaughlin.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** During the Minister's statement she talked about the high percentage of people who are permanently injured, or receiving compensation, who are no longer residents of the NWT. What percentage of the permanent disability cases are those? Is any consideration



being given to possibly making cash settlements with those people, which might be beneficial both to those people and to the Workers' Compensation Board as it would cut down on the administration of handling and maintaining cases over a long period of time?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, in my opening remarks I indicated that 60 per cent of the injured workers do live in the South. They have a tendency to move south and receive their benefits in other jurisdictions, but we pay the fee. Certainly something like a cash settlement can be proposed. I will advise the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board to look at this.

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

#### Adversarial Role Of WCB Toward Injured Worker

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my capacity as an MLA over the last three years, I have had a lot of occasions to meet with people who have had some problem with WCB. Most of the problems, fortunately, we can resolve. But what came out of all of the complaints or concerns I received was that there was an impression created somewhere along the way that the meetings between the injured employee and members of WCB were adversarial.

Mr. Chairman, again I have no way of verifying whether that is true or not, other than the fact that I have a book here, my notes, of people who have had problems with WCB, and that seemed to be the underlying denominator. It appears that people did not believe them when they said that they were hurt or that they were still in pain and that they were having problems. It gave me a lot of concern.

I must apologize for not confronting WCB with this, but I thought, better that I try to work with them internally and try to get it resolved. I just wanted to say this in a comment. I do not want to tar all of the employees of WCB with a bad brush. I am sure they are dedicated to their jobs. But there seems to be, from what I hear of people who have had some concern with WCB, that there is this adversarial thing that suggests that they are not telling the truth; they are not hurting; the pain is not real. I had an occasion to try to defend an appeal, and all we were asking for was simply to examine this individual at these modern schools now and modern facilities that would give the benefit of the doubt to the employee. In fact, with the modern techniques they could show that this person was either hurt or not hurt. But it appeared, from appearing before the board, that they did not believe me, either. That is the impression I got, and it bothered me. Workers have to really go there almost with hat in hand. I do not think that is a very nice situation.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know how else to say these kinds of things without coming down hard on this organization that is trying its best to meet the needs of its mandate, to protect and be able to pay people after they have been injured. They have quite a task to do, and I do not want to appear to be coming down hard on them, but I want the Minister to know this. That is what some employees who are injured feel when they go to WCB for some compensation for a problem, an injury.

I have been very fortunate, myself. I have had to rely on compensation only once in my life, when I broke my wrist, and I never got a nickel out of it, because there was so much paper to fill out. I said, "To heck with it." I let my injury heal itself and went back to work. That was a long time ago. Recently I had an injury and I never even bothered reporting it because I know I am going to have to go through that. If

I feel that, then I am sure that other employees must feel that, as well, and maybe deal with it differently.

There are a couple of other things I wanted to mention. Recently I got a copy of an inquiry form that was sent out by WCB. It asks all kinds of questions about the type of service. There is one part of that form that I am troubled with. Toward the end of the questionnaire it asks a question not related to the whole of the operation in generic terms. You know, what kind of service you get from the Workers' Compensation Board, and maybe the staff, in generic terms, just the staff or doctors or whatever. It asks specifically about one employee of the WCB. It caused me some concern. Why did they ask this question as to whether or not you are getting good service from this employee? I do not know why they zeroed in on that individual. But if that employee were to leave, all those forms that they have will no longer be any good. Why did they ask about the secretary in the front by name or the case worker by name or the doctor by name? It puzzled me as to why that was there. It was a good form otherwise, but it puzzled me as to why that was there in that way.

Mr. Chairman, those are the concerns that I would have in general comment on the overall operation. Again, it is a fairly complicated organization and I just got this recently, so I have not really had a chance to analyse it to see if there are any things there that we would be able to comment on.

Other than those two things, Mr. Chairman, I will leave general comments and ask the Minister to pass on to her department the compliments in general terms for the quality of work and the dedication to service that the employees of the WCB are giving to the majority of people that are seeking assistance from them. It is good, but somewhere in there -- and a number of people have expressed that to me -- there is that atmosphere of an adversarial role, confrontational in some cases, where people are intimidated by going to the location -- it is located just around the corner. I keep pointing over to you, Mr. Chairman, because it is east of this building in a very large modern building -- it is glass and stainless steel -- and it sometimes can be intimidating for workers to go there. They see this as a fairly big office, and that is why I think they go to smaller offices a little bit more readily to express their concerns.

It will help, I am sure, that by next year there will be some changes there that will eliminate all the concerns that I have expressed here, Mr. Chairman. I say 90 or 95 per cent pats on the back for WCB, but there may be some areas there that can be looked at to improve that atmosphere that some people have expressed to me, that apprehension of going to see the WCB. I will leave it at that, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Any response, Madam Minister?

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I have to agree with some of the Member's comments. I know there has been somewhat of an attitudinal problem within the WCB toward individuals that have tried to report accidents and have tried to access benefits. I know it has been a concern to the chairman, and with the assistance of the board they have been trying to deal with this and enhance the personal contact with respect to claimants. The problem is that with the majority of our claimants living in the South, it is difficult to have personal contact with them without it being costly.

#### Workers' Adviser To Assist Injured Workers

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, we have put in place some other measures, and we do have the position of the workers' adviser that is available to assist injured workers that are either frustrated or do not understand the process of

accessing WCB benefits that they may be entitled to. We do have the appeal process, now that we changed our legislation last year with respect to a review committee, where two directors of the board appeal claims if they feel that the initial claim was not addressed properly. We also have the appeals tribunal, which is independent and ensures that appellants are given all due consideration.

We have made some changes to ensure that individuals are dealt with as effectively as they should be, but I guess the other area regarding attitudes is something that the chairman and the board, and the members of the staff, are going to have to be dealing with. I think there has been a significant amount of training focussed toward teamwork within the Workers' Compensation Board. It is something that I am aware of, and I have been stressing concerns of this nature to the chairman, and I know he has been dealing with them. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were many times when I have had to use the good offices of the workers' advocate, and it has been a good experience for me because I have had quite a lot of success and I have had good feedback from people that have come to see me out of frustration. I would direct them to this office, and a lot of the things causing them concern would be addressed and they went away happy. So pats on the back for that particular section.

One of the concerns I do want to express to the Minister deals with a policy, a regulation or a requirement that requires injured employees or recovering employees that are living in the South to come all the way to Yellowknife to be examined by the in house doctor. I met a fellow the other day, who was in town for 10 minutes. That was all the time he really needed to see the doctor that is in residence. He asked why he had to travel all that way from Ontario to here, a two-day trip. He did not mind coming to Yellowknife. He had been here for many years. He was injured here and now lives in the South and gets treatment there; but he said the examination could well have been done in Ontario with an Ontario doctor, rather than to have to come here at our expense. I wonder if this is a policy that can be re-examined.

I am sure the medical profession across the country have the same standards and expertise. With all due respect to our doctors here, I think we could save an awful lot of money by having some reciprocal agreement that if we have Ontario residents here we will examine them rather than send them all the way back to Ontario, Alberta or wherever the case may be.

If that part of it, Mr. Chairman, could be re-examined, to see that they should not have to travel that distance for very minor examinations and that we have a reciprocal agreement between the provinces and other agencies that would take care of those things for us, we may realize a substantial saving, because as my colleague mentioned earlier, there appears to be a good number of employees that choose to reside south of 60 after they have been injured. I wonder if that can be re-examined, Mr. Chairman, with the intent of reducing travel costs in the future.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** (Translation) Thank you. Madam Minister, do you have any response?

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two concerns. First of all, I thank the Member for his compliments to the workers' adviser. I know the lady works very hard, and I have received many good comments with respect to how she deals with clients that have felt frustration

in trying to access or be able to pursue their issue through the system. It certainly has been a good move on the part of the previous Minister in initiating this position.

With regard to interjurisdictional concerns that the Member has stated, we realize it is essential to have interjurisdictional agreements with other boards. The board has agreed that one agreement will be much more effective, and as I said in my opening remarks, that agreement has not yet been signed due to the fact that Quebec's board was not given permission to sign. We certainly have initiated arrangements to have ongoing meetings with all western Canada boards to improve the efficient handling of interjurisdictional claims and services. This probably can be looked at at the same time in respect to claimants out of other jurisdictions -- the ones that not only we deal with on their behalf with other jurisdictions but maybe the other jurisdictions can assist us in assessing individuals through these types of interjurisdictional agreements. It is certainly something that I can confirm for the Member with the Workers' Compensation Board, but I am sure that was the intent of the total type of issues that we wanted to address to these agreements. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments. Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Pedersen.

#### Rules Governing Investment Of Capital Funds

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the Minister a question on the investment of the \$110 million she mentioned. What are the rules pertaining to how this money can be invested, and are the rules that apply legislated or not?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, I believe the board determines, in respect to the rules, the amount that we have as an investment and how to ensure our commitment, as I had indicated, is fully funded or at least in a break-even position. But with respect to whether they are led through legislation or not, I would have to check that with the chairman of the board. Unfortunately, the chairman, I believe, is out of the country at the moment. The vice-chairman is not available here in Yellowknife. If the Member does not mind, I certainly can bring that concern forth and get a reply to him. I do want you to know, from my understanding, the investment pool that provides the funding is guided by the Financial Administration Act. I will find out exactly what rules apply. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Pedersen.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Minister is correct in what she says. I do not believe there are legislated rules on it. The guidelines, I believe, are that they must be safely and prudently invested. What I would like to suggest is, Mr. Chairman, that the Executive Council perhaps discuss and consider a recommendation for the next government, which will be fairly soon, certainly this year sometime, and look at the possibility of our government being the guarantor for the investment and the interest on the investment, thereby allowing the capital money that the WCB has for investment to be invested in the North. For instance, in economic development we are constantly looking for -- it has been a problem all these years -- a pot of money sizeable enough to do meaningful development. Surely if we can invest in our own economy it would be a great deal better than what we now do which is investing in the South and thereby investing in someone else's economy. I do realize there would have to be a guarantee. That guarantee, I think,



could perhaps be provided by our government.

Mr. Chairman, the only other comment I have is a compliment to the board. I think there has been a vast improvement in the administration and the operation of the WCB during the life of this Legislature. I think both the Minister of the board and the board chairman, in particular, are to be complimented for that. No further comment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Any further general comments on the Workers' Compensation Board? If not, does the committee agree that this matter is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you very much. Members of the committee, inadvertently we forgot to do one part of the budget, which is \$13,000 under NWT Status of Women Council on page 2.23 under detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Could I have agreement to return to page 2.23?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Under NWT Status of Women Council, \$13,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, total department, \$1,088,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Department Of Government Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. From here, we go to Government Services.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have witnesses enter the chamber. I wonder if I could move to the witness table and make my opening remarks there, and at the same time call the deputy minister, Mr. Horn, and our finance officer, Ms. Cunningham.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left, Mr. Lee Horn, deputy minister of the department; on my right, Sue Cunningham, the finance officer.

#### Minister's Opening Remarks

I am pleased to present, sir, the 1991-92 budget estimates for the Department of Government Services. The budget requirement for the department is \$16,009,000 in O and M and \$6,395,000 in capital. The department will generate an

estimated \$15,149,000 in revenue. The O and M budget represents a three per cent increase and the capital estimate represents a 20 per cent decrease over the 1990-91 budget.

The department's mandate is to provide specialist services to government departments, boards and agencies, and to make an inventory of specific products available for sale to the public where these cannot be provided by the private sector; for example, the provision of petroleum products in remote northern communities. These services, Mr. Chairman, are provided by the directorate and four divisions. The department operates three revolving funds; the petroleum products revolving fund, the Liquor Commission, and the public stores revolving fund. In addition, the charge-back accounts for computer activities on behalf of government departments are administered by Government Services.

The directorate provides advice to me as Minister and direction for the department. The support staff for the Liquor Licensing Board, which controls the operation of licensed premises, is part of the directorate. Board revenues from licences, fees and fines are expected to be \$600,000 for 1991-92.

The supply services division ensures that best value is obtained through centralized regional purchasing with qualified buyers sensitive to the local business environment. The requirement for regional dealer support for items supplied, such as office equipment, contributes to strengthening the northern economy.

Supply services provides for the transportation and warehousing of purchased goods and the distribution of internal government mail. The division administers the register of northern contractors and suppliers for the business incentive policy. Reverse trade shows, which provide northern businesses with information on government requirements, have been successfully held in Yellowknife, Cambridge Bay and Hay River this year.

Mr. Chairman, departmental efforts continue to encourage the development of northern businesses. As of March 1, 1991, Government Services purchases in support of governmental operations, exclusive of petroleum products, totalled \$34 million. The breakdown between northern and southern purchases is as follows: northern suppliers, \$22 million; southern suppliers, \$12 million. A comparison with 1989-90 figures shows an increase in northern purchasing from 55 per cent to 65 per cent.

Environmental concerns are an ongoing focus of the department and in 1991-92 the supply services division will circulate a catalogue of common, environmentally friendly products which can be used in government operations.

The systems and computer services division operates and maintains the government's computers in headquarters and in five regional centres. The division is responsible for the development and maintenance of computer systems and services which are charged back to client departments. For the fiscal year 1991-92, the value of this work is estimated at \$4,644,000. The division provides assistance and advice on the acquisition of microcomputers as well as voice and data communications systems and equipment, and it provides expertise in forms management. One project for 1991-92 will be the implementation of procedures to electronically process telecommunications invoices.

The petroleum products division provides heating oil, gasoline, naphtha, and aviation fuel to 45 communities not served by the private sector. All fuel is delivered by local contractors who will earn approximately \$5.3 million in commissions during 1991-92. The proposed budget for POL, petroleum, oil

and lubricants program, shows a significant rise in the cost of product for 1991-92, reflecting anticipated increased world oil prices. The division continues to monitor closely oil prices. A small surplus is anticipated in the fund for 1990-91 resulting from the purchase of product at lower than expected world prices. This surplus may serve to soften the impact of possible price increases in 1991-92.

The Liquor Commission provides a varied selection of alcoholic beverages to the residents of the NWT. The commission operates on a revolving fund with a limit of \$6.5 million. Net revenues for the fiscal year 1991-92 are estimated at \$14,499,000. The decrease in revenue is attributed to a forecasted decline in consumption resulting from price increases, changing attitudes to alcohol, and the economic slowdown. A comparison of litres of liquor sold over the past three fiscal years shows a declining trend.

To address the environmental damage and unsightliness caused by the improper disposal of liquor containers, the commission initiated a bottle deposit and refund program designed to encourage consumers to return used bottles and cans. The program went into effect on January 1, 1991.

Mr. Chairman, this completes my opening remarks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Mr. Lewis, on behalf of the finance committee, do you have any comments?

#### Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of recommendations from the standing committee on finance, one of them to do with simplifying forms and the other one to do with the establishment of rates for petroleum being made subject to the Public Utilities Board rather than the Financial Management Board. If you wish, I can move those two recommendations, 26 and 27.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Mr. Lewis, go ahead.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee believes that a modest investment in the redesign and simplification of government forms could save millions of dollars over a long period of time through improved productivity.

#### Motion To Study, Redesign And Simplify Government Forms, Carried

So I would like to move recommendation 26: I move the committee recommends that the Department of Government Services contract the necessary expertise to study, redesign and simplify government forms with the objective of overall productivity improvement and cost savings.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** To the motion. I do not recognize a quorum. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second motion is to do with setting petroleum rates. Currently the petroleum rates are established by the Financial Management Board. The committee believes that petroleum rates should be subject to the PUB Public Utilities Board, review, for the same reason that electricity rates are.

#### Motion That Petroleum Rates Be Subject To Public Utilities Board Approval, Carried

The motion that I have reads as follows: I move that the committee recommends that petroleum rates be subject to the Public Utilities Board's approval.

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

--Carried

Page 9.7, Department of Government Services. Mr. Arlooktoo.

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding naphtha gas, I received a letter from the Minister that you buy naphtha in bulk. But the naphtha in smaller containers, I think, is bought from wherever the supply is bought from the government. I asked the question that kerosene should be subsidized the same as gas because it is used a lot by the hunters, and the Minister indicated to me that the government does not buy kerosene in bulk, but I do not really understand his answer. I think that kerosene should be subsidized for the hunters. I wonder if that could be done. What is the difficulty here? I want to know what the difficulty is. I know that you told me that kerosene is a dangerous or hazardous product, but kerosene is like furnace oil; it does not burn as quickly as naphtha.

So I do not understand your response because I think that the Inuit have used kerosene for a long time and we know about it. So we are wondering if kerosene can be subsidized like naphtha by the government. Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I did review the letter that I had sent to the Member some weeks ago and the information I provided in the House was incorrect. The reason for the concern with regard to subsidizing kerosene was related to health, in that I believe the Department of Health and people that are knowledgeable about the effects of the fumes of kerosene on children and the elderly with chest problems, or people with chest problems, have indicated that these fumes do create problems. So it is not a matter of the speed with which the fuel burns, but it is the fumes that the fuel gives off, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That clarifies it further for me and what your concerns were. Now I would like to say something else about fuel products, petroleum products. The government has tank farms in all of the communities and some of the valves are not too good. I wonder if the government could install proper dispensing facilities in the tank farms. Are you intending to do anything about that or do you have any plans to install the proper dispensers? Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. As a result of a question and a concern raised by the Member on this specific subject some weeks ago, I did approach the department and learned that, as he describes, we have had problems with the valves and certain taps or linkages which hoses make with the trucks or other containers. We have looked at the one in Lake Harbour specifically, and I did indicate to him that there was a problem which would be addressed by the department. I



can ask the department to carry out a community-wide survey of all of our equipment in the 45 communities in which we hold and distribute the product.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Any more general comments? Mr. Ernerk.

#### Recycling Process Feasibility

**MR. ERNERK:** I will be speaking in English. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I want to ask a question to the honourable Minister with regard to recycling programs for alcohol product containers as well as paper products, which are contained in the definitive objectives of the Department of Government Services. Firstly, is there a recycling plant in Yellowknife?

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** No, Mr. Chairman. There is a collection depot. We do not have a recycling plant in Yellowknife. There is a collection depot to which the bottles, cans and liquor containers are returned.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I think I have always felt, Mr. Chairperson, that recycling products is a good thing to do in the Northwest Territories, and I have recently noticed that letterheads such as the Legislative Assembly letterhead and papers like this are recycled somewhere.

But to get to the main point, some two to three years ago I was one of the persons in this room who talked about recycling beer cans, Coke cans and other recyclable items in the communities, because I am aware that there are a lot of recyclable cans in the Keewatin Region. I believe I asked the department to do a study, and I recall asking the department to think about establishing a recycling plant in Rankin Inlet.

This could be done in several ways. I think it can be done efficiently during the shipping season in the communities, where recyclable cans or products can be brought to a place like Rankin Inlet, providing we have a recycling plant -- bring these recyclable items to Rankin Inlet and recycle them in Rankin Inlet. Not only would it be good to see something like this, but it would provide a certain amount of employment opportunities for the people of Rankin Inlet.

So I am wondering if anything has been done about something like this by the Department of Government Services in the recent past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, Government Services, as we indicated some two years ago, has only addressed its own product, the product which it imports into the Territories in the form of cans and bottles. We have, during this current session, been requested by the Member for Hay River to look into possibly including pop cans in this process, and we are doing that currently. I think that there might be some progress that can be made in the reclamation in the smaller communities of these products if we can find a method to ship them out.

But the recycling, and I understand that is what the Member is talking about, recycling of this product is an extremely expensive process, and in fact, there are very few centres in Canada where such recycling takes place. I thought that possibly Yellowknife might be considered. But at 14,000 to 15,000 population it is too small a centre to carry out a pure recycling program. The items that are collected here in this community now are sent out to Alberta and to British

Columbia where such centres exist. But I think reclamation of some of these goods and maybe transfer outside is possible, but recycling is a very expensive proposition and I think out of the question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** I would like to remind the Members to pause momentarily between the comments in order to give the interpreters a chance to finish the translation. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just do not accept that, Mr. Minister. I know that it can be done. The other point that I was going to make with regard to recycling recyclable products from the communities, when I talked about the shipping season, is to bring back the products, Coke cans and beer cans and things like that, and transport them to a place like Rankin Inlet by barges. I know that can be done.

The other point that I want to make to the Minister is something that he often talks about in the community and the Minister often talks about in this House. If we could make every effort to start to clean up our communities, this would be very good for the environment of the communities. Because as the Minister knows -- and I also talked about this during the debate on the budget of the Department of Renewable Resources during this session as well as during the previous sessions -- cleaning up our communities would be very good and I believe strongly, Mr. Chairperson, that this would be one of the ways of cleaning up our communities. I know that we can do more. We can take on more initiatives to start talking about recycling products from the things that I talked about previously. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Mr. Lewis.

#### Beer Manufacturing Proposal Could Solve Recycling Problem

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For something like about nine years now, the government has toyed with the idea of really solving the recycling problem, at least to some degree, as it relates to the recycling of beer bottles. I was very interested this morning when I attended the annual meeting of the NWT Association of Municipalities, that they raised once again the whole issue of having beer manufactured in the NWT. There was a resolution on the floor and it passed. It was not a large majority, I can assure Members, but what happened was that there was some discussion on it and there was agreement that that is something that we should be doing in the NWT.

This has been something that we have talked about in the past. The government had several proposals on it, over a nine year period, and three years ago I had a Private Member's Bill ready to go on this whole issue of being able to, at least, handle the manufacture of beer in the NWT. It was such an emotional issue, because whenever you propose the whole business of making beer, you are automatically accused of trying to promote people to drink the stuff. People do it anyway.

So I was rather surprised this morning to find that the municipalities had done something which we failed to do, which is to say that we are not promoting anything, but at least there should be some law in this jurisdiction, a law which exists everywhere else, that if you want to go ahead and manufacture a commodity that you can go ahead and do it, as long as it will be properly regulated by government and as long as it is going to be run like a business, that we should have enabling legislation to allow us to do that. And that automatically recycles stuff. You are reusing renewable resources, you are going to be using northern water and you

do not have to send your bottles anywhere, you just keep on using them. For those people who have travelled in other parts of the country, you see that happening. They just keep on using the same stuff.

For some reason we have still not accepted that in the NWT that is one thing that makes sense. It is something which, however, gets so tied up with emotions about alcohol that we can never really resolve it. And it is rather late in our term now to begin thinking about trying to reintroduce a kind of legislation that would allow that to happen.

But I can tell you that in every jurisdiction in Canada -- for example in Alberta, if you want to sell beer in Alberta, you better be licensed in Alberta to do it. Labatts can sell their stuff here, Molsons and all the other outfits can sell their stuff here and we cannot stop them. But if you want to sell your product in Alberta, you better be using Alberta water, you better be using Alberta labour, you better be making sure you are paying your taxes in Alberta, otherwise you cannot sell it. And yet we keep on exporting all this glass out of here. We bring water in here, we let other people take the profits, other people get the jobs, and we are very narrow-minded. In fact, we are stupid because we let other people make the money and we just let them do it, take it out of us as if we are a bunch of babies.

So I would like to ask the Minister if, in fact, he decides to come back to this House, given the good wishes of the electorate, whether he would be open to looking at this whole issue again, as a Member in this House, to see if we could not look at this whole business, at least as it relates to beer, which is only just water anyway, and have the stuff made here and get the revenue and the jobs and everything else that goes with it. And if we want, we can make it one per cent beer if it is all we want to have. We can make the rules as to what it should be like. Has the Minister, in his short time in this portfolio, ever even thought of that? Because it has been around for a long time and we have discussed it and we have gone half way toward doing it and we stepped back again, because it is such a controversial and emotional issue.

The motion this morning was quite simply related to the business of microbreweries, not huge outfits, just small ones that would cater to a local market and would make use of local resources, and so on. They were not thinking of anything enormous. At least that was not the intent of the motion. But at least it would allow you to manufacture a product which fits in with the government's own program of import substitution. It is in black and white, in Direction for the 1990s. Instead of importing stuff, we are going to do it here. It is in black and white, part of your document, and yet we still back away from it and rather deal with all these other problems of recycling this and recycling that, where actually this is something we could be doing if we had enough courage to recognize that everybody else is ripping us off and we are not smart enough to take advantage of it.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** If memory serves, the honourable Member did author a draft bill on the subject, and if I recollect, he and I discussed the government putting the bill forward and I think I did agree to accept the responsibility. And then when I took it so far down the road, I did not find that there was much support for it among Members of the Assembly. That is the way I recollect the situation. As a result, I did not put it forward. But the draft legislation did appear. Maybe it is an idea that has now come full term and is ready to be accepted and maybe the Member might look at putting his own bill back on the order paper before this House dissolves.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Whitford.

#### Disposal Problems With Recyclable Products

**MR. WHITFORD:** I probably would be negligent if I did not make a comment or two about the recycling program versus litter control. I have spoken about it before, as well as my other colleagues have. I know that there are as many arguments against recycling as there are for recycling. It is a no-win situation, but I think somewhere somebody has to start. There are environmental groups in the Territories, not only here in Yellowknife but elsewhere, that try to persuade people to look at what they are doing to their communities and the land, and how they are using things. When they look at the government, at times people say they do not want government intervention and that they would like to do it themselves. But there are times when we need the government to set direction to set an example. I think we made that start. I remember with pride when the Minister announced to this House the opening of this plant, and how this Member kicked him in the glass after he made this nice announcement -- this is "glass" I said, Mr. Chairman -- about the recycling plant. It was not intended to put the Minister's initiatives under any kind of question. It was just that there is a misconception between what government thinks of this project and what the public's perception is.

In my opinion, it is a good step. It is a positive step. It is something that I and my colleagues have been saying. We have been saying there are a lot of bottles and cans and stuff coming in under government direction such as liquor and beer. It is time that we picked these things up and shipped them back out again. I think this is what the government did. I think Mr. Ernerk was referring to something similar. During the searift, as I said before, there are a lot of containers coming into this country. They sit in the communities for months on end during the off-season. These things can be used for storage and collection. It is true that it may not be profitable getting some of the stuff out, but we have to work around that. We have to work towards that. Aluminum would certainly pay the bills. It is a matter of storing it; use these containers to store empty beer cans, empty pop cans and the things you can sell back again. I want the glass off the land, for sure. Put it in containers and ship it back to Montreal on the boat and dump it in Montreal's landfill if they want it there. Give it to a glass manufacturer. Just give it to them.

The government has taken the first step and I applaud them for it. We spoke here in the last couple of days about the used oil. Somebody has to do this. I do not know who is going to do it, whether Government Services or who? Why I am talking about this to this government department is because it appears to be the place where things are purchased and expedited to other areas. They seem to have the facilities to deal with this project much more than other departments. It may not be entirely fair to the Minister and his department that we are trying to push this recycling problem and project on to them, but it is a start. They have the barrels or connection to the fuel shipments, the tanks and the empty barrels in most of these communities -- their sole source. They certainly have control of the liquor coming into this country.

Pop is another question. We do get hundreds of thousands if not millions of cans coming in, but that belongs to the private sector -- Northern Stores, co-ops, and other stores that sell these items. But we have to encourage them to do it. Maybe government has to take the initiative to encourage co-ops, Northern Stores and other stores to do something about this so that we can hold our heads proudly and show the rest of Canada that we are working in that area.



but I am sure that this issue will come back again with the next government. I certainly, if I am here, will continue, as well as my other colleagues, to try to interest the government in looking into imaginative things dealing with that issue.

Ecology North had experimented with this and tried it. Through a lot of labour and investment of time and energy they got something going, but only to see this to be not quite what they had expected. I think we learned by that, and hopefully, the next go around when this issue comes back again for tender, more instructions will be given to the successful tenderer to meet that one requirement.

#### Northern Business Opportunity

Mr. Chairman, while I have the microphone I want to stress -- dealing with another subject -- the subject of northern business opportunity. I would like this government department, because it does have such control over a lot of the tendering and a lot of the purchasing of goods and services in the North, to place more emphasis on northern business. If it has to sit down and review its policy or its methodology of determining which is a northern company and which is not a northern company, then let it do that; because I have a lot of people who have come to me complaining sadly that they did not get a government contract and that it has gone, in fact, to a southern firm who has a name on the wall here in the city, on a lawyer's wall someplace -- in the stairwell of the lawyer's office, if you please. They meet the criteria, but that is not a northern company in my eyes nor in a lot of Members' eyes as well. These people do not live here. They do not have an office here but yet they can bid on these contracts and bring in a crew and do something like that.

I would like the northern business policy to be reviewed so that northern business does get a little nudge and so that they can keep the money in the NWT. In some cases, it is a poor investment when we give a contract to the lowest bidder who does not live here because a northern business hired here, chances are that it buys its material here, that it spends its money here. So what if we spend 10 per cent or 15 per cent more? That money stays here and it circulates. It stays in the North rather than going south and not be of any benefit to us. I think we are penny-wise but dollar-poor if we do that. We save a few dollars by giving it to the lowest bidder, whereas if we gave it to a northern firm for an established percentage higher, this money would be reinvested in the North in the long run and the people of the North would benefit from that.

I have spoken to the Minister numerous times. His officials know my feelings on this. They know some of the concerns I and northern businesses have expressed. I know they are abiding by the rules, but sometimes these rules may not, in my opinion and northern business opinion, be quite what would meet our needs; again, if they would revisit this question and look at the criteria to give northern business a little bit of an edge. We will be facing some pretty tough times here in the next year or two with a recession all over the place, and sometimes southern business can be a little bit more competitive because they do not live here all through the cold winter months, faced with the high costs of operation that we do. If all these things could be taken into consideration, I think when these things are over, this government will get a better deal, too, from northern business.

Other than that, the systems that are in place now within Government Services -- certainly the computer programs and such -- it is taking a leading role in that. I think a lot of people talk with a certain amount of pride on how well we are supplied with the services through the government. Some of the technology that we are applying here is state-of-the-art, and I can say that I can get into the system using the

electronic mail and stuff like that, and it works well for me. I really do not use it enough to be a real expert at talking about it, but suffice to say, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister's department is to be complimented on that.

Just looking at last week when the Minister of Transportation announced that motor vehicles are going to tie into the system to help his department produce licences and registrations using electronic means, I think this says well for the foresight that that department had in this area. I will leave it at that for the time being, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Directorate, Mr. Minister.

#### Problems Of The Environment

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** I would like to have an opportunity to respond to some of the things that Mr. Whitford said, especially with regard to what I believe is an increased awareness of our requirement to improve our environment, both our urban and our land environment.

To go back a bit, the first concerns I heard raised with regard to the environment were when travelling in the communities, once with Mr. Ernerk in Repulse Bay, and from the Member for Yellowknife South here on a number of occasions. As a result of those concerns, my departmental officials and I looked at ways in which we could address at least those products which we had an effect on, that is, the containers for alcohol products. During that time, which took over a year, I had many occasions to talk with people in the business community. Never once did anybody from the environment or Ecology North approach me. The only time I was approached was after I had begun to make arrangements with the business community. However, out of that lack of communication, there has come a highly increased and immediate communication.

Yesterday I spent half an hour sitting in the gallery here talking with Greg Conquist, a director of Ecology North, and we discussed some of the things that have transpired since this contract was issued. Since that time, leaders from Ecology North -- and I cannot yet determine who leads Ecology North because there is no president, no vice-president, no organization; you cannot say, "Take me to your leader." There seem to be 150 individuals out there.

As government, we cannot take any credit for being any better organized either, because we are addressing the environment from four or five different departments, but we are willing to admit that. I was able to arrange meetings between a representative from Ecology North and our senior officials and we found many ways in which we could use the expertise that these people have. I personally feel that, rather than washing paper off glass bottles or taking metal strips off wine bottles, it would be much better to use their brains than to use their hands. I have talked to the Minister of Finance about this, and we are willing to work with them because we need their expertise, we need their knowledge in dealing with the problems we find in the communities, and we have communicated this willingness to them. As I sat there in the gallery last night, I again went over this with Mr. Conquist.

One of the other things that came out when I explored the matter of shipping out glass, as I mentioned earlier in responding to Mr. Ernerk, is that smelting aluminum is very costly. To ship a ton out you get, I think, about \$850 a ton at the present time. To smelt that, it is extremely expensive. We also tracked glass to the place in Kelowna, I believe, where glass is being broken down and I found that the glass which we are producing, which in the main is green glass, is no longer in demand. They do not want it any more. They have

longer in demand. They do not want it any more. They have green glass up to their ying yang and they will not need it until the year 2000. But, as a result of that research and as a result of their recommendations, I would like to pass to the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, and anybody else, a report of a machine which actually turns glass back into sand. We are ordering a machine for here, because as you know the glass that we are turning in is being smashed and put into the landfill. We are told, though, by the people in BC that it makes excellent landfill. It can be used for water course drainage and various other things, so glass in landfill is not a problem. If the Pages could take to the honourable Member for Yellowknife South some samples of glass which has been turned into sand.

I am very very impressed with the communication that has occurred between ourselves and Ecology North. I look forward to a much improved relationship in the future and a greater use of the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm that these people have. Our government needs them and I think they need us. I think it has been a learning experience and I think a very positive one.

#### Percentage Of Local Purchases By Government

On the matter of the purchases, as I mentioned in my opening remarks we have moved the amount of local purchases up to 65 per cent. The purchases now, I think, are in the main those items which are not produced here. One of the main ones, I would say, is probably alcohol and beer. As indicated by Mr. Lewis some minutes ago, we spend millions of dollars here. Also, calcium chloride for our roads, medical supplies, gases which are used in welding, furniture, computer software, et cetera. I think if you broke down that 35 per cent that we are spending outside, you would find a very significant percentage to be materials that we cannot get here at the present time and are not being produced in the Territories.

If you look in the information pages of our budget you will notice that the amount of money that has been allocated to each revolving fund is diminishing. Those revolving funds only purchase and carry items which we cannot get locally, so there is a great increase in the amount of local spending that is going on. We agree with the Member that the more money spent locally, the better it is for our economy and for our young workers, so I have no quarrel with that.

I thank the Member for his comments and compliments with regard to the work we are doing in computers. I agree with him that there is much improvement in that area, and I welcome his comments in that regard.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had a chance to look at the samples that the Minister had sent to me, and I have passed them on to my colleagues for their view. I agree with the Minister in part that there are some things that are not really as hazardous as they may be portrayed. Glass, for one thing, is inert, other than being unsightly and other than being a danger to the body if you come into contact with it under water or something like that. On land it is unsightly and it could be a bit of a danger; it is not really environmentally dangerous, it is true. If we could make a product here in the North with it, to use here in the North, that would be to our benefit.

There are other areas that we must look at that are far more hazardous to the environment than the glass part, such as the lead and the paper off those bottles that the Minister had mentioned. I did say that while I was at the meeting with Ecology North, that it was a step in the right direction that we got at least, now, part of it under way in that the lead and

stuff that was coming off these bottles through our recycling efforts here was probably more dangerous to our environment than the glass was itself, if we had used it for landfill. Glass for landfill is probably pretty good stuff, but again, I guess you know, we have to set an example, in that there are things like plastics that are of a non-biodegradable nature and that cannot be used here for anything else; and somehow or other we must deal with that issue of recycling and environmental protection through recycling projects, which I will continue on at a later date but not now.

Going back again to the amount of money that is being spent through northern businesses, that is a great improvement; certainly 65 per cent is a remarkable figure. I would just like to, again, further encourage the Minister and his officials to consider using northern business as middlemen, to supply things that are not available here, rather than go the other way around. I know that business here is anxious to venture out into some areas that they do not really have the capacity to deal with because they are smaller. But what ends up happening is that, in a roundabout way, northern businesses are asked to subcontract to a southern firm once a project is given or once a supply or something has been given, or contract to supply some commodities or services; northern firms are then subcontracted to do the work. I would suggest that we go the other way around; that we go to the northern businesses and say, "Look, this is what our needs are going to be. We realize that it is too big for you, but you find the suppliers for this and we will go through you. We will give you the money and you buy it from them and then supply it to us," rather than the other way around.

It is not a novel idea. It has been done in some areas. I would just like to encourage it a little bit more because I think that northern businesses have grown up and that they are able now to have international connections. For example, they have connections to large manufacturers that produce things that they can go to the manufacturer and say, "This is what we are going to need, but can you supply it for us?", rather than going to the supplier or manufacturer.

I am not sure if I am using good examples here, but I think that my drift is, let us use northern business as a middleman in a lot of cases where now we go to large suppliers and large producers in southern Canada, simply because they have volume of something like that. Let us be bold.

But again, I was not aware that the percentage was that high. I am now, and that is encouraging.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Government Services, general comments. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I was going to ask the Minister what the "ying yang" was.

---Laughter

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Mr. Minister, are you prepared to respond to that?

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** No, Mr. Chairman.

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

#### Recycling Of Products

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I will not ask the Minister to answer that question since he refused to answer. I do have a question for the Minister. It is with regard to recycling of recyclable products again. In the Keewatin Region, have you talked to the business communities such as the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, for



instance, about this idea and see what their idea might be with regard to recycling products of this nature, the containers, the alcohol containers, pop containers and paper products and things like that? What is their reaction? Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, no, we have not spoken with the people in the Keewatin or the Kitikmeot yet. I think that we will begin to see such initiatives take place there. Iqaluit had already generated its own initiative. Inuvik had a primitive form of reclaiming of the beer bottles and Hay River was already doing it. So in some communities there was already activity in place; but at the Member's request and advice, we will speak with interested people in Rankin Inlet. Also, I will start discussions with interested individuals in Cambridge Bay and in the Central Arctic.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I thank the Minister for that answer. One other point, not a point, but one other comment that I do want to make. It is in regard to Canada Post in Rankin Inlet. Some time ago I had asked the Minister's department to assist us in Rankin Inlet to see if Canada Post could train and hire an Inuk person to work within the post office because a majority of the customers are Inuit and many of them do not speak English, and as a result require an Inuktitut-speaking employee within that office.

I want to indicate to the Minister and his department that they now have an Inuk person working at the post office; and I do want to thank, on behalf of the people of Rankin Inlet, the Minister for his help in pursuing the matter with regard to hiring an Inuk person to work at the post office in Rankin Inlet, which is the way that it should be. So I thank you, Mr. Minister, and your department. Thanks to you too, Mr. Chairperson.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Just a comment. The Member thanks us, but all we really do is we act as a post office. We take the concerns which are made known to us by Members; I write the federal Minister responsible for Canada Post, Harvey Andre, and we have a direct line of communication with his officials responsible for the northern service. Sometimes we are successful and sometimes we are not.

We were not successful recently in improvements that we attempted to arrange for Kakisa Lake, but I thank the Member for his kind words.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Government Services. General comments.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Clause by clause.

#### Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Clause by clause. We are on the directorate, page 9.8, total O and M, \$3,035,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Systems And Computer Services, Total O And M, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Next page. Systems and computer services, total O and M, \$4,495,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Supply Services, Total O And M, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Page 9.10, supply services, total O and M, \$8,479,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Total O And M, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Let us go back to page 9.7, program summary. Total O and M, \$16,009,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Systems And Computer Services

#### Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Qujannamiik. We will go to the next subject. Capital estimates, 1991-92, Department of Government Services. Page 9.9, systems and computer services, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:** I have a question dealing with computers. This is for equipment acquisition. I would imagine it is hardware, software, stuff like that. Things change fairly rapidly and a lot of that stuff is not obsolete but it is not usable any more because of the way things are changing within our system. Can we trade in some of the stuff when you are buying a computer or monitors and stuff like that? Generally there is nothing wrong with them. It is just that they are not the right size or colour. Do we trade these things in, or do we sell them at a fraction of their cost? What do we do with the used equipment, especially with computer systems?

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** The page being referred to really relates to the larger computers, and the specific item here is an instrument that allows computers to talk to each other. Regarding the small computers that the Member is referring to, many of the computers are leased and therefore can be turned back when they are obsolete or their use is no longer required, or as he indicates, the trade-in option is used by the department. So his suggestions are the ones which we do follow.

#### Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Systems and computer services, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed



**Equipment Acquisitions, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Total equipment acquisitions, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Systems And Computer Services, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Total activity, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Petroleum Products****Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Next page. Page 9.12. Petroleum products, buildings and works, Fort Smith, total capital, \$475,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Mr. Sibbeston, sorry, I did not see you.

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Yes, you seem to be ignoring me, Mr. Chairman, I wonder why. Just teasing. I was just going to remark, when we were on Fort Smith, that in the small communities, maybe it has been dealt with earlier when I was not here, but in the small communities in my area this past winter, the small communities, because of getting their supply of fuel last winter, really enjoyed the lowest priced fuel in our whole area, and perhaps even in the whole North.

I am just wondering, what is likely to occur in these small communities this coming year? Are they likely to be subject to higher prices of fuel? Are they going to be faced with higher costs, or are they likely to still enjoy reasonably low-priced fuel?

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, this government, under the direction of Members of this House, has indicated that in the smaller communities, products should be provided to the consumer at our delivered cost. Last year we were able to purchase our product at a very reasonable amount in terms of the rapid upsurge that occurred just a few weeks later.

So as the Member mentioned, prices in the smaller communities where we distribute products have been very reasonable. One of the Members, some days ago, indicated or described two increases that occurred, and two increases did occur. One related to a tax which we had imposed, this government, and the other related to the GST. So those were the only increases that have occurred in those communities.

Looking at the price of oil today, it is very, very close to what it was a year ago when we purchased fuel, I think something in the order of \$21.40 a barrel. Hopefully, we should be able to purchase the product in somewhat the same range and therefore, unless there is some totally unexpected increase in the world price of fuel, we should be able to continue to provide products in the smaller communities at the current reasonable rate.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Mr. Sibbeston.

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering whether Mr. Butters is referring, when he makes those comments of being able to maintain in approximately the same price as has been this winter -- is he also referring to the small communities down the Mackenzie that have been serviced by the winter road, say, in the past few weeks or months? Because it seems to me that the price of fuel and oil was still reasonably high in terms of buying them at the pumps, you know, in the last few months, so I am wondering if they would be subject to these high costs that we experience at the pumps or whether they were able to get gas at a much reduced rate as he says, at \$21.40 a barrel.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Thank you. The simple answer, I think, is no, that we do not expect there would be any horrendous increase. The process by which the department purchases fuel is that we tender in about four locations and then we average out the cost of the product in the regions where the product is delivered. So I think that the product that is being consumed in the communities that the Member refers to, which we purchase out of the Edmonton market, we do not expect, unless there is some change occurring in the near future that escalates the price of oil on the international market considerably, that there should be a great change over what is being enjoyed at the present time by way of cost.

**Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Petroleum products, buildings and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$475,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Inuvik, total region, \$910,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Baffin, total region, \$1,448,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. The next page. Kitikmeot, total region, \$3,102,000. Mr. Pedersen.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Mr. Chairman, I have to speak to this, certainly. Mr. Chairman, last year, and again in the standing committee on finance review, I suggested to the Minister -- and I want to say right now he certainly supported the suggestion -- that instead of doing the original plan, which was to enlarge and upgrade the fuel tank farm in Coppermine, both for gasoline and fuel and for aircraft turbo fuel, in-town dispenser, main storage tank, and airport outlet -- instead of doing it in the manner first thought of, that we should look to the future and relocate the tank farm entirely from where it now is, which is very close to the community, to an area that is generally known as Four Mile Bay or Expedito Cove. It is

literally the same area and would allow us to not only remove the fuel storage from the community itself from inside the boundaries of the community, it would also give us an off-loading area, a harbour, a docking facility for the barges that do annual resupply to the community.

At the present time, the barges have a very difficult time getting into Coppermine because of the sand bars that are formed by the river; the community is right at the mouth of the river and even at the best of years the barges can only dock in Coppermine and get in with about half loads. So NTCL had in fact advised the community that there must be an alternate off-loading area. Either you use the one we have and do annual dredging or relocate.

So I went to the Minister and I suggested that we do these things all as one; take the amount of money, the total amount, which is some seven million dollars, for this project, and instead of doing it where it is, build a road out to the new site, and build a docking facility; and if we require some additional funding, get other government departments into it: Transportation for the roads, and MACA, et cetera, and also Transportation for the docking facilities, of course.

Because of the suggestions, Mr. Chairman, and at my suggestion, the entire project was postponed last year. Nothing took place in order that we might do some looking into this and some planning for a more comprehensive approach and a longer-term and a more all-encompassing approach. It is now back in the budget with an expenditure for this year scheduled to be \$1.177 million, and I just wonder if the Minister could confirm with me that the project, as I just described it, is essentially still perceived that way and, although I realize the exact site plans are not there, that that is the direction in which we are proceeding.

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

#### **Deferment Of Funds For Coppermine Tank Farm**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member has described the events leading up to this particular budgetary item, and the deferment of money that we had in previous years put into the budget for the improvements to occur in Coppermine. The department has not built any new tank farms in the recent years because of fiscal restraint. The improvements that have occurred have resulted as a result of safety or the need to relocate a farm. We are protecting the funds for that particular expenditure, which is necessary. However, in so protecting them, we are also aware of the recommendation of the Member that Four Mile Bay be considered an off-loading site for ships and barges.

Another factor has also been included in the equation and that is Mr. Wray's commitment to the Member to look at the possibility of a winter road which would see a tank farm at Coppermine possibly serviced once a year by winter road if it is fiscally feasible and once in the summer by water. So we are looking at both those options.

This money will be expended in the following manner: The construction that occurs will be the in-town dispensing unit which I had indicated to the Member that would not be delayed. That project will be going ahead this year. The rest of the funds will be used to bring the materials in to be staged at Coppermine. This summer, the department will be obtaining the services of a marine surveyor, or whatever these people are called who do very careful examination of water depths, and will plot the particular off-loading possibilities of Four Mile Bay. Once those are known, we have the option of including the results of that survey with the results that Mr. Wray's people determine on the practicality of the road and

can then choose a site which would be able to avail itself of both road transportation and the Four Mile Bay site.

We are attempting to meet the Member's recommendation but at the same time protect the money for the first year of the project. We are putting in place the materials required for the tank farm as it will be.

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

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's comments. It is indeed a pleasure to be listened to sometimes.

---Laughter

I can only add to that, Mr. Chairman, that this has been discussed extensively in the hamlet council in Coppermine. It gives absolute and full support for this more overall approach to things instead of going in and doing one thing at a time. Those are all the comments I have.

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

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This department being my favourite department...

---Laughter

Mr. Minister, the money for fuel tank construction for Spence Bay, is that for the fuel tank that is under construction now, or is it for a new construction? Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, this is for the second year of the project that is already under construction.

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

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question is on the relocation of the Gjoa Haven fuel tank. Would this be done during the upcoming summer? Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** I know we had to postpone this project, in the previous year's budget. What we have before us, the \$60,000, is for the predesign work that will have to be done before relocating the current tank farm. We are looking in the next fiscal year at an expenditure of some \$6.3 million, so it is in process and in progress. It is in our capital plan and will be acted upon in that particular time schedule.

#### **Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Kitikmeot, total region, \$3,102,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### **Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total buildings and works, \$5,935,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Equipment acquisition, Inuvik, total region, \$90,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Baffin, total region, \$180,000. Mr. Kilabuk.

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like clarification regarding the Baffin Region. Is the \$180,000 identified for equipment acquisition or is it just for improvements? I know our communities are growing very rapidly and more and more houses are being built, and I think that our existing fuel delivery truck is not going to be adequate; it is hardly keeping up now. I would like to know more detail about how this money is going to be used and what for.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct and he has identified the expenditure. The \$90,000 will be for a fuel truck for Pangnirtung. Also, Members will recall that a year ago we indicated that we would be purchasing the Shell facility at Sanikiluaq -- the Member for Sanikiluaq will remember that -- and the vehicle that we inherited with that particular tank farm and operation required replacement, so the second \$90,000 will be for a fuel truck for Sanikiluaq.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Baffin, total region, \$180,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Kitikmeot, total region, \$90,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total equipment acquisition, \$360,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Petroleum Products, Total Capital**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total activity, \$6,295,000. Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I have one question for the Minister for now. Please enlighten me, Mr. Minister, as to why there is nothing at all for the Keewatin Region. Is there anything planned for the future, sir? Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** The only new tankage going in will be at Rankin Inlet and that will be associated with the FOL, forward operating location, and will be paid for by the federal government. That is not our particular project. The equipment in the Keewatin, as far as petroleum products is concerned, is deemed to be quite serviceable and much of it is fairly new. So we think we have caught up with a lot of the difficulties that were experienced in the Keewatin at some time.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I take it that you have taken into consideration the request from the hamlet of Coral Harbour with regard to the construction of fuel tanks. I think the request was something like 1992-93 because of the possibility of a shortage of fuel storage in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes, we are aware of the community's concern. It has been communicated to us. I believe our field staff have gone in and looked at the possibility. If there is a requirement to add additional tankage to Coral Harbour, the department would do this and are willing to get on with that requirement should it prove to be necessary. We are aware of the need and we are monitoring the situation.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister.

**Petroleum Products, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Total activity, \$6,295,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Page 9.7. Program summary. Total capital expenditure, \$6,395,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Department of Government Services is now concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Mahsi cho. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** There is a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried



I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

**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 Deh Cho.

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 7 and CR 2-91(1) and wishes to report progress, with five motions being adopted.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 19, third reading of bills. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

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

**ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Orders of the day for Friday, April 12th.

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: Tabled Document 22-91(1); Bills 4, 5 and 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 10, 18, 23, 24 and 26
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 12th, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT

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