



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**8th Session**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1991**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>Prayer</b>	<b>746</b>
<b>Ministers' Statements</b>	
- 59-91(1) 1991-92 Budget Adjustments	<b>746</b>
<b>Members' Statements</b>	
- Mr. Ningark on Appreciation to Sam Gargan, MLA	<b>746</b>
- Mr. Lewis on Concerns of Ordinary Members	<b>746</b>
- Hon. Dennis Patterson on Q Tags	<b>747</b>
<b>Returns to Oral Questions</b>	<b>747</b>
<b>Oral Questions</b>	<b>748</b>
<b>Tabling of Documents</b>	<b>754</b>
<b>Notices of Motion</b>	<b>754</b>
<b>Second Reading of Bills</b>	
- Bill 3 - Liquor Act	<b>755</b>
- Bill 25 - Marriage Act	<b>755</b>
- Bill 32 - Corrections Act	<b>755</b>
<b>Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:</b>	
- Bill 7 - Appropriation Act, 1991-92	<b>755</b>
- Public Utilities Board	<b>755</b>
- Department of Finance	<b>756</b>
- Department of Economic Development and Tourism	<b>759</b>
- Department of Executive	<b>761</b>
<b>Report of Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>764</b>

**TABLE OF CONTENTS, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1991 (CONTINUED)**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>Third Reading of Bills</b>	
- <b>Bill 7 - Appropriation Act, 1991-92</b>	<b>764</b>
<b>Assent to Bills</b>	<b>765</b>
<b>Orders of the Day</b>	<b>765</b>

## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 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, Mr. McLaughlin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

## ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo):** Orders of the day for Friday, April 12, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

## ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

**Ministers' Statement 59-91(1): 1991-92 Budget Adjustments**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 1991-92 Appropriation Act has been under review by the committee of the whole since mid-February. During this review, Legislative Assembly Members have expressed their concerns and views with respect to the activities and budgets of all departments. The input from Members is vitally important to the Executive and responding to Member concerns is a top priority for Ministers.

Although our fiscal capacity will not allow the government to take immediate action on all issues raised by ordinary Members during this budget review, there are a number of initiatives that we feel can be taken to respond to the concerns that have been raised. I am pleased to advise Members that, with their concurrence, we propose to initiate the following action through 1991-92 supplementary appropriations or special warrants:

- 1) In response to recommendations in the SCONE report and in this House, area economic development officers will be placed in an additional six communities;
- 2) The 1991-92 allocation to the STEP program will be doubled;
- 3) The necessary studies to prepare for possible winter road programs for the Central Arctic and Keewatin areas will be undertaken;
- 4) A new fuel for seniors' program will be instituted that will provide up to 2275 litres of fuel oil per year to non-wood burning seniors' households in the NWT;
- 5) The seniors' supplementary benefits rates will be increased in accordance with this Legislative Assembly's recommendations;
- 6) And lastly, certain planned increases to renewable resource licences and fees will be delayed.

The total cost of these budget adjustments will be around two million dollars. It is my intention that these initiatives will be funded from our existing supplementary appropriation reserves for 1991-92. By using the supplementary reserve, our overall financial position will not be worsened. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Prior to proceeding with the next item, I wish to draw to the attention of honourable Members, visitors and representatives of the Sarcee Dene from southern Alberta: Chief Roy Whitney; counsellor, Alex Crowchild; counsellor, Clifford Bigplume; teacher and linguist, Venora Bigplume.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

## ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

**Member's Statement On Appreciation To Sam Gargan, MLA**

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. I will be talking about the honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan, today. During the meeting of the last session, just before the Easter break of the Legislative Assembly, he had assisted the Members greatly and he let us play volleyball; matches between the Executive and the ordinary Members. I think we won some games against the Ministers. I am very grateful to him for that. Whenever I went to get a drink from his pitcher, I got to have a drink. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, when Nunavut becomes a reality, and I checked this with my honourable colleague for Aivilik, when Mr. Gargan wants to go out hunting in Nunavut, my honourable colleague for Aivilik and myself will provide you with gas and hunting equipment. Mr. Speaker, through you, on behalf of the Nunavut Members, thank you Mr. Gargan. Thank you very much.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** I think I am going to arrange a volleyball game.

---Laughter

Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**Member's Statement On Concerns Of Ordinary Members**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance who has demonstrated today that the government does listen to the ordinary Members of this House from time to time.

---Applause

We were wondering if there would ever be any response to the work that we did on the economy committee and we are happy to see that the government has recognized that economic development has to happen where people live and this is one indication where the government has agreed that that is the position that should be taken. Also the increase in the STEP program recognizes the real employment problems that we have in many of our communities and this would in some degree help to alleviate that problem.

Mr. Pedersen and several other Members from Nunavut, including my friend to the right, Mr. Ernerk, has indicated that whenever the word, "transportation" comes up, all we ever talk about is the West. There are transportation problems in the

East as well. At least this undertaking to examine the Central and Eastern Arctic with regard to the construction of winter roads is a very desirable thing from the point of the ordinary Members, I am sure.

We raised the issue of seniors and how they are affected probably more than any other group because they are on fixed incomes. This initiative also to look at our senior citizens as a distinct group of people who have lived here for a long time and who deserve the administrations of government to help them survive in a very high cost area, is very welcome.

The last point, the issue of the hunting licences. This has become a major issue because we have so few businesses in the Northwest Territories and this is a business that should be encouraged and I am happy to see that the Minister is prepared to look at, at least, delaying the issue of an increase to hunting licences. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Finance, I am glad he listened to us at least this one time.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Just to remind the honourable Members that Members' statements are to be confined to one particular issue. Members' statements. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

#### Member's Statement On Q Tags

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say I am delighted that a number of Members of this Assembly and our staff were able to take advantage of the presence of Mr. Abe Okpik in the foyer of our Legislature yesterday, and avail themselves of the opportunity to acquire a Q for Qallunaaq tag and a certificate signed by that distinguished gentleman. I want to thank the Members for their support to the Iqaluit Senior Citizens' Association and tell them that Mr. Okpik was delighted with the response here. He did very well yesterday afternoon and he informs me that the proceeds will go to the very worthy cause of probably taking members of the Iqaluit Senior Citizens' Association on some kind of a spring trip. Mr. Okpik, and I as MLA for Iqaluit, are very grateful for Members' support.

Members who may wish to acquire a Q tag, or members of the public who may wish to acquire a Q tag, can get hold of me. I have been given a franchise to do some of that work on behalf of the senior citizens, if anyone missed that opportunity yesterday. Qujannamiik.

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

#### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Further Return To Question O373-91(1): Possible Supply Of Alaskan Petroleum Products To Arctic Communities

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. McLaughlin on March 19, 1991, with regard to the possible supply of Alaskan petroleum products to Western Arctic communities. Most of the POL product purchased by Government Services is for the Eastern Arctic. Supplying the Baffin Island communities, the High Arctic and the Hudson Bay area from Alaska is not practical from a logistics point of view. Secondly, with the volumes we purchase, the price we pay is about the same or even lower than what we would have to pay in price, exchange, import duty and taxes for the American product.

As for the communities along the Mackenzie River, the

Beaufort Sea and east to Spence Bay and Gjoa Haven, ice conditions in the Bering Strait and around the northwest corner of Alaska often do not clear until too late in the season to resupply Spence Bay, Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay. There are also no facilities in the Delta where a tanker from Alaska could be unloaded.

One service station operator in Inuvik using his own truck does buy gasoline at Haines, Alaska, for sale in Inuvik. His cost is about two cents per litre less than he could do from the local Esso bulk dealer in Inuvik. With the volumes purchased by Government Services from Norman Wells, gasoline is cheaper than product from Alaska.

The mandate of Government Services petroleum products division does not extend to the highway communities. Services are not provided in competition with the private sector. The government's price remains fairly stable due to purchases being made for an area once only each year. Service stations do not buy a year's supply so are subject to price fluctuations each time they fill their tanks.

##### Return To Question O417-91(1): Increase In Gasoline Prices, Baffin Region

I would also respond, while I am on my feet, sir, to a question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on April 10, 1991, regarding the increase in gasoline prices recently experienced in the Baffin Region. During the 1990-91 fiscal year the price of petroleum products in the Baffin Region was increased twice due to federal and territorial tax increases. The implementation of the goods and services tax and the corresponding removal of the federal sales tax resulted in an increase in gasoline prices of between two cents and four cents a litre across the Territories in communities served by petroleum products.

The territorial government also increased fuel taxes effective January 1, 1991, by 1.3 cents per litre on gasoline. The petroleum products division of the GNWT did not increase product prices due to the world oil price increases as the bulk of the inventory was purchased in the summer of 1990. Distributors in Yellowknife had to follow the world price as their stocks are purchased on an as needed basis.

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

##### Further Return To Question O402-91(1): Update On Work Done At Leo Ussak School, Rankin Inlet

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Ernerk on April 9, 1991, regarding the Leo Ussak Elementary School in Rankin Inlet. On March 7, 1991, I reported to the Members of the Legislative Assembly on the problems with the air quality and the corrective action being taken by the Department of Public Works, including some modifications to the building ventilation and heating systems. I am pleased to report that all of the planned modifications were completed on April 4. The work was done during the normal school break and this included the relocation of the fresh air intake for the classroom ventilation system to prevent chimney smoke from entering the school; increasing the supply of fresh air; and changes to the heating pipe system to prevent glycol odours from entering the school. This work, along with those changes completed in November, will ensure a high quality of air supply throughout the school. The Department of Public Works will continue to monitor the air quality on a regular basis to ensure standards are maintained. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS****Question O425-91(1): Six New Economic Development Officers**

**MR. ZOE:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the Minister's statement, Mr. Ballantyne's statement, I would like to ask him a question in regard to the six communities that will be allotted economic development officers. Could the Minister indicate to the House which six communities he is making reference to in his statement? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O425-91(1): Six New Economic Development Officers**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No decision has been made yet as to which six communities the money or the PYs will be provided to. The paper is presently before the Financial Management Board and will be meeting sometime in the next couple of weeks to make those decisions. As the Member can appreciate, there are a number of communities that have requested EDOs, so we are looking at that and looking at strategically where the best place to place them is, but no decision has been made yet.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O425-91(1): Six New Economic Development Officers**

**MR. ZOE:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister give us an indication as to how soon this decision will take place?

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

**Further Return To Question O425-91(1): Six New Economic Development Officers**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. I am advised by the Minister of Finance that there will be an attempt to hold an FMB meeting sometime within the next couple of weeks. It should be within the next couple of weeks and hopefully we will be able to go to competition and have those people in place within the next two to three months.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O425-91(1): Six New Economic Development Officers**

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Speaker, in light of the comments received by the Minister, could I request the Minister if he could inform the House as soon as the decision is made?

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

**Further Return To Question O425-91(1): Six New Economic Development Officers**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. If the decision is made before the end of this sitting, I most certainly will inform the House. If by that time we have adjourned, I will inform the Members by letter or phone and then I will make a formal statement in the House if we come back in early summer or late spring.

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

**Question O426-91(1): Funding For Six New Economic Development Officers**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Finance, a question on the number one item in his Ministers' statement today, six area economic development officers. Could the Minister of Finance inform me whether this is funding for contributions to hamlets for them to hire their own, or is it as the Minister of Economic Development just indicated, PYs for which he will go to competition? I can support the one but perhaps not the other.

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

**Return To Question O426-91(1): Funding For Six New Economic Development Officers**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will be a combination of the two, depending on the community; some communities, a contribution to the hamlet, in other communities it may be more appropriate to have a PY and somebody working for the government. So as appropriate, either one of those two approaches.

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

**Question O427-91(1): Political And Constitutional Development Commission For Denendeh**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development a question. I must commend the Minister for going to meet with the chiefs yesterday afternoon. At the meeting the Minister presented his proposal for a commission to deal with constitutional and political development in the West, in Denendeh. Has the Minister had a formal response from the Dene Nation; whether as a result of hearing the concerns of the chiefs yesterday he still feels that the commission is a good idea for Denendeh at this time?

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

**Return To Question O427-91(1): Political And Constitutional Development Commission For Denendeh**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, yesterday I went to meet with the chiefs at the leadership meeting. All the native people have been talking about forming self-government. I wanted to find out if they are still interested in forming their own self-government. After I had that meeting with them everybody agreed that they are still interested in forming self-government. They say they are going to benefit from that. That is another thing. But I have not heard from them yet as of this morning. The Delta people are working on their own land claims but we know that they are supporting us; the Sahtu region too. The Dogrib, Chipewyan, Deh Cho regions, these three regions are the ones that have not decided and we have not heard from them yet. Maybe today they might come up with a decision. But as of now we do not know what decision they are going to come up with. Thank you.

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

**Question O428-91(1): Victims Assistance Program**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. It is with regard to the victims assistance program. Right now the program provides for sort of a financial compensation to people that have been physically injured or have experienced some financial loss due to crimes that have been committed against them. With regard to this victims assistance program, is there anything with regard to people that have gone through an experience and are suffering from psychological effects of a crime that has been committed against them?

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

**Return To Question O428-91(1): Victims Assistance Program**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** There is not a specific program to deal with the Member's concern. I understand if somebody has been victimized, injured during some criminal activity, that would be taken into consideration in the sort of psychological trauma. It could be taken into consideration when they are deciding on some form of compensation. But there is not a specific program to deal with the matter that the Member has brought forward.

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

**Question O429-91(1): Reading Of Rights To Ms. Nowdluk**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you. Another question, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the lady I made a statement on, Ms. Nowdluk. Was this lady consulted with regard to her travel arrangements from the Crown attorney and was the lady informed of her rights and responsibilities as a witness, by the officers that actually arrested her?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. I would remind honourable Members that one should pose one question. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**Return To Question O429-91(1): Reading Of Rights To Ms. Nowdluk**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** The actual details of that I cannot give to the Member right off the top of my head. We have made a fair number of efforts in this particular case. I can see what information I can get for the Member. As I said, if the Member has some other questions -- I heard his statement from yesterday and I am prepared to make a statement in the House responding to some of the points the Member brought up in his Member's statement yesterday. I can do that next week.

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

**Question O430-91(1): Possibility Of Court Case Re Land Claims**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, another question for the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. Yesterday when the Minister was meeting with the chiefs, I believe a number of chiefs raised the question of a reference; legal question to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. To date I had thought that the public image of our government is that it was not willing to pose such a question to the Supreme Court. I take it from the Minister's response

yesterday, that the government indeed, was interested in looking into the possibility of formulating and posing such a question to the Supreme Court. Is this in fact true?

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

**Return To Question O430-91(1): Possibility Of Court Case Re Land Claims**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, the question of a court case arose last summer in the course of the Dene assembly here in Dettah. In the discussions I had indicated to the Dene leaders that if there was some way in which some court proceedings could be undertaken that would not jeopardize the claims negotiations or other groups, or possibly undermine the treaty rights of people, and if there was a good strategy that could be developed that would not offend any of the Dene, but would possibly lead to a strengthening of the Dene positions in the negotiations, that we would be very open to supporting it.

Following that assembly, as a Minister I waited for some contact with the Dene Nation. In short, the work that the Dene Nation executive has done on this question is almost minimal. Yesterday the national chief of the Dene Nation led the Dene chiefs to believe that the government has had in its possession a question that the Dene Nation has given us to refer to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. That, in fact, is not true. What has happened is that on the persistent prodding of our officials, the lawyers that have been assigned to this by the Dene Nation, have finally come up with a draft question which they wanted a number of people to look at for consideration; but the Dene Nation has yet to draft the question, or suggest a strategy which we can look at and respond to. At least eight months have passed and I would say that the amount of work that has been done on this question, which unfortunately a good number of chiefs have been waiting for, amounts to about a week or two of work at the most.

In fact, in my opinion, the Dene Nation has wasted about seven and a half months of time, and I understand that the position of many of the chiefs now is basically considering this course of action. As the national chief of the Dene Nation has said, most of the chiefs -- I think he said the majority of chiefs -- supported this motion last summer. My impression is that this is no longer true. There is no way we can suggest that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Delta support this. They tell us that they want nothing to do with it. The Sahtu chiefs and Metis leaders want nothing to do with this. There have been discussions recently with the Dogrib leaders and they have yet to decide officially whether they are going to reconsider or not.

Because it has taken so long to do so little work, I guess the circumstances have changed and the attitude of some of the people who were supporting this has changed. I would suggest that they have to get a more frank assessment of exactly what has been done on their behalf since last summer. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**Question O431-91(1): Ministerial Initiatives Re Land Claims In Deh Cho And Southern Parts Of NWT**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister, Mr. Kakfw, is aware that in our part of the North, the Deh Cho and the southern parts of the North, land claims have virtually come to a halt. I think as a government and as the Minister responsible for this area, he ought to be concerned, and I



think I did hear him say yesterday that as the Minister he would be prepared to begin a process of taking some initiative with the federal government to begin land claim negotiations with the people of Deh Cho and the southern part of the North. Is this the case, that the Minister can, in fact, and is willing to take some initiatives so that land claim negotiations can get on the road again in these parts of the North?

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

**Return To Question O431-91(1): Ministerial Initiatives Re Land Claims In Deh Cho And Southern Parts Of NWT**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I must say that I know what work can be done by political leaders that head organizations like the Dene Nation. I served for four years as president of the Dene Nation; based on my own personal experience with the job, I know that you have to have a work plan for any initiatives that your people direct you to do and you have to make some suggestions and work with other people to get the job done. It is my view that it has not been the case in the recent history of the Dene Nation.

My suggestion yesterday was simply that if the Dene Nation executive takes the direction seriously, that some of the Dene chiefs have major problems with elements of the federal policy on claims negotiations, on the certain positions that they take, then it is up to the executive of the Dene Nation to develop a strategy either by themselves to sell to people like myself to support, or to come to people like myself and ask for some help in developing some strategy so that they can carry out their work. Neither of these things has been done.

It is not my job as a Minister of Aboriginal Rights to take motions of the Dene Nation and act on them. I need the specific direction of the chiefs and the blessing of the executive to do this work. In fact, I cannot do the job of the executive of the Dene Nation. That was simply the point that I was trying to make yesterday.

Having said that, if some of the individual chiefs want to make some suggestions and want to meet to suggest some things to myself, as long as it does not offend the executive and nobody's feathers are ruffled, I would be anxious to sit down and see what could be done. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O431-91(1): Ministerial Initiatives Re Land Claims In Deh Cho And Southern Parts Of NWT**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister tends to put aside his responsibility occasionally. I think that if this government -- and the Minister is indeed the government of the people -- then I think he must take some responsibility, a greater responsibility than he admits at the moment on these matters. While I recognize that the Dene Nation are foremostly responsible, does the Minister not believe that this government, he and the Government Leader, with their influence, their contacts with the federal government, with the Minister, can play a significant part in getting the federal government to begin negotiations again with all of the regions of the North? It just seems to me that if this government was really concerned, really interested and really wanted to get land claim negotiations going again, it could by taking the major initiative. I am just wondering if the Minister is putting responsibilities aside and putting too much onus on other people and not enough on himself.

Can the Minister consider the idea of our government taking a major initiative and seeing if he can get negotiations going again with the federal government on behalf of some of the Dene people in the North?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Just prior to proceeding, I want to remind honourable Members, if you have supplementaries, that the preamble should be short. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**Further Return To Question O431-91(1): Ministerial Initiatives Re Land Claims In Deh Cho And Southern Parts Of NWT**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, one of the first rules all organizations have, rule number one, in the case of the Dene Nation, is that you do not do anything unless -- because it is the only rule by which you can survive as a political leader, as an elected leader. In this institution as well, I know that, unless everybody agrees with the things you are doing, you are basically dead meat, as it were.

I should point out to the Member that the Delta Tribal Council, as well as the Sahtu Tribal Council, have not indicated to us that they want any major initiatives taken on this at this time. Both groups have basically said, "If you are going to do anything, let us know. It would be better for you to do nothing than to get involved in negotiations."

I think it is still the prerogative of the treaty people, the Metis people, their leaders and their duly elected and mandated people, to make suggestions to us as a government on what we should be doing to support them. I indicated to the chiefs yesterday that I know some of the ideas I have had over the years, not all of them agree with those, and not all of them agree with the way I think we should go about taking care of business. It would basically be political suicide to say that I should go ahead and do whatever I want. First of all, they will not allow it; and secondly, nobody has asked me to do anything. Nobody has asked the Ministers to do anything. I think it is a bit foolish to be suggesting something like that. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O431-91(1): Ministerial Initiatives Re Land Claims In Deh Cho And Southern Parts Of NWT**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** I do not really know; is the Minister saying that I am foolish for suggesting that he take an initiative? Surely the Minister does not take the view that he gets direction or instructions only from the chiefs; otherwise what would be the role of us as MLAs? As an MLA, I represent an area where there are six or seven chiefs and where land claims have come to a halt, and I am concerned about that. I know the people want to get land claims going and they are seeking the help of our government, this big government that is supposed to be our government, and the Minister is saying...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order. Would you pose your question please? The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying that I am foolish for standing up here and trying to represent my constituents on this matter, saying that he ought to take some initiative on this matter?

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

**Further Return To Question O431-91(1): Ministerial Initiatives Re Land Claims In Deh Cho And Southern Parts Of NWT**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** It must be Friday, Mr. Speaker. I should reword that and say that I would be foolish to accept and follow such a suggestion. I operate from the position that only the chiefs can deal with treaty issues; only the chiefs and the Metis leaders can deal with the aboriginal issues with regard to claims and also with regard to their position on political and constitutional issues. They are mandated for that; they are the ones that are driving and making decisions on what to do with claim negotiations.

While I respect the fact that there is a real strong feeling in the Deh Cho region that something should be done, I am not sure that I am the one to be doing the doing here. I am saying that if the Deh Cho chiefs want to sit down, if the Metis leaders from the Deh Cho want to sit down and talk about what can be done in the present situation and to have some discussions on that, I made that offer yesterday. If there was an interest and a need to meet, and a desire to meet, then I would be very happy to receive such an invitation. Thank you.

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

**Question O432-91(1): Timing Of Skating Arena Construction, Chesterfield Inlet**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs regarding the Chesterfield Inlet skating rink. I wonder if the Minister can indicate to us when the skating arena is going to be built in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question O432-91(1): Timing Of Skating Arena Construction, Chesterfield Inlet**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, the scheduling of the program was changed after consultation with the mayor and hamlet councillors. The program as originally projected was to be two years. It was to have begun this year and to have concluded next year. Following discussions with the hamlet council, we agreed with them that it would be done all in one year, which would be within the next fiscal year, and that is the way the project has gone into the capital plan.

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

**Supplementary To Question O432-91(1): Timing of Skating Arena Construction, Chesterfield Inlet**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the foundation going to be prepared this summer? I wonder if the Minister knows, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question O432-91(1): Timing Of Skating Arena Construction, Chesterfield Inlet**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** My recollection, Mr. Speaker, is that the community would be doing that. If my recollection is incorrect, I will advise him separately; but yes, I do believe it is going ahead and I do believe that the community was

going to be providing that particular part of the project.

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

**MR. LEWIS:** I would like to ask this question to Mr. Wray when he is in his seat, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question O433-91(1): Status Of Economic Development Agreement**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism what the status is on the EDA agreement. I understand a framework agreement has now been concluded, but would he explain to me what is the next step, what is the next thing that has to be determined?

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

**Return To Question O433-91(1): Status Of Economic Development Agreement**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. After we signed the framework agreement, we embarked, over the last month, on a series of regional consultations with various groups, interest groups, business groups, in every region, on the agreement. The support we received was almost unanimous, with a couple of exceptions. Letters of support are now coming in. We will then take these regional consultations and letters of support, go back to the federal government, and say, "Okay, generally speaking this is what we want to do as a government. The position we have outlined is acceptable. Will you now agree to it?" If, in fact, the federal government does agree to it, then a series of subagreements will be signed for each sector. That is where we are right now. We have finished the consultations and that information has gone to Ottawa and now we wait for Ottawa.

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

**Supplementary To Question O433-91(1): Status Of Economic Development Agreement**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same Minister, when you agreed to undertake a process it is assumed that everybody knows what the rules are. The Minister has said that generally people have agreed, with some exceptions. Was there an expectation, when these regional consultations took place, that they would have to get the agreement of all areas before it could go to the federal government for signing?

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

**Further Return To Question O433-91(1): Status Of Economic Development Agreement**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** No, the indication was that there had to be general support, but it was understood that obviously in such a massive agreement there are going to be one or two points that people do not agree with. Nobody has disagreed with the concept; nobody has disagreed with the direction that we want to go. The disagreements have been mainly over the moneys allocated to various sectors. Some people feel that perhaps more money should be in one sector

and less in another; that is the nature of the disagreements. Our understanding was that DIAND essentially wanted to see that there was a general level of acceptance. Obviously the fall-out to that is that they did not believe what we were telling them. I made the case that much of this work flowed from the SCONE hearings in every community, from the regional economic conferences that were organized a few years ago by the Minister, and generally from all the stuff that has been coming in from the communities. That was not good enough for them. They said we had to go out and consult once again so that they were sure that is what people wanted. We have done that. The support is there, and now we will see what they do or say.

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

**Supplementary To Question O433-91(1): Status Of Economic Development Agreement**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since then, this process has been so clear and there is a clear understanding between both parties as to what has to be achieved. Why is it that the Minister has indicated publicly that this process may not be good enough and that there are other factors at work which might undermine this agreement?

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

**Further Return To Question O433-91(1): Status Of Economic Development Agreement**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. I did not indicate the process was not good enough. What I said publicly was that at a junior level in the Indian Affairs bureaucracy our approach is supported by the Northern Affairs side and generally by the senior people within the department. But within the Indian Affairs side, within the junior bureaucracy, I believe, based on the information I have been given -- I do not have tangible proof -- there is a serious attempt being made by some bureaucrats within Indian Affairs to undermine this process.

I will be quite frank here. Indian Affairs had promised, or want to undertake certain programs in the North with what we call CEDOs, community economic development organizations. These are organizations they have created. They have promised these CEDOs a certain amount of money. The problem is that Indian Affairs does not have any money. When the Treasury Board approved the \$40 million for the Economic Development Agreement, some people within the Indian Affairs bureaucracy saw this money as a pot of money that they could perhaps get to put into the programs that they had promised to people. They had promised support to these groups without having the money in their budget.

What I believe is happening now is that some of these people are trying to undermine the agreement so that they can take some of the money that was approved by the Treasury Board for this EDA over into the Indian Affairs side and fund some of the programs they do not have money for. That is what I believe to be happening.

I do not have tangible proof. I cannot produce documents. I cannot give you the dates of phone calls. But our intelligence system is pretty good. We know what is going on down there. We have had experience in dealing with these people, and I am reasonably certain that that is the basis of what is going on. I am still cautious or optimistic because it is being done at a very junior level within the Indian Affairs side of the bureaucracy. I do not believe it is supported by the Minister or the senior bureaucracy and I do not believe it is supported by the northern side. So I will wait and see what

happens, but that is what I believe is happening.

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

**Supplementary To Question O433-91(1): Status Of Economic Development Agreement**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So that I can get some feel, then, about the level of support throughout the area in which these regional consultations have taken place, without going into great detail, could the Minister indicate where, specifically, there have been some problems with getting this kind of support in the regions for this approach to the EDA?

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

**Further Return To Question O433-91(1): Status Of Economic Development Agreement**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** I do not have all the minutes of the meetings. You must understand that consultations took place in eight or nine centres, with close to 200 to 300 people, along with territorial organizations. I know that there were some problems in the Kitikmeot. But those, again, were problems between staff members of various organizations. It was not a problem with the leadership. I met with the leadership yesterday, for example. Mr. Pedersen tabled a letter of support from the leadership but, again, it was a problem at staff levels; turf protection between various staff members and, quite frankly, once again, Indian Affairs was involved. Certain phone calls were made and certain people were told they should take a position. We know that faxes were sent out, although I cannot get a copy of one, but it was seen under the phone number on the fax and was traced back to Indian Affairs in Ottawa. So we know they have been stirring the pot.

The problem has not been with the philosophy of the EDA, not with the projects, but that some people feel there is too much money in one pot and not enough in another. We knew that was going to happen. I do not have any more than that in terms of specifics because obviously, in these meetings, when you have 20 or 30 people, you have one individual that may have a point of view and you have 27 others that do not. So it is very difficult to say specifically. But I would say the most serious problem was in the Kitikmeot but it had nothing to do with the leadership. It had nothing to do with disagreements between myself and the other MLAs or the leadership in that region. It was merely staff members that were disagreeing. That was where the problems came from.

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

**Question O434-91(1): Decentralization Of Positions In Natilikmiot**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism. During the decentralization of positions within the Natilikmiot some years ago, Pelly Bay did not receive any person years from Cambridge Bay. I wonder if the Minister responsible would seriously look at decentralizing the position of Natilikmiot regional superintendent of Economic Development to Spence Bay and the position of economic development officer from Spence Bay to Pelly Bay in the near future. Thank you.

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

Kivallivik.

**Return To Question O434-91(1): Decentralization Of Positions In Natilikmiot**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** I would like to say yes, Mr. Speaker, but unfortunately I am going to say no at this time. I do not believe a fundamental change like that should be engineered at this late stage in this government's mandate or in this Legislature's mandate. I have received a request from Spence Bay. They make a good case for doing that. We know what the region would like. I have indicated to my officials that in the new government in the new year it should be discussed with the new Minister of Economic Development and discussed with the regional groups such as the regional council and regional Inuit association. I will not make that kind of change so late in my mandate. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O434-91(1): Decentralization Of Positions In Natilikmiot**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Assuming the honourable Minister is re-elected to the position, would he make a commitment?

---Laughter

**Supplementary To Question O434-91(1): Decentralization Of Positions In Natilikmiot, Ruled Out Of Order**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is out of order. You cannot make a commitment on the part of the next government. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

**Question O435-91(1): Status Of Retrofit Work On Williams Avenue And Bigelow Crescent Buildings**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I did not respond the last time you acknowledged me was the Minister in question was not in her chair. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, in the last week or two there have been a lot of concerns expressed by local contractors and suppliers here in Yellowknife concerning compliance by southern contractors to work being performed for the Housing Corporation and Public Works of this government. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation if he could advise me as to whether or not the retrofit work that is being conducted on Williams Avenue and Bigelow Crescent buildings belonging to the Housing Corporation have, in fact, been completed.

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

**Return To Question O435-91(1): Status Of Retrofit Work On Williams Avenue And Bigelow Crescent Buildings**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, the Member has been tracking this project for a number of weeks and months now. The company had difficulty in meeting its commitments and, in fact, has requested an extension on two occasions. The last information I have with regard to the Bigelow project was that the work at the present time, with the exception of seasonal deficiencies, was completed by the company by March 15. That is much later than they had originally agreed to. What those seasonal deficiencies might be, I am not exactly sure. I could find out and provide the detail. The bulk of the work has been completed, but it has not been totally concluded.

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

**Supplementary To Question O435-91(1): Status Of Retrofit Work On Williams Avenue And Bigelow Crescent Buildings**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister can advise me if this same company is also behind in other contracts with his department or with this government that he is aware of.

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

**Further Return To Question O435-91(1): Status Of Retrofit Work On Williams Avenue And Bigelow Crescent Buildings**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes it is, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question O436-91(1): Mussel Survey In Rankin Inlet Harbour**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am directing my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources, if he can hear me -- thank you, Mr. Speaker. Someone indicated to me that Fisheries and Oceans had conducted a survey in regard to mussels in Rankin Inlet harbour. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister of Renewable Resources know anything about this survey that was being done in Rankin? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O436-91(1): Mussel Survey In Rankin Inlet Harbour**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not been informed as to who conducted the survey. When I do find out, I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

**Question O437-91(1): Establishment Of Hospital In Keewatin Region**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of the resolution by the Keewatin Regional Health Board dated January 30, 1991. In part, the resolution states, Mr. Speaker, that whereas the current THIS, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, five-year capital plan contains expenditures for the establishment of a hospital presently referred to as the Keewatin nursing home, Mr. Speaker, it also states, to change the name from "nursing home" to "hospital", to actually reflect the wishes of the Keewatin people in the five-year plan. End of the resolution. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Health is, does this mean that we will soon see the establishment of a regional hospital in the Keewatin Region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question O437-91(1): Establishment Of Hospital In Keewatin Region**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, a name is a name is a name. The fact that we have responded to call a

health centre a hospital, because of the request from the Keewatin, does not indicate that there has been any upgrading or bringing forward of a hospital facility in the Keewatin at this time.

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

**Supplementary To Question O437-91 (1): Establishment Of Hospital In Keewatin Region**

**MR. ERNERK:** Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Are we ever going to see a regional hospital in the Keewatin Region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question O437-91 (1): Establishment Of Hospital In Keewatin Region**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the future, but I would like to suggest to the honourable Member that the discussion on what type of facility would best serve the Keewatin, these discussions and details of how the regions want to have their medical services delivered to them, are ongoing. I would suppose not in the lifetime of this Assembly or in the near future, but we should be coming to some realization on exactly what type of facility best serves that population, taking into consideration the fact that we still have to evaluate what would happen to the use of the Churchill centre and the Winnipeg centre. I know that the Keewatin Regional Health Board is working towards looking at a facility and they have not made up their minds what would best serve that community interest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question O438-91(1): Application Of Federal Cultural Industries Development Fund**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Speaker, in January the federal government announced a \$33 million cultural industries development fund and that applications would have to be made to it by April 1. This is a program jointly sponsored by the federal Department of Communications and FBDB, Federal Business Development Bank. My question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism is, since this fund is now available to people who at the beginning would be involved in publishing, in sound recording and in the film industry, does the availability of this fund mean that it could have some way of assisting the Northwest Territories government in meeting the objectives of its own economic development strategy as it relates to cultural industries?

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** I am not aware if we are taking advantage of that funding, but knowing the creativity of some of the people who work for us, like George Tuccaro, I am sure that if we can tap that funding to assist us in our own cultural industries strategy, then we most certainly will be undertaking to try and acquire funds out of it. As to specifics, I guess I will have to take it under notice, Mr. Speaker, because I just do not know the specifics, if we have got money out or if we are going to get money from it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is

taking the question as notice. Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

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

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 86-91(1); pursuant to subsection 12(2) of the Statute Revision Act and subsection 3(1) of the Adoption of the French Version of Statutes and Statutory Instruments Act, I wish to table the Revised Statutes of the Northwest Territories, 1988.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table Tabled Document 87-91(1), Formula Finance Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motions. Notices of motions. Item 13, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, April 15, I will move the following motion: Whereas the statute...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The honourable Member, we have gone by notices of motions. We are now in notices of motions for first reading of bills. Does the honourable Member wish to return to the appropriate item?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you. Sorry, I am a little bit slow this morning. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 12, notices of motions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 12, notices of motions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

**ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**Notice Of Motion 11-91(1): Adoption Of Formula Financing Agreement**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, April 15, 1991, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that the Legislative Assembly hereby approves Tabled Document 87-91(1), titled Formula Financing Agreement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Notices of motions.

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

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 3: Liquor Act

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide that plebiscites held under the Liquor Act will be conducted by secret ballot; and to provide that 20 per cent of the qualified voters of a community may petition the Minister to determine whether the hours of operation of licensed premises ought to be restricted. 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. I do not recognize a quorum. Mr. Clerk, would you ring the bell, please? 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 3 has had second reading and is referred to committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

##### Second Reading Of Bill 32: Corrections Act

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Corrections Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to amend the Corrections Act to remove all reference to the position of superintendent of corrections; and to allow the Minister to delegate authority to investigate matters in the corrections service or any correctional centre. 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 32 has had second reading and is referred to committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

##### Second Reading Of Bill 25: Marriage Act

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Marriage Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Marriage Act to make valid a marriage that is

performed according to the rites, usages and customs of a religious body, where the religious body does not have registered clergymen who solemnize a marriage; to transfer the administration of the act to the Minister; and to make a consequential amendment to the Vital Statistics Act. 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 25 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); Bills 4, 5 and 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 3, 8, 9, 10, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 32.

I do not notice any of the chairpersons in the House at the moment. We require the House to appoint an interim chairman to take on the responsibility. The Chair appoints Mr. Ernerk.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Members of the committee. Yesterday, we concluded Government Services. I wonder if the Government House Leader could tell us what the wish of the government is. Mr. Government House Leader.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government would be prepared to proceed with the Public Utilities Board, the Department of Finance, the Department of Economic Development -- I think part of it was deferred -- and then the Department of Executive.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. We will take a 15 minute recess.

--SHORT RECESS

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

##### Public Utilities Board

The committee will come back to order. We are on the Public Utilities Board. Mr. Minister, do you wish to make your opening remarks?

##### Minister's Opening Remarks

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Public Utilities Board is a regulatory agency authorized under the act which regulates electrical and gas utilities in the Northwest Territories.

The 1990-91 increase of \$300,000 reflected an increase to the Public Utilities Board for additional funding for the now

completed NWT rate structure review. An estimated \$115,000 is recoverable from the participating utilities from a total review cost of \$230,000. The 1991-92 budget reflects removal of this one-time O and M funding.

Both the Public Utilities Board and the Highway Transport Board are full regulatory boards authorized and mandated under law. My colleague, the Hon. Gordon Wray, having already outlined to you the specific budget review of the Highway Transport Board, I will therefore only be reviewing with you substantiation on behalf of the Public Utilities Board.

Mr. Chairman, the Public Utilities Board, being a regulatory agency, is faced with ongoing O and M costs. These costs are reflected in the 1991-92 budget and the categories are: hearing costs; expenses and training of the counsel assigned to the board; court costs as assigned by the Supreme Court; and adequate funding to recognize an ongoing training program for the board members and staff.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do you wish to invite witnesses?

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I can handle it here. If there is a need for any specific technical questions, I can ask the witness in, but I could try it from here for now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments on the Public Utilities Board. Are there any general comments? We are on page 2.18. Does the committee agree that we get into the detail of the Public Utilities Board? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Highway Transport/Public Utilities Board, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Total O and M for both the Highway Transport and Public Utilities Board, \$663,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Highway Transport/Public Utilities Board is concluded? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**Department Of Finance**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Next we go to the Department of Finance. Mr. Minister, are you ready with your opening remarks?

**Minister's Opening Remarks**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 1991-92 budget of the Department of Finance contains only limited forced growth funding, with no new initiatives being proposed. The budget will provide the resources essential for the department to meet its legislative responsibility for financial management and control in

government, for fiscal policy initiatives, for support to the Financial Management Board, and for its role in providing financial services to government departments and agencies.

One year ago the changes to the structure of the formula financing agreement were determined. It has taken a year of intensive effort to complete negotiations on its detailed terms. The agreement has recently been finalized. Both the federal Minister of Finance and I have signed this agreement, and I tabled the agreement today in the House. This agreement will provide our government with certainty on future funding and will provide protection from the types of cutbacks that have recently been instituted by the federal government.

The department's service responsibility to all departments and to many boards and agencies continues to be of high priority. During the upcoming year the procedures and computer systems that support the financial operation of the government will be extensively reviewed to ensure the processing of financial transactions is efficient and meets the needs of government.

The government's revenue strategy will continue to be a key priority. Our tax rates will remain competitive with other Canadian jurisdictions. The balanced fiscal planning in the proposed budget is reflective of the needs and conditions of the North and will be supportive of economic development.

Mr. Chairman, the department's budget reflects forced growth increases in salaries and in fees charged for insurance and banking. These increases are more than offset by decreases resulting from lower payments of interest on the bonds issued to purchase the Northern Canada Power Commission. In total, the department's budget is proposed to decrease by \$288,000 from the revised budget of 1990-91, with no change in person years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the standing committee on finance have any opening remarks to make? The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance has two recommendations to make, one of them relating to computer strategy, Mr. Chairman, and the other one on the goods and services tax. On the computer strategy, Mr. Chairman, the department had as an objective in the 1990-91 budget the development of a strategy for handling electronic data processing, EPD, policy matters within the GNWT. The committee is concerned that this has not been completed and it has now been dropped as an objective by the government. The standing committee on finance feels that information technology is a critical resource of modern management and we wonder why this has been dropped.

**Motion That Department Of Finance Re-Establish Development Of Information Technology Strategy, Carried**

If I may, I would like to move the following motion: I move that the committee recommends the Department of Finance re-establishes its objective to develop an information technology, IT or EDP, strategy, for the government and complete it as soon as possible.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** (Translation) Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? (Translation ends) We have no quorum. Mr. Clerk, would you ring the bell, please? The Chair recognizes a quorum. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

--Carried

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Finance has indicated that the federal government is pressuring for an agreement on the goods and services tax which does not exempt the NWT Housing Corporation and other GNWT-funded boards and agencies at the moment. The committee is supportive of the government's position to gain exemptions for the corporation and other GNWT-funded boards and agencies. Further, the committee wishes that the government would lobby the federal government to distribute GST information in the native languages and arrange to have federal officials visit the communities to explain the goods and services tax and its implementation. A second issue relating to this, Mr. Chairman is that the committee is concerned that aboriginal people in the NWT may not be aware of their entitlements and responsibilities under the federal Income Tax Act. The Minister indicated that he would look into what could be done to help explain their rights.

**Motion That Department Of Finance Ask Federal Government To Advise Aboriginal People Re Goods And Services Tax, Carried**

On the recommendation of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Chairman: I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Finance make every effort to have the federal government advise aboriginal people of their rights, responsibilities, and entitlements under the federal Income Tax Act, especially with respect to the goods and services tax. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr Lewis. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

--Carried

Mr. Minister, do you wish to invite witnesses for this?

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Yes, with the committee's permission, I would like to bring witnesses into the House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Does the committee agree that we invite in witnesses? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the House. Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister, (Translation) please introduce your witnesses.

**HON. Michael Ballantyne:** I have Eric Nielsen, the deputy minister of Finance, and Jim Nelson, comptroller general of our government. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Are there any general comments? There are no general comments. Does the committee agree that we go into detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** We are on page 4.8, for the committee's information. Total O and M, \$1,824,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**Revenue And Asset Management, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Revenue and asset management, total O and M, \$2,329,000. Any comments? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**Government Accounting, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Page 4.10, government accounting, total O and M, \$8,589,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**Fiscal Policy, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Page 4.11, fiscal policy, total O and M, \$730,000. Any comments? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**Debt Financing, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Page 4.12, debt financing, total O and M, \$4,256,000. Agreed? Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:** Mr. Chairman, I have always been led to believe that there is a surplus in our funding. How can we have debts if there is a surplus of that amount that would cost us four million dollars?

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

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** This was the financing arrangement for the Power Corporation, so there is not a cost to us.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Debt financing, total O and M, \$4,256,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**Tax Administration, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Tax administration, total O and M, \$504,000. Any comments? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.



--Agreed

**Management Accounting Services, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Page 4.14, management accounting services, total O and M, \$1,432,000. Any comments? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**Financial Management Board Secretariat, Total O And M**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Page 4.15, financial management board secretariat, total O and M. Mr. McLaughlin.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this page, I would like to talk a little more about the Financial Management Agreement and whether or not it is followed. When the public accounts committee did its review recently, we pursued this area; and I was wondering if the Minister or his officials would like to make any comments in the area that the debate took place then, specifically, the fact that we have supplementary estimates coming in, sometimes in the fall of the year, related to a previous year's expenditure even though the reality of the situation is we know that we are going to be overexpending; and the practical application of the Financial Administration Act would mean that in actual fact we are breaking our own laws. Suggestions were made that perhaps in areas where there are other statutory programs which are also driven by laws, some sort of exemptions could be made so that when, for example, the Financial Assistance Act in Social Services requires money, they could be exempted and overexpenditure could occur. What is actually happening is that we are in a situation where some official at some level, or the Financial Management Board itself, knows that we are actually doing an overexpenditure or that we are going to be doing an overexpenditure, so that the essence of the Financial Administration Act is thwarted by that; because the actual practicality of it is we do not want to stop the government; we do not want the whole system to break down. But there has to be a change in the Financial Administration Act so that no officials are put in the place of breaking the law. I would like to see if you have any comments you would like to make, or if you have done any thinking on this since the public accounts committee met with you last.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Minister, do you wish to respond?

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Certainly. I think earlier in the budget we had some discussion on this. The problem we are facing, and we have been having meetings with the Auditor General to find a solution to the problem, is more a technical problem than anything else. Generally, our systems in place are very good and, in fact, our systems have been applauded by the Auditor General. There are two things or ways this can be approached. We have not decided yet which is the most appropriate approach. We are looking at ways of tightening up the system itself so that it is more difficult for these things to happen, or to change the law itself, the Financial Administration Act, so that a department can have an overexpenditure in an activity or task and would only be reported if it is at a departmental level. We are looking at both these things and we are having some pretty constructive meetings with the Auditor General. We are on top of it. We do not really think it was a serious problem. The Auditor General did not think it was a serious problem. We acknowledge that there was a problem and we are working very closely with the Auditor General's staff right now to come up with a solution to it.

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

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** I think the one main principle at stake is that if this practice is allowed to continue, and I know the Financial Management Board is not trying to beat the system, but practicality in actual fact is causing them to do that. Unless this is cleaned up, in a way it has to look at two situations. It has to cover the fact that the Members of the Legislative Assembly approve the budget and no expenditures are to take place that are not approved. In actual fact they are, so that in essence we could be thwarted. Why bother having the Assembly meet to pass the budget if in actual fact, in practicality, departments are spending money that we do not authorize?

Even though we are not talking about a large amount of money and we are not talking about matters where any kind of deceit or anything is going on, the problem is that the whole principle of having the Assembly pass the budget does not mean anything if, six months after the fiscal year, the government comes in with a supplementary estimate and we give retroactive approval to money they have already spent.

That is basically the principle that is wrong; and then on a technical aspect, I would say that because somebody is actually breaking the Financial Administration Act, is there an individual person in the government that makes that decision, or does the board make that decision itself, to ignore the act? I would say we are open to situations where somebody, just for the heck of it -- some sort of a scurrilous activity -- could actually lay a charge or report to the RCMP that the law has been broken. What would we do?

I think those are the two matters that have to be rectified. One is the principle. It does not make sense to have the Assembly retroactively approving expenditures. If that is the case, there is no point approving them in the first place. In the second part of it, I think in fact if you are bending or breaking your own law, then you have either to enforce the law or change it. I think in this case it makes practical sense to make some changes that are not going to leave us open to criticism. Basically the whole government is ignoring one of its own laws.

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

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** I think we understand the issue. We are on top of the issue. I would say the principles that the Member is talking about are important principles. As I said, we are in the process now of looking at ways to deal with it, but it is more of a technical thing than anything else. We acknowledge that, especially if the sums got much larger -- and our sums are still quite small -- that it is an emerging problem, a problem that the public accounts committee brought to our attention, a problem that we take seriously. We will be coming back to this Assembly with solutions to that problem.

**Financial Management Board Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further comments on Financial Management Board Secretariat? Total O and M, \$1,456,000. Do I hear agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Next page, details of grants and contributions. Total contributions, \$3,000,000.

Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Total grants and contributions, \$3,000,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Next page, 4.17, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, Arctic College, total Arctic College, \$32,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Total O And M, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Total department, \$32,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. There is nothing else. There is no capital. Does the committee agree that this department is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. By agreement we will go on to Department of Economic Development and Tourism, page 17.17. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and I thank you, witnesses.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** We are dealing with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. There was a motion to defer this department to deal with the community works program, the STEP program. Under details of grants and contributions, does -- when we dealt with the department there was a motion to defer on contributions. Total contributions, \$6,108,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total grants and contributions, \$6,628,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Total O And M

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Page 17.19 is information. Program summary, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$28,304,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I could ask a couple of questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism; something that I might have missed during the debate, during the discussion of the department's budget. I should like to pose that question to you first. Mr. Chairman, may I please?

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, sir. One of the things that I should like to indicate to the Minister, and it is coming soon again, is in the area of fisheries. I am not sure as to how much work has been done to do a fisheries test -- not to do a fisheries test but to do some counting of fish, in particular arctic char, in my own riding, in places like Chesterfield Inlet, Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour. I happen to believe that, especially during these hard times, we must begin to think of economic development, to be able to provide employment opportunities to people as much as possible. Included, of course, is the important aspect of the tourism industry, and we have many, many young people who are willing to do many, many things, who are willing to work, who are willing to be trained and willing to make money in our communities. I should also like to indicate that I know the Department of Economic Development has tried many, many ventures and many, many different kinds of opportunities to try to meet the high unemployment in our communities.

I guess I have a two-part question to the Minister. While I agree that the establishment of fishing plants has been undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories, particularly by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, I am wondering if the department has undertaken, or is planning to undertake, the processing of caribou meat or red meat with this particular venture. Am I understood, Mr. Chairperson? Thank you.

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. Unfortunately, I do not have my officials here so I cannot answer the specifics. In general, however, it is the intention of the department to begin implementing, for example, the Keewatin fisheries development strategy. That was work that was done in conjunction with the Keewatin Wildlife Federation over the last two or three years. We do have money within this budget and there are initiatives in the proposed EDA that would begin to implement that Keewatin fisheries strategy. I believe there is an untapped resource there. The problem is that we just, to a certain extent, do not know what is out there. We want to start doing a test fishery off Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay out on the coast because, from odds and ends, we have found crab, we have some indications of shrimp and cod, but we do not know if there is a lot there or a little bit. We just do not know. Particularly under the EDA, I have been trying very hard to find money to do the test fishery necessary to prove whether or not there are commercial possibilities.

I think also in the Keewatin we have severely neglected the inland fishery. There are very large stocks of whitefish and trout inland in the Keewatin, and if, in fact, over the next two or three years we see perhaps a winter road going south into Winnipeg, where all freshwater fish ends up anyway, then maybe that is just another incentive to get that fishery started, and they can complement each other. One of the problems we have had with a fishery in the Keewatin has been the very high cost of transporting the fish out. If there were, as I say, a winter road, then it would make it a lot easier. I would like to, over the next two or three years, devote a fair amount of resources in conjunction with organizations such as hunters

and trappers groups, the Keewatin Wildlife Federation and the Inuit associations, and start working seriously on the fishery.

#### Processing Of Red Meat

With regard to red meat, there are commercial quotas available in the Keewatin. They have not been utilized extensively, and as you know there are some problems with the Beverly-Kaminuriak Board of Management, who are nervous about commercial utilization. I believe much of that concern comes from the Dene from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, who are worried about that. There have been some small experiments with the processing of red meat, and I believe that these will continue and, hopefully, in conjunction with Renewable Resources and, again, the hunters and trappers organizations in the regions, we will develop that potential. I wish I could be a little bit more specific, but all I can tell you is that, yes, it is certainly our intention to move in that area, in conjunction with the communities.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should like to thank the Minister for that answer, because I have been aware for a number of years now that a certain amount of commercial fishing has been undertaken by different communities in my own constituency. One of the things that I have also noticed is that a number of years ago there was a lot of discussion about the inland fishery, which is something that the Minister mentioned, Mr. Chairman. I am also aware that society has not paid as much attention to the inland fishery as they should.

While I am satisfied with the Minister's answer, I should also like to indicate to the Minister that there has to be more testing of the many lakes that we have in our region, because there has to be many more areas in both the inland lakes and the offshore where there has to be an identification of the arctic char population. I am aware that the Committee Bay region has a lot of arctic char. I am also aware that Wager Bay has a lot of arctic char, and it is a beautiful arctic char. Many of the lakes and areas between Chesterfield Inlet and Wager Bay, where the people of Chesterfield Inlet go to fish, have a lot of arctic char. Of course, as the Minister mentioned, and I agree, there is a lot of inland fish such as whitefish. I guess I am asking the Minister and his department to take a look at certain areas in that region in terms of identifying where there is the most abundance of fish, and take this fish resource that we have, in commercial fishing, so that we provide a few more employment opportunities for the people we represent in our communities. Thank you.

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

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I guess you know that the communities that I represent, Pelly Bay, Spence Bay and Gjoa Haven, have made some requests, not directly to the Minister but maybe to your department and to myself when I travel to that riding, to have an access road either for the vehicles or all-terrain vehicles to the potential areas. This road would facilitate tourism, hunting and recreation, and I know that Gjoa Haven is in the process of making a proposal to construct a road to the area where the Franklin Expedition is believed to have entered. It was unfortunate that you were not able to visit the Natilikmiot constituency during the spring. I wonder if you have received any request from the community of Gjoa Haven to build a road, which I believe is to be about 30 miles? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, I do not have my Transportation budget books here. I thought during the Department of Transportation budget I did mention that we are going to be building a road in that region. I just cannot remember where it was. I really have to get back to the Member on that question because I do not have my Transportation budget books with me.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Just to remind the Members, the Minister is without his witness. If you are asking for details, it is pretty difficult to respond. I just want to remind the Members of that. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:** To make a point, the reason I brought this up is that the project is linked with Economic Development and Tourism. Thank you.

#### Total O And M, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Program summary. Operation and maintenance, total O and M, \$28,304,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** When we were dealing with details of capital for Economic Development and Tourism, we deferred business development. Can we go ahead with it now?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Business Development, Contributions, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$10,000,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Business Development, Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total contributions, \$10,000,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total activity, \$10,000,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Let us go back to program summary, page 17.9. Total capital expenditure, \$14,798,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Does the committee agree that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is now concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

#### Department Of Executive

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, very much. Can we go back to page 2.19, details of grants and contributions for the Executive Council Secretariat in your O and M books? This department was deferred by motion until all the other departments were dealt with. All the other departments have been dealt with now, so does the committee agree we proceed with the details of grants and contributions for the Executive Council Secretariat?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Executive Council Secretariat, total grants, \$499,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Executive Council Secretariat, total contributions, \$2,986,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Executive Council Secretariat, total grants and contributions, \$3,485,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

#### Total O And M, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Now to go back to page 2.7, program summary. Total O and M, \$18,245,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Does the committee agree that the Department of Executive is now concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Can we go to Bill 7 now, please? Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are still several recommendations from the standing committee on finance report which we have not dealt with. We worked very hard this year, so we would like a chance to make these 12 more recommendations before we conclude Bill 7, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** There is a request to deal with more recommendations from the standing committee on

finance. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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

#### Recommendations From The Standing Committee On Finance

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first issue relates to capital allocation. Over the past four years the standing committee on finance has monitored the allocation of capital by community and expressed its concerns during committee meetings with the government. These concerns include insufficient consultation with MLAs on capital plans for their constituencies and an apparent inequity in the allocation of capital dollars. I will not go into all the details, but the report does outline where the capital dollars are allocated. I would like to proceed with the motions, Mr. Chairman.

#### Motion To Accept Recommendation 1, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the government review and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on methods for improving the capital planning and allocation process to ensure capital expenditures are efficient, effective, economic and equitable. That is the motion.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Lewis, go ahead.

**MR. LEWIS:** The second motion, Mr. Chairman, relates to housing programs. The committee found that while it has been generally acknowledged over the past four years that housing is one of the most important priorities of the Legislative Assembly, the gap between demand and supply of public housing has not improved. Further, the government has not presented a 10-year plan to the Assembly, as recommended in the comprehensive audit of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, so as to emphasize how it intends to deal simultaneously with the housing affordability and supply problems. It is the committee's belief that immediate, innovative leadership is required to solve these housing problems. The government needs an aggressive goal to focus its efforts to achieve a significant reduction in the public housing deficit and hence improve the quality of life for those many families in need.

#### Motion To Accept Recommendation 2, Carried

I move, the committee recommends that the government develop a 10-year plan for presentation to the 12th Legislative Assembly which significantly increases the number of new housing units coming on stream annually; and further, that to achieve this aggressive goal, the government should initiate strong political leadership and innovative new approaches to dealing with housing such as consolidating housing programs of all types, for example, staff housing, student and nurses residences and other accommodation, under the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. That is the motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Your

motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

--Carried

Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next motion is to do with person year reductions. Mr. Chairman, the government has not reduced person years by 2.5 per cent in 1990-91, not to mention the further 2.5 per cent in the 1991-92 estimates, as recommended by Legislative Assembly motions in the past. The purpose of the motion I am about to make is to control expenditures, encourage productivity improvement and free up resources for reallocation to priority areas. The government has indicated that they have effectively stopped person year growth over four years. In December the committee requested a comprehensive person year summary of all departments, boards and agencies funded by the territorial budget, but we have not received it to date to verify government growth levels.

#### **Motion To Accept Recommendation 3, Carried**

My motion, Mr. Chairman: I move the committee recommends that the government control its expenditures by reducing total person years in departments, boards and agencies by five per cent within the next two years. That is the motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

--Carried

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next motion relates to contribution agreements. Mr. Chairman, over one third of the government's expenditures, that is, \$349,660,743 for the year ended March 31, 1990 are made through contributions to third parties. Currently there are no formal mechanisms to ensure that the use of these funds adheres to government policies such as northern preference, affirmative action and so on. The committee feels strongly that the agencies that receive a significant amount of government funding should comply with government policies in the use of those funds.

#### **Motion To Accept Recommendation 5, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, my motion reads as follows: I move the committee recommends that all contribution agreements entered into between the Government of the Northwest Territories and boards and agencies contain the condition that they shall comply with pertinent territorial policies; that is, policies of the Northwest Territories government. That is my motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Your motion is in order.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Question has been called. All

those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

--Carried

Continue, Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next motion refers to the northern preference policy of our government. On April 11, 1990 the Legislative Assembly approved a motion to direct the Executive Council to prepare a draft policy which would permit only companies resident in the Northwest Territories and who meet the government's business incentive policies to tender on all NWT government contracts. After seven months of study, the government has presented a 38-page discussion paper to the committee, including 13 discussion items. Notably, the statement that the government would permit only qualified companies resident in the NWT to tender on all GNWT contracts is not a discussion item. The committee is concerned that the government's response is excessively complicated and may miss the simple objective that was specified by the standing committee on finance. To be clear, the GNWT goal should be to implement a policy which will significantly reduce the \$60,511,498, in other words, 31 per cent of all purchases currently leaking out of the NWT through direct southern purchases, and require contribution recipients to do likewise.

#### **Motion To Accept Recommendation 6, Carried**

With that background, Mr. Chairman, my motion reads as follows: I move that the committee recommends that the government implement the policy direction given to it by the Legislative Assembly which will permit only companies resident in the Northwest Territories and who meet the government's business incentive policies to tender on all GNWT contracts. It further recommends that this policy be implemented no later -- it is a bit late now -- than April 1, 1991; and further recommends that the government keep it simple, practical and not refer to it as absolute preference. That is my motion, Mr. Chairman.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

--Carried

Thank you. Mr. Lewis, continue.

**MR. LEWIS:** The next motion, Mr. Chairman refers to what is known as the management for results system. I will not go into the preamble, Mr. Chairman. I will just state the motion.

#### **Motion To Accept Recommendation 7, Carried**

I move that the committee recommends that the government integrate the management for results system with the main estimates process through the publishing of actual indicators of accomplishment and targets for key results areas in the 1992-93 main estimates; and further, that the government engage the necessary expertise to evaluate the reasons why these management for results factors have not yet been successfully implemented, and take the necessary corrective action. That is my motion.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Go ahead, Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next motion, Mr. Chairman refers to various information deficiencies. I will give you some background. The committee was concerned with information deficiencies contained in the standing committee on finance capital and the O and M documents presented by the government and with non-specific, late and/or no responses to the committee questions and requests for information provided by departments. These information deficiencies included lack of disclosure of the dollar value and explanation of significant changes in the comments column of the O and M document and the following capital book deficiencies. Here are some examples: poor cost estimates; not up-to-date for recent changes -- example, the student hostels in Pond Inlet and Iqaluit; lack of continuity from the prior year's standing committee on finance book; lack of disclosure of capital carry-overs; lack of planning for future years; and inconsistency of treatment between such items as capital contributions, retrofits and capital leases versus O and M.

**Motion To Accept Recommendation 8, Carried**

Because of this inadequate information in the book, Mr. Chairman, I move the following motion: I move the committee recommends that noted information deficiencies be corrected for the next standing committee on finance review and that departments be prepared to provide relevant and timely responses to committee questions. That is my motion.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next recommendation refers to consistency in education. Since the 1989-90 budget review, the committee has recommended that addressing the problems of consistency in the level and quality of education should be a major priority of the Department of Education until the situation improves as reflected in measuring devices such as the grades six and nine standardized testing.

**Motion That Consistency In Level And Quality Of Education Be Major Priority Of Department Of Education, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move the following motion: I move, the committee, for the third year again, recommends that addressing the problems of consistency in the level and quality of education be a major priority of the Department of Education until the situation improves, as reflected in measuring devices such as the grade six and grade nine standardized testing. That is my motion.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next motion relates to the allocation of public housing units. Since the 1989-90 budget review, the committee has recommended that the NWT Housing Corporation should undertake a complete review of the public housing unit allocation process.

**Motion That NWT Housing Corporation Review Public Housing Unit Allocation Process, Carried**

My motion reads as follows, Mr. Chairman: I move, the committee for the third year again recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation complete a review of the public housing unit allocation process and the needs study process on the basis of extensive public consultation; and further, that the corporation employ suitable expertise to complete this review on a timely basis with a view to rapid implementation. That is my motion.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next one is a general motion as it relates to some kind of government-wide evaluation system, Mr. Chairman.

**Motion That All Government Programs Be Evaluated Within Five-Year Cycle, Carried**

My motion reads as follows: I move, the committee recommends that the government implement, as part of the management for results system, a process that ensures all government programs are evaluated within a five-year cycle. That is my motion.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a result of the Minister's responses this morning, it seems that the other motions are already being looked after in the undertaking that the Minister has made to deal with those issues. Thank you.

**Bill 7: Appropriation Act, 1991-92, Clause By Clause**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. We will go to Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92, in your green binders. Are there

any general comments?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Clause by clause.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Does the committee agree we go clause by clause? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Clause 1, definitions. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Clause 2, application. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Clause 3, appropriation for 1991-92. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Clause 4, lapse of appropriation. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Schedule, Vote 1, operations and maintenance. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total operations and maintenance, \$909,470,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Vote 2, capital, total capital, \$168,513,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total appropriation, \$1,077,983,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Bill as a whole. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Does the committee

agree that Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92, is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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

---Applause

Mr. Government House Leader, Mr. Ballantyne.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if the committee would like to do some legislation. We are prepared to deal with Bills 9, 8 and 5, if the committee is prepared to do that.

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

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Zoe. There is a motion on the floor to report progress that 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 12 motions being adopted and that Bill 7 is now ready for third reading.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

#### ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed to third reading of Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 7. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

#### Third Reading Of Bill 7: Appropriation Act, 1991-92

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92, be read for the third time.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 7 has had third reading. Order please.

I have received the following communication: "The Hon. Richard Nerysoo, MLA, Speaker. Dear Mr. Speaker: This will inform you that I have been notified that during the eighth session of the 11th Assembly, certain bills have received third reading and await assent. I wish to advise you that I am prepared to assent to bills today. Yours truly, D.L. Norris, Commissioner."

Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to assent to bills?

#### ASSENT TO BILLS

**COMMISSIONER NORRIS:** Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby assent to Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please be seated. Mr. Clerk, Item 20, orders of the day.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, meetings for Monday: at 9:00 a.m. ajauqtit; and 10:00 a.m., the standing committee on legislation.

#### ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, April 15th.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motions
13. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Document 22-91(1); Bills 3, 4 and 5; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 10, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 32.
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Monday, April 15, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT



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