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Speaker: The Honourable Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 26th. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, point of privilege, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege, Mr. Wray.

Point Of Privilege

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of privilege concerning, once again, another erroneous news report which I think we are all getting fairly sick of hearing. On the CBC national news at 8:00 a.m. this morning the statement was made -- and this is the national news and this is why it concerns me, because it is something that could be detrimental to all of us -- the statement was made, "The people represented by the Nunavut forum have wanted their own Inuit government for 13 years." Mr. Speaker, the people that I represent have never asked for an Inuit government and to my knowledge, none of the leaders and none of the people in the East have ever asked for an Inuit government. From the very beginning our proposal has been that of a public government, as is the proposal from the West and everywhere else in the Territories and at no time have I ever heard advocated propositions of ethnic government to any great degree. When statements like that are made nationally, they are damaging to us, because people in the South hear those things and they think that all we are talking about is ethnic government and we are not talking about that at all. I wanted that clarified for the record because I think that some of the acrimony that has been seen in this House in the last two days or so, is the result of erroneous news reporting which seems to be becoming rather commonplace around this city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. A point very well taken.

Item 2, Members' replies.

Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 118-85(1): Pressing Need For Shelters For Victims Of Family Abuse

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Mr. Speaker, I refer to the brief from the Society Against Family Abuse in the Northwest Territories tabled last Friday and, while I appreciate the Minister has indicated to us that he will be tabling later this session the report of the task force, chaired by Mr. Bayly, I do wish to ask a question to the Minister with respect to the recommendations in the SAFA report.

Given the pressing need indicated in this report for the establishment of safe houses or shelters for victims of family abuse in communities throughout the Territories, will the Minister lobby with his colleagues on the Executive Council, in particular the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and also the Minister of Social Services, to extract from the Executive Council the political will and necessary funding in order to address this very critical problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 118-85(1): Pressing Need For Shelters For Victims Of Family Abuse

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just acknowledge to the Member that I have received and read the report of the Society Against Family Abuse of Yellowknife and that I am very impressed with the way in which the urgency of the problem in this city has been presented and documented. I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I consider it a very urgent social problem in Yellowknife and throughout the Northwest Territories and this was why I was pleased to, with the support of my Executive Council colleagues, encourage an in-depth study of the problem of spousal assault which really also comprehends family violence, which I will be tabling in this Legislature two days from now. That report I am confident will give good guidance to this government as to how new initiatives might be taken to deal with a problem, which I admit has not been adequately addressed to date. I hope that with assistance from this Assembly and my colleagues on the Executive Council, we can develop a strategy through which we will try to address the special and urgent problems of victims of family abuse. I note that the SAFA report does not yet contain or involve a concrete proposal. I believe they too, are awaiting the results of the recommendations of the task force on spousal assault which has heard representation from that organization.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that my duties as Minister responsible for the Status of Women is to do precisely what the Members suggest and that is to seek support and raise the awareness of my Executive Council colleagues, if necessary, about the need for these kinds of initiatives and I will pursue those responsibilities with vigour. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 119-85(1): Family Abuse Related To Housing Crisis

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a supplementary of my colleague's question to Mr. Wray, as the Minister responsible for Housing. I think one of the direct results of the acute housing crisis in Yellowknife is that people, normally women, who are assaulted have nowhere to go and temporarily now the YWCA is providing a shelter but after a certain number of days those people, and I emphasize mostly women, have no option but to go back to their own home and you find that the cycle is repeated time and time again.

I wonder if the Minister, Mr. Wray, will give us his assurances that he will deal immediately with this matter, which I think is a very critical issue, and work together with his colleagues, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Social Services to try to come to grips with this very serious problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 119-85(1): Family Abuse Related To Housing Crisis

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can give the Member my assurances that I will be working very closely with my colleagues Mr. Patterson and Mr. McLaughlin, because the situation is serious and I should indicate that while Yellowknife has a problem, there are many communities out

there with the same problem and that sometimes in a much smaller community than Yellowknife you have even more people and it is a problem that we are going to have to address, I think, on a territorial basis. But it is a concern and we will be sitting down to try to come up with some kind of an arrangement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today.

Item 5, written questions. Are there any written questions? Item 6, returns. Are there any returns? Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 116-85(1): Peterhead Boat For Sanikiluaq

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written Question 116-85(1), asked by Mr. Appaqaq on February 21st, 1985, regarding a Peterhead boat for Sanikiluaq. Departmental staff in the Baffin Region will assist the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association to prepare an application under the Special ARDA program for funds to purchase a boat that meets the needs of the community. The regional office has been looking for a suitable boat and recently located one in Quebec. A meeting will be held with the hunters and trappers association representatives in mid-March to finalize the Special ARDA application.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Minister. Mr. McLaughlin.

Further Return To Question 49-85(1): Appointments To Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 49-85(1), asked by Mr. Richard on February 12th, concerning the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital board of management. The Stanton board is made up of 14 members and the chairman. All positions on the board are now filled and the members of the board and their term of office are attached to this return, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further returns? Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, a return to oral Question 87-85(1), asked by Mr. Arlooktoo. I will wait until Mr. Arlooktoo is here later in the session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns.

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 25-85(1), Resolution Made by the Holman Hamlet Council, dated January 29th, 1985. It is in regard to their stated position on the NCF, WCF and Constitutional Alliance.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 26-85(1), Native Employment Policy and Directive of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The policy has also been translated into Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 27-85(1), a motion from the Keewatin Regional Council, and a motion and a letter from the hamlet of Whale Cove, concerning the need for a permanent RCMP detachment in the community.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Priorities, Summary for the 1985-86 Budget Session of the NWT Legislative Assembly, February 1985. These are priorities of the Government of the Northwest Territories in English and in Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, could I ask you now for the consent of the House to return to Item 6, returns, because I have a return for Mr. Arlooktoo. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. McLaughlin.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 87-85(1): Reinstatement Of Regular X-Ray Surveys

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 87-85(1), asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on February 15th, 1985, concerning X-ray examinations. In the past when tuberculosis was common in the Territories, medical services branch of Health and Welfare Canada conducted regular X-ray surveys of northern communities. With improved social conditions, early case finding and improved treatment, mostly conducted on an outpatient basis, the number of cases of tuberculosis has declined dramatically, as indicated by Table 1 and Figure 1 that are attached, Mr. Speaker.

The taking of X rays exposes the body to radiation. The amount from a single X ray is very small, but even this carries some risk in early pregnancy, so X rays are usually not performed during pregnancy. Each X ray contributes more radiation exposure and at some point during the decline of tuberculosis, the risks associated with exposure to X radiation began to outweigh the potential benefits of detecting the disease. In other words, there can be too many X rays of normal people. For this reason, routine X-ray surveys have been ended. Instead, there is a close follow-up of persons who are at special risk of contracting tuberculosis, particularly those who have previously had an active disease. Routine X rays are not helpful in the early detection of other diseases. Therefore, routine X rays of healthy people would expose them unnecessarily to radiation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Tabling of documents. Pardon me, are there any further returns now that we are back on returns? Tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 12, motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7-85(1), Appropriation Act, 1985-86; and Bill 3-85(1), Workers' Compensation Act, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

ITEM 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 7-85(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985-86

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, yesterday we began consideration of Finance. I would request of the committee the opportunity to take Finance off the agenda at this time and go back to the original order of precedence and that was the Status of Women and Education.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Is this agreed by the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of The Executive

Status Of Women Secretariat

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, Mr. Patterson. We are on Status of Women Secretariat on page 2.11 of the main estimates and it is under the Executive. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should apologize to the House for not being present when these items were due to be presented the other day. Certain events which I need not dwell upon prevented me from being here. However, I am prepared to proceed now and I would like to ask permission of the House to appear with the executive director of the women's secretariat, Ms Toni Graeme.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is it agreed by the committee that the Minister brings in his witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Opening Remarks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Advisory Council on the Status of Women recently held their fourth meeting and I am pleased to announce that I have approved their recommendation that Ms Edna Elias, of Coppermine, be the new president of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and, furthermore, their recommendations that Janet Armstrong of Frobisher Bay and Kate Tompkins of Yellowknife be appointed as vice-presidents. The main topics at their recent meeting were: human rights, equality for women, and affirmative action and in that connection a meeting was held with Commissioner Parker and the Hon. Richard Nerysoo to discuss the Northwest Territories government's affirmative action policy.

In the past year, the women's secretariat was transferred from Justice and Public Services to the Executive in order to provide better access to senior levels of decision-making. The new executive director, Ms Toni Graeme, took office November 5, 1984.

Plan Of Action Based On International Standards

Mr. Chairman, the Executive Council in the past year endorsed the development of a detailed plan of action for women, following a format used throughout the world by the United Nations, which is based on international standards for women. The record of the Government of the Northwest Territories in meeting these standards in our areas of jurisdiction has been assessed through the mechanism of the UN questionnaire. The action plan, when completed, will identify measures that this government should be taking over the next five years in key areas such as education, employment, health, women in public life and legislation. The plan of action, once it has been presented to this government and approved, will form the basis for new priorities for this government to enhance the status of women.

And I might mention, Mr. Chairman, that excerpts from the plan of action to enhance the status of women of the NWT in all activities for the next five years will be going out for public input and comment in the last week of this month. This will be in the form of newspaper advertisements in papers throughout the Territories, including Native Press, Nunatsiaq News, the Drum, the Hub, Slave River Journal, Yellowknifer and News/North. We felt that these advertisements would be an appropriate way of inviting readers to respond to the women's secretariat with their ideas and suggestions. I am sure there will be other forums for public discussion of the UN plan, including radio. This is the last year of the UN decade for women and consideration is being given to a Northwest Territories event perhaps in the fall to mark the occasion.

The executive director attended the recent Inuit Women's Conference in Igloolik, along with MLA, Mr. Pauloosie Paniloo, which dealt primarily with economic development. She represented myself since I was unable to attend and she also did a workshop on lobbying for change. Economic opportunities for women in the NWT both in employment and starting businesses, such as day care centres and sewing centres, have been a constant topic of discussion and concern of the advisory council, the women's secretariat and among women's groups.

The office has also been working to prepare responses to the proposed NWT human rights code and recently a symposium was attended on equality rights which dealt with the potential impact of section 15 in the Charter of Rights.

Child care is also a priority of the federal, territorial and provincial Ministers responsible for the Status of Women, which we belong to. The executive director is an active member of a federal, provincial and territorial working group on child care, in co-operation with our Department of Social Services, whom we have been consulting with on this matter to ensure that new approaches and initiatives for reform in other parts of Canada at both federal and provincial level are brought to and considered by appropriate departments of our government.

The women's secretariat initiated a community planning group who are organizing events for International Women's Day, March 8 and 9, 1985. There will be a social evening and workshops all day Saturday with a concert on Saturday evening.

In the coming year, the executive director will be travelling to communities to meet with local women to assist them in organizing groups and finding resources for their projects. There have been positive and co-operative working relationships established with various departments of this government and the secretariat. Consultations on day care programs and policy, media projects with Education and the fire marshal's office, which impact on women's image, discussions with Personnel staff on affirmative action and many other areas. We are also in communication with appropriate federal government departments and national women's groups. We are now prepared to entertain questions and comments respecting the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. For the record, would you introduce your witness?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Appearing with me is Ms Toni Graeme, executive director of the women's secretariat.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a comment. I would like to congratulate the Minister and his director. I am very happy to hear that there will be some funds available for the director to travel into the communities because I think it is very, very important that we have someone like Ms Graeme to be able to travel into the communities to bring proper information. I would be very happy to assist Ms Graeme in any way I can in going, especially, into my area or in any way I could help. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, just to thank the honourable Member for those comments and that support. I think support of and involvement of Members of this Assembly is extremely crucial to successes in advancing the status of women in the NWT. We welcome her interest and that of other MLAs and I have asked Ms Graeme to make community communications and visits a priority in the coming year. I think it is very important. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

Women In Senior Positions

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were going through the budget of the Department of Personnel, I asked Mr. Nerysoo if he could provide me with a list of female government employees from the position of chief upwards. I have not got that back but I remember I asked the question last year and the indication was there were very few women in senior government positions. I brought it to the attention of the Commissioner and, again, Mr. Nerysoo, if they think there is a problem of attitude right now in government. In fact, there probably is at least in part, an "old boys" attitude, whereby it is very difficult for women to receive consideration for higher positions and I think that because women know that that is prevalent, they are not applying probably as much as they would. I wonder if the secretariat is looking into this problem and do they have any solutions to the problem?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can confirm the honourable Member's observations. In fact, as of December 1984, out of 182 so-called Hay plan positions, which I think represent the senior management level of this government, only 15 of those 182 positions were held by women. This is a great concern of the advisory council and myself and I can say that two measures are contemplated which would turn this situation around. Firstly, the matter of status of women in the GNWT work force has been thoroughly documented in the UN plan of action study, which is now well on the road to completion, which will recommend measures to turn that around. But the way that this situation can be enhanced is by an affirmative action plan for women and in that connection, Mr. Nerysoo and Mr. Parker and myself have met with the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Although because of limited resources it has been advisable to target native people, including native women, initially for attention in affirmative action, I think the advisory council was pleased to receive a commitment from Mr. Nerysoo, who is the spokesman for Personnel in this House, that in the following year attention will be turned to the specific problem the honourable Member has addressed, and that resources will be devoted to concrete plans in the way of in-service training or special education which may be required to enhance the position of many women in the public service who certainly have the ability but have not, to date, had the opportunity to advance into these senior level positions.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that all departments of this government have a need to focus on the need to include women in the management and direction of the departments and I think my own Department of Education, which I am responsible for, is an example of a department where there are many women employed but they are employed at the lower levels. In that respect the challenge facing us with regard to women is similar to that facing us with regard to native people, who are also underrepresented in senior levels. I think the affirmative action plan and the UN plan of action will be the means of turning this situation around. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

Executive Directive Needed

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understand the frustrations of women and I think that affirmative action is a tool that can be positive, but in the interim I think what is probably needed is for a directive to go down from the Executive Council to give a good kick in the butt to a number of senior bureaucrats, because the fact is that right now there are many women in the government who do have the education, the training and the experience now and at this point in time I do not think they are given a fair opportunity. I think it is well and good to work on an affirmative action plan but I think if there is some will, political will, from the Executive Council and that sifts down, then maybe some of those attitudes would change and I think that should be happening right away.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have learned a lot in this portfolio, and I hate to use jargon, but I think what the honourable Member is referring to is what is called systemic discrimination, which sort of says that because there are no women in senior management positions that that is the way things should continue to be. And I can tell the honourable Member that I feel it is my duty to dispel that attitude using my position on the Executive Council whenever I can. I can tell the honourable Member that I agree entirely with him that there are a number of talented women whom we know of, who can be promoted and I will be certainly advocating that they do be given those opportunities when promotions do come up.

Having said that though, I would like to say that we are fortunate to have, none the less, a number of very capable persons of the female gender at the level of superintendent or above. It has just been pointed out to me that as of today the number is 17. So we have already made some considerable progress since December, 1984. A number of those persons are operating in the six regional headquarters as well. So I support what the Member says and I think the will is there in our Executive Council as well to try and make greater strides. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think the Minister's last comments illustrate a point. Obviously there are women who have had the opportunity to show that they are capable of doing a good job but with that sort of increase from 15 to 18 out of some 180, I think we would have to wait 25 years before there is any kind of equality. So we may be making headway but I think a lot of women consider that

headway is progressing rather slowly. So I appreciate the Minister's comments and when I ask the same question next year we hope to see the answer is at least 50 women in those positions. I will leave it to the Minister's skill to achieve that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Richard.

Funding For Safe Houses

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to return briefly to the issue of safe houses and the need for safe houses or shelters and refer briefly to the Minister's response to a question earlier this afternoon and also the supplementary answered by Mr. Wray.

The SAFA brief indicates that the crisis in Yellowknife does not just deal with spouses or family members who have been assaulted or abused in Yellowknife. The victims of family violence quite often, as the Minister knows, flee the small community in which they live and end up in Yellowknife. Mr. Minister, you did indicate to us in the standing committee on finance in December, that you were of the view that a safe house was probably not going to work in a small community because of the nature of the problem, but that in a larger community it was something that is necessary. With that comment I would simply conclude by asking you, Mr. Minister, this. The funds that are being provided in this budget to respond to the report of the task force on spousal assault, which we will see in a few days, of this \$348,000 0 and M, is it anticipated that there are moneys in that fund -- I suppose there would be more in the nature of capital funds required to establish a safe house or operate and maintain a safe house. Do you have, Mr. Minister, plans within these funds to respond to that need or is it a case that you will require extra funding and for that you will have to seek additional authority from the Executive Council or the Assembly?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we were drawing up the 1985-86 main estimates and dealing with the question of priorities it was somewhat difficult to anticipate what requirements might be identified by the spousal assault task force and what new policies the government might adopt as a result of that report. However, with the support of my colleagues and because I believe that there will be new initiatives required as a result of the task force on spousal assault, I was able to set aside the sum of \$200,000 within the budget which is being reviewed, which is basically available to respond to recommendations of the task force in the coming year. These are operating and maintenance moneys, Mr. Chairman, and certainly no decision has been made as to how they will be used. Soon we will see the recommendations of the spousal assault task force but I think it is quite likely that recommendations will be made about new approaches that we might want to test, interagency approaches, counselling approaches and further that there may well be a requirement for the establishment of training programs to work with existing or new staff to make them sensitive to special problems that arise with victims of family violence.

As to matters such as the establishment of safe houses -- and I do agree that there is a need in the larger centres -- I also feel quite strongly that the institutional approach will not work in a small community and should not even be encouraged in a small community. As to that possibility it is clear that our government is going to have to respond, if a response is recommended, through adjustments to our existing capital plan. I cannot really speculate on what may develop but I do expect to be working with the Ministers of Social Services and Housing once we have the recommendations of this report and once the Executive and the Assembly have had a chance to consider them.

There is and I cannot and will not be specific at this time but I believe there is some good possibility that certain federal programs may also be utilized jointly with our government which would take some of the burden off our capital requirements to construct facilities where appropriate. There are a number of programs that I am aware of that have been established jointly in other parts of the country through either the Solicitor General or the Department of Justice or indeed the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. All I can assure the Member at this point is that we realize there is an urgent need particularly in this city and the report of the task force, which I am confident is going to be very practically oriented will give us a basis for taking action that makes sense.

Interagency Mechanism Already Working

The one other thing I would like to mention about this spousal assault task force is that it has already brought together all the federal and territorial agencies concerned with this matter. So in a working group that I have sponsored, we have the mechanism for the kind of interagency approach that is going to be required to tackle this problem and I mean co-operation between the police, federal Health and Welfare, territorial Health and Social Services, the bench, the bar, etc. So, I hope we can respond quite quickly and develop new policies to deal with the matter that really has not yet been addressed by this government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Appaqaq.

Funding For Inuit Women's Association

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to talk about ladies if I may. I was asked to ask this question while we are talking about spousal assault. Ladies usually attend Inuit Women's Association when their meetings are held. Even though the meetings are going on, the Inuit Women's Association in some settlements usually do not have any offices and even if you go and attend these meetings just by listening to the reports it does not seem, to myself, to be progressing. But the Inuit Women's Association has asked in the past that the officials of IWA might visit each of the communities. If they are going to be visiting each of the settlements they are going to be using a lot of dollars. It is just at its peak of establishment so in my constituency I have been asked to ask you if any funds would be available to get an office for IWA. They really do want to carry on their work in my region, as well as traditional and cultural backgrounds that they will be using as a tool in order to get all the groups together. Even if they are part of IWA, they do not have headquarters or an office to work in. I was asked to ask the Minister if in the remote settlements I am talking about, you could consider giving them office space or even funds to make this available to IWA, so that they could establish their own resources in my constituency. Even with the new policy that we are using, and it is the policy that IWA has, or any policy, for that matter, if they do not have an office it is hard to work without an office space. So I would request an immediate reply so that I may, in turn, tell my constituents what reply has been given to me because it is an urgent matter for IWA people in my area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Territorial Funding Not Available

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Inuit Women's Association is not sponsored by the Status of Women Secretariat, although we want to work with them and try to assist them in their goals and objectives for Inuit women in the Northwest Territories. That is why I asked Ms Graeme to represent me at their recent conference and Mr. Curley and his department were also represented at the conference because of the theme of economic development for women. I have to say, you know, to be honest with the Member that I do not see any way that this government can assist the women of Sanikiluaq to establish an office for the Inuit Women's Association activities. We just do not have the funds and we do not even sponsor the office that they have in Ottawa.

However, I would think that if women in the Member's community were to develop a proposal for some kind of project that would lead to employment or economic development in their community that it might be very well possible that through Mr. Curley's department, assistance could be given to operate a facility like a sewing centre or, perhaps, a day care centre or some kind of other means of providing jobs and employment. But, I would not like the Member to get the impression that it is even possible that we could even fund the Inuit Women's Association office in Sanikiluaq. I will ask Ms Graeme, since she was at this recent Inuit Women's Association conference if she has anything to add.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms Graeme.

MS GRAEME: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were a number of women at the recent Inuit Women's Association conference in Igloodik who were looking for mainly sewing centre areas, buildings or rooms to use and they have two or three reasons why they want them. One is so that they can socialize together away from their home and their families for a few hours a week, or for education where they can share their skills with each other or teach the younger girls in the community the

sewing skills. The third reason, in many of the communities is for economic reasons so they have a place to go quietly away from the family where they can make their crafts and then be able to market them.

Alternatives Available

There were several resource people there from the territorial and the federal government trying to assist them to understand how to put together a proposal and to send it to the economic development officer in Frobisher Bay or for other kinds of funding to federal Regional Industrial Expansion here in Yellowknife. The other area for funding for the social area is the Secretary of State and I know that Geela Moss-Davies is very familiar with the activities of that department and the kind of funding that is available from them. What I would offer from the women's secretariat in this government is if the women would give a description to us of what activities they want to do in their community, I would be more than happy to assist them in finding the right department for them to go for their funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to elaborate more. Regarding the policy on spousal assault, when they do not have any representative in the communities who are they supposed to consult? Who are they supposed to go to for advice because there is no funding of any sort along this line to encourage someone who is abused? So are we going to go up to Frobisher Bay in order to get this problem solved, all the way from Sanikiluaq to Frobisher Bay because we have no office at Sanikiluaq? So what are we supposed to do in this case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Mr. Minister.

Help In Small Communities

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me say that I was pleased that a member of the spousal assault task force, Ms Iris McCracken, was able to visit Sanikiluaq to discuss the problem of spousal assault in that community directly with the Member's constituents. In speaking with her after her visit, I was pleased to learn that apparently, the Member may correct me, but apparently it is not a serious or frequent occurrence in Sanikiluaq -- the abuse of spouses. However, the Member has identified a very important question that I hope will be answered to this Assembly by the task force on spousal assault. In the event that someone is a victim of this kind of violence, who do they approach for help in a small community? I agree that at the moment it is not at all clear where someone goes and one of the things that I think the task force will address is developing links in communities, in smaller communities like Sanikiluaq, between the RCMP, the nurse and the social worker, so that people who need this kind of help, and sometimes protection, are treated in a co-ordinated way. I am expecting a recommendation from the report which I will be tabling two days from now which will address the problem that the Member has put to me in a concrete way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley.

Privately-Operated Day Care Centres

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make a point of interest, I would think, to the Minister and Madam Graeme on the issue which I think is of very much interest to many of the families and to the women of the Northwest Territories, in particular, specifically related to child care and child care centres and so on in the Northwest Territories. My department and field officers have been approached a number of times trying to find a way to fund these day care centres and possibly with a view I would think to try to establish a private and profit-oriented day care centre, trying to make these centres viable in local communities.

I have stated to my officials that although we are prepared to look at and study the viability of day care centres, I believe there are appropriate funds in pretty well all of the departments to study the viability of running a private day care centre. I have stated to my officials that I will not be prepared to release any funds to operate these centres for profit without the government and the Minister perhaps, along with our colleagues, Social Services, developing a guideline because I believe strongly that I think there should be a protection for the children and the health facilities be proper and up to standard. I believe there has to be quite a lot of

these, either regulations or standards developed, and I would hope that your group is working hard to make recommendations so these kinds of problems can be resolved because I believe we are going to be getting a whole lot more requests. From my department's perspective we are simply going to have to wait until the Minister of Education and his colleague, the Minister of Social Services come up with the proper guidelines before I would even attempt to entertain releasing funds for establishing day care centres. This is my position and I have communicated this to your Minister and I am just interested to see how far you are making any recommendations toward that situation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Minister.

Federal And Territorial Legislation On Child Care

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that child care is now a national priority of the Ministers responsible for the Status of Women in Canada. It is recognized that a great deal must be done to provide this vital service in all parts of the country. Some of the things that have to be done relate to amendments to the Income Tax Act to provide better incentives for people to earn an income which is available in every community through this kind of work. Amendments, I believe, must be made to the Canada Assistance Plan because right now the kind of assistance that is available for people who require day care is simply not meeting the needs of the average person who wishes child care. You have to be a social assistance client in order to be eligible for the kind of subsidy that is available now through this government and the Canada Assistance Plan and yet the people who need day care most are people who do not want to be on welfare because they wish to work. So, those national changes are being pursued and at the territorial level we have been working with Mr. McLaughlin and his officials to see how we can help in a supportive and co-ordinating way to get changes made in the Northwest Territories that will be necessary, first of all, to encourage privately-operated day care centres.

I think the Minister of Economic Development who has communicated his concern to me already has a very good point, that we have to be assured that there are minimum standards of safety and health in place before public funds are in any way committed to assisting the establishment of these businesses. I know that, and really this is more appropriate for the Minister of Social Services, but I know that work is under way now to draft legislation which will provide for those standards. There has been advice given by the NWT Day Care Association as well, I know, on appropriate standards. We have to be careful to allow the standards to include the small house that you might find in a community and we also have to be sure that the Housing Corporation will permit public housing, where appropriate, to be used for these ventures. This is my view anyway.

So, I think the Minister's approach is reasonable and I am quite confident that Mr. McLaughlin is working as quickly as he can to get the necessary standards in place and at that point I think we can start to encourage women who wish to have useful employment, particularly women, to establish businesses looking after other people's children. I think this will be a very good small business opportunity in many communities, in most communities throughout the NWT. We are trying to do our best to make sure this happens as quickly as possible and to bring the national experience to the appropriate departments within our government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Paniloo.

Business Incentives A Need In Small Communities

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the ladies group met in Igloolik, some of the bigger communities were mainly the ones that were very concerned on getting houses for day care. Also they were concentrating on or really wanting to get a place for spousal assault victims.

The people in Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot, where there are fewer people in smaller communities, seem to want to concentrate on what would be helping them. I do not think they were concentrating on the spousal assault victims. There were talking more on business incentives. I would be happy if the people can be given sewing centres where women can work, although they do not necessarily have to get offices in the communities. In my constituency they have indicated to me that if they are allocated \$15,000 they would use that for business incentives and to help to train the younger people. So this has been forwarded to me. These spousal assaults or wife beatings I do not think occur -- or there is a high rate -- in the smaller communities. I think it would be decreased in

the smaller communities; I think there is a higher rate where the communities have alcohol, not in the dry communities. I would like to ask if they will be allocating money according to what I said about the concern of my constituents. Can they be allocated some funding? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his interest in the economic development of women in his constituency. We have spoken to a woman, actually, who works for the Economic Development department in the Baffin Region and have made this lady aware of the desire to get assistance to establish small businesses in the Member's constituency. This needs to be followed up if they have not yet been approached. I know that the Minister of Economic Development has plans to visit the Member's constituency in the near future and this may be the best opportunity to get things going. I support the initiatives of the women in his area and I am grateful for his support. I did have the pleasure of meeting with a group of women in Clyde River who are very keen in developing a business, particularly to use the abundant supplies of fur, especially sealskin, which are available in quantity and can be very attractively made into very useful items. I can only say at this point that I am confident that Mr. Curley's department will look into this need, if they have not started to already, and there are means for providing the kind of support that the Member says is needed. It is obvious that some expert help is needed and we will use our good offices with Economic Development to make sure that their needs are assessed and an appropriate response is made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come back to order. I believe, Mr. Arlooktoo, you wanted to ask a question.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to make a compliment to the Status of Women Secretariat and also in my constituency in Cape Dorset they are really happy about this. However, I would also like to stress in Baffin Region some women are battered. We heard that it was not so bad in Baffin Region, however, there are some problems that we have to face. I know that there the communities will not be having a shelter. Perhaps we will be needing a shelter for the whole Baffin Region which would be located in Frobisher Bay. These are some of the ideas I have concerning the status of women. I was wondering if you were considering Frobisher Bay for a shelter for the battered women. I would like to know which community you are considering for the shelter. Also talking about a shelter, it will have to be not just an ordinary building, as they would require a guard for the shelter. These are some of the ideas I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was informed by Jonah Kelly of CBC Frobisher Bay that during an open line radio show held in Baffin Region, on the subject of these victims of violence, a number of communities called and expressed real concern about making it too easy for people to leave communities when they have these kinds of problems. I think many callers felt that if a centre is established in the region it may mean that communities will no longer try to solve the problems together themselves. I think there is some recognition that women who are in serious trouble and who cannot get any help at the community level after having tried may need to be removed in very special circumstances but I also understand that in the average case people from communities would not want to make it too easy for someone to leave town and take the problem with them as it were. So, I think we have to approach the question of bringing people out of communities to safe facilities very, very carefully and I think that the report which we will be receiving two days from now will likely give us some advice on that subject. People have to learn to work together to solve these problems and not just postpone them by sending someone out for a temporary period.

Plan For Crisis Home In Frobisher Bay

That is a general comment to Mr. Arlooktoo's remarks but he had some specific questions. I can tell him -- and I discovered this by attending a public meeting of the task force on spousal assault -- I can tell him that the Department of Social Services has put in their capital plan money to build what they call a crisis home in Frobisher Bay in 1986-87. That is a priority of Social Services in the Baffin Region and I know that a special committee on family violence, which

includes some representatives from regional organizations, is already working to help make sure that through volunteers and other means, community support will be provided for such a home. I think also that the establishment of such a facility in the Baffin Region will have to be reviewed before construction begins to ensure that it is in keeping with the policy which the government must develop as a result of the recommendations of the task force on spousal assault. Generally, I must say Mr. Chairman, I think we have to be very careful about institutions, like a home, as a solution to a problem because institutions sometimes mean that initiatives that should be undertaken by families and by volunteer groups are taken away from them. However, this facility is in the capital plan of the Department of Social Services and I expect that if it does go ahead there may well be situations where people from communities like Cape Dorset or Lake Harbour, who have no other alternative and whose safety is threatened, might be given a temporary shelter while the problem is being dealt with, in the courts or otherwise. I hope that answers the Member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You gave me an appropriate answer and also I thank you for giving me clarification. However, I have to stress further for the smaller communities I think that it would be appropriate to send battered persons out as soon as possible to another community. However, in the smaller communities, even when there is just little word that has been spoken the rumour just spreads. So I do not think that this will be appropriate in the smaller communities where there is a temporary shelter for battered women. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for that advice. Just one small comment, in my view maybe if anyone is going to have to be sent out, it should be the person who is doing the battering rather than the poor victim. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. The Minister's last comments make him almost sound like a Conservative.

---Laughter

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I was a Conservative before you even thought about it.

MR. BALLANTYNE: That is right. You were a young Conservative. We cannot remember that far back.

AN HON. MEMBER: Until this year.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Okay, I wonder if we could go on to something else. The Liberals here are very sensitive about what happened in recent months.

If I could go back to the Minister's comments on day care. The Minister was responding to some of Mr. Curley's statements, and I see some problems with it. I think it is a problem that we as a government have not really dealt with in any significant way. I think that even though there are some federal initiatives, the reality is they may take years to really come to fruition and we do not really know if there will be any real impact on the situation of day care in the North because of these federal initiatives.

The Minister talked about legislation and there is some concern, I know at least in Yellowknife and maybe in other communities, that by imposing legislation you could, in fact, cut down on the number of day care units available. There is one school of thought in Yellowknife that they would like to try some kind of voluntary regulations first, see how that works out and then a long-term look at the possibility of government imposing regulations. But be that as it may, I think that may be a different issue.

In the North, more and more it is a necessity, now, for both spouses to work because of the high cost of living. I think the demand for day care services is increasing year by year. What is the government doing or what time frame can the Minister give us of when the government will take some concrete action, whether that is direct grants to institutions or any form of assistance? Because what people are saying right now in the North is, the reality is, that women have to work. People need adequate day care and they do not always have the resources to pay for it. Is there a time frame where this government will come up with some concrete recommendations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Implementation Falls Under Department Of Social Services

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know I am really not trying to dodge that important question because as Status of Women Ministers for Canada, we have identified day care as the number one area in need of our attention. However, I must say that the responsibility for actually implementing initiatives does fall under the Minister of Health and Social Services. I have worked with him and his department in making sure that they are aware of the urgency of this problem. I will note, Mr. Chairman, in the goals and major objectives for the coming budget year, the Department of Social Services has identified preparation of legislative proposals for day care standards and encouraging the revision of federal legislation and policies to provide improved incentives for operation of home or institutional day care services in the NWT. It would not be appropriate for me to say when and how these initiatives are going to occur but I can tell the Member that I feel it is my duty to give the Minister every support and assistance I can in making sure that he and my colleagues on the Executive Council do something about this problem. I think every politician knows what an important issue it is in our constituencies, including my own. I can give that undertaking but I would respectfully suggest that the questions about timing and funding must be appropriately directed to the Minister of Social Services. Thank you.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think the committee is quite aware of the responsibilities of Mr. McLaughlin and these questions will be put to him. In finance committee meetings before Christmas I think the Minister indicated that he saw his role and the role of the secretariat is to work in co-ordination with the Minister and apply some pressure. I think in this area a little bit of pressure might be appropriate because probably if you ask people of the NWT what is more important, constitutional and political development or adequate day care, many would say adequate day care is more important to them than constitutional development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, in that regard I can tell the honourable Member that I am putting pressure on the Minister of Social Services. Not that it is really necessary but I am doing so. We have met and will meet again soon with the Department of Social Services to find out if there is any way, using our contacts across the country and the knowledge that we have gathered through attendance at women's conferences relating to women, if there is any way we can assist this problem being addressed by our government. I am not sure I can say much more but as far as whether constitutional development is more or less of a priority, I think certain actions I took recently will allow me to concentrate even more efforts on this area than the weighty issues of constitutional development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I will not comment on the Minister's last statement.

AN HON. MEMBER: Good.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I suppose that is a realistic comment. I wonder if I could go on to another point. Now that this year is the year designated for youth, I wonder has the secretariat thought of involving young women to bring out the concerns of young women, who are coming of age who will be leaders in days and years to come? Will there be any involvement of young women in the year designated for youth?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, I am going to ask Ms Graeme to answer that question for me, Mr. Chairman, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Ms Graeme.

MS GRAEME: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is a plan of action that will be brought through my Minister, that comes out of a questionnaire from the United Nations. One of the recommendations in that in fact deals with this being the International Year of the Youth. A proposal will involve this government contacting student councils and residences throughout the Territories seeking ideas on the kinds of activities they would like as young women who will shortly be going out in the labour force or into family life. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Ms Graeme. Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Talking about women -- what I wanted to say, was already said but I will try and come up with a question or some comment. The women's issue is already recognized and this needs to continue all over the Territories, including each constituency of each MLA. To my understanding there are women wherever there is a settlement and these small settlements are always touched by some form of help after some actions or some problems have been there for a long time. I feel quite certain that help has to spread out to the Territories as much as possible as soon as it can. But I seem to see a very small amount of money here but the actions are already there. What I am trying to say is that I feel that women's representatives should form associations mainly to look after the abused women. There are women of all ages that are abused for some reason or battered or whatever, even in the small communities. Some cases are not reported for a long time even though news can travel fast in a small community. We have welfare officers for this reason and there may be some police in the settlements, but a lot of them are never reported for a long time until they are reported by the person that is being abused -- the women or child or girls or whatever they are.

Small Budget For A Serious Problem

So seeing such a small amount here -- well, it is a large amount but it does not seem to cover too much, when it is stretched out to look after women in small communities. A lot of times, women, especially the natives, know what to do and even all the races know what to do when the help is not available. I guess that is some of the reasons why the small communities do not seem to have much problem though they may have. What I am trying to say is, are we going to see a larger budget and are we going to see more expert counsellors or consultants travelling into smaller communities at least a few times a year so that the help could be available in the future? What I would think is that it should be one of the priorities. I know it is one of the priorities of the government but with the small amount of money that is on the budget it does not seem to me that it is really a priority. Even though the words were said that the problem is a serious problem, why is it so small at this time? Is it the federal government that is not giving enough money or is it the territorial government that is not giving enough money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for those questions. Maybe I can explain it this way. An individual MLA does not really cost this government very much money. There is a travel budget and money for a constituency office and an honorarium but that individual MLA, working effectively within the government, advising the government can do a tremendous amount, I believe, to change the priorities of the government and to influence the way the government's money is spent to deal with problems which are identified by that MLA as being neglected and that is the way I see this office. I am not so concerned that the budget of the Status of Women Secretariat should get larger and larger and larger, although I do think that we are new and our budget may be required to grow modestly in the coming years so we can do more research and perhaps have an extra staff person. But I think our influence and our effectiveness has got to be in influencing, hopefully through my presence in the Executive Council and through the support I get from the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and this Legislature, departments like Social Services who really are the ones that should properly deal with these problems, to realign their spending and their programs and use their budget, which is significant, to tackle these problems.

Role Of Status Of Women Secretariat

The Member spoke of the need for research experts and consultation. That is what I see us using this extra \$200,000, that has been allocated for a response to the spousal assault task force, to do. I think we may well see that there is more advocacy work that needs to be done by the office to make the public more aware of the problem or make the government more aware of the problem, not just this government but other governments. I think we must be careful not to assume that by increasing the budget of the Status of Women Secretariat we are going to be dealing with problems like spousal assault. That problem has got to be dealt with and dealt with more effectively, if it is not being treated properly now, by the police, the social services, nursing stations and even lawyers and judges, and I see our job as to try and influence them to do things that they may not be doing now but not to actually deliver programs ourselves. So, I think the size of our budget may be of some concern but it is the influence that we have that is more important.

I would just note that two years ago there was no advisory council or budget at all and now, today, our budget has grown from \$275,000 to \$449,000. Since 1983, that is an increase of about five times. So, we are starting off in a small way but I think it is most important that we get our influence and our credibility established before we get too ambitious about enlarging our budget further. I hope that answers the Member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUROUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I totally understand and it is much clearer. The reason I asked why it was so small, is that I know in my constituency we have nurses there, we have a social worker, we have police now -- that is new to Gjoa Haven -- and why I am saying that the budget should be a little more, mainly most of all the travel, I was concerned about that. The nurses can give good advice and social workers can give advice or attend to some problems in that line and also the police can, but these small communities, some of them have 500 people and they have very few nurses, who do not even have time to do any health education. Well, they may deal with abused women and the social worker may do the same too, but most of the social workers I have seen were men and there was only one in small communities. The police, well, they could give good advice, too, they could attend to some of the problems but their duty is in a different way.

What I was hoping was that I would rather have a consultant or a counsellor visit these communities at least once a year in order that good performance is carried out because I do not like to depend on social workers too much, or nurses, although they are trained in a way, but especially if a social worker is a man -- a social worker may be the right person to talk to or to attend to dealing with what to do about the situation but if he is a man there may be some valuable information that he may not have, because he may not have the study to really deal closely with those kinds of problems. I really do not think I would be seeking much of an answer for that one because I already understood what you have said. I just want to make that clear why I was asking the question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Do you care to respond, Mr. Minister?

Training And Support For Existing Staff

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I will confess that I have had some preliminary talks with the chairman of the task force on spousal assault. I have been given some idea of some of the findings and some hints about recommendations which will be made to the public through this Assembly this coming Thursday and I can tell the Member that the problem that he recognized, the need to sensitize and train existing professionals such as nurses, police, social workers in ways which can allow them to handle these problems more effectively, has been identified. I think the report on spousal assault will contain recommendations about ways of assisting such people to do their jobs more effectively and to give them the skills that they might lack now, so they can be better equipped to deal with those problems right at the community level. I think the Member has hit on something that has been raised in hearings and inquiries of the task force everywhere, that is how to make better use of the people that are already there to do the job but may not be able to be effective or as effective as they could be, for one reason or another. So, if you could hold your breath for another couple of days, Mr. Chairman, I think that the very point the Member made will be addressed in the report and this could well lead to new resources and new priority in better training and support for our existing staff at the community level. Thank you.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, you had indicated what I believe was called an affirmative action policy would be tabled in this session. Earlier today, Mr. Nerysoo tabled the native employment policy. Is this a separate policy that will be tabled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to defer that question to the Government Leader as spokesman for Personnel. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I should say, Mr. Chairman, that the native employment policy that was tabled is the policy that we are dealing with at the moment. However, in the statement with regard to Personnel I did indicate that we had an affirmative action program that dealt firstly with native people and in 1986 would deal with women and the handicapped.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. The Status of Women Secretariat, budget summary, total expenditures \$449,000. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just a technical point. For the Members' information, according to the errata, on page 2.11, other O and M, 44 per cent now reads 78 per cent, total O and M which is in the book at 39 per cent actually should be 63 per cent and total expenditures which are in the book at 39 per cent now should read 63 per cent.

Status Of Women Secretariat, Total Expenditures, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): This correction is noted. Total expenditures for Status of Women Secretariat, \$449,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the budget details of the Status of Women Secretariat are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I would like to thank the Minister and Ms Graeme. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a few closing remarks. I have always had a special interest in women's issues and a special commitment to women's rights. I believe that women have an important role to play in the work place and with all due respect to my male colleagues, in government as well. The Status of Women Secretariat has only been in existence a short while but Ms Graeme has already contacted me on several occasions and I am very glad that I have someone in the government bureaucracy to listen to my concerns, to my specific concerns regarding women. To me this indicates that the lines of communication are open and I have a positive feeling that any progress developed for women will be truly reflective of their needs and aspirations. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the MLA for those comments and say, generally, that although ideally a woman might understand better some of the issues that I have to consider in my capacity as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I have found this portfolio very much a learning process for me and one thing that I would like to say is that although we have kind of slender resources, I would certainly encourage the MLAs to take full advantage of this office to bring forward their concerns because with our small staff of Ms Graeme and one secretary, even though we do get a great deal of help from the advisory council itself, we obviously cannot travel very extensively so we rely heavily on MLAs to bring forward their concerns either through the Assembly or directly contacting the office.

Maybe, just in conclusion, I will thank the Members for their support for this area of activity and I will ask Ms Graeme if she will just inform Members as to how they might meet, work with and contact her office directly, in closing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms Graeme.

MS GRAEME: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, the women's secretariat office do want to encourage all the MLAs to phone or drop in if you have any questions or encourage your constituents to contact us by phone or by letter, or dropping in if they are in Yellowknife. We are developing a resource centre and a library at this time. We have information on how to start a day care centre, the kind of nutrition that is desirable in day care, how to get a business going, who to go to for money to get it started, information on education, health issues, legal issues, and there is always somebody there. I would just like to say that women are 50 per cent of the population in the Territories but improving women's lives is improving everybody else's as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Ms Graeme. The Status of Women's Secretariat is now concluded, I would like to thank the Minister and Ms Graeme.

---Applause

Department Of Education

The next department is Education. Does the Minister have any opening remarks with Education.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Could I have just a moment to get my papers, Mr. Chairman? I shall also ask for permission from the House to invite my assistant deputy ministers, Mr. Ed Duggan and Mr. Ken Lovely into the House to assist me in my presentation. I should mention that my deputy minister, Mr. Gilberg, is undergoing medical tests at the moment and is, therefore, unable to be here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you care to proceed with your opening remarks?

Opening Remarks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce the budget for the Department of Education for 1985-86. I do not have extensive remarks but I would like to touch on some of the highlights of our activities in the coming year and the major objectives. We have, to date, had a major role in the development of language programs for various indigenous languages working with community-based groups who are doing research and developing curriculum materials for our schools. This is the third and final year of the indigenous language development fund and I think an enormous amount of very good and practical work has been done in a variety of communities throughout the Northwest Territories. We are actively working with the Executive Council to ensure that the initiatives that have been developed are continued under new initiatives that are being developed in the area of aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. We are also, at the school level, responding to a clear direction from the general public confirmed by input from this Assembly that there be improved methods of student evaluation. In the coming year, we will be administering examinations in language and mathematics at the grade nine level and planning implementation of system-wide tests in social studies and science for implementation in 1986. I think that the implementation of examinations at the grade 12 level has proven successful and a good incentive to students and teachers in the education system to promote further excellence.

Mr. Chairman, another strong priority in the department in the coming year will be standards and procedures for evaluation of teachers in the Northwest Territories. We are working with our principals and superintendents and the teachers' association to ensure that implementation of an improved teacher evaluation system takes place and is implemented this coming fall. Also, at the school level we are actively testing a very important new program in alcohol and drug education

which has long been identified as a need by this Assembly and members of the general public. This program has been developed with the co-operation of the Department of Health and is planned for full implementation once the evaluation phase is over in the school program, in the coming school year beginning in the fall of 1985. We are also working actively to devolve authority for education to the local and regional levels in keeping with recommendations of the Ninth Legislative Assembly. Also recognizing that it is only through public involvement and support that the education system will continue to improve.

Development Of Special Education

Mr. Chairman, one of the major initiatives that I am very pleased to announce in this Legislative Assembly is something that I personally have been eagerly awaiting since I have taken on responsibility for this portfolio some four years ago and that is developing an enhanced program for students with special needs or special education, as it is sometimes called. Through the priority exercise which this Executive Council underwent in preparing this budget, I got, with the support of my colleagues, significant new resources to meet the very important needs of children with special needs in all parts of the Northwest Territories. We are going to be now able to not only offer additional teaching resources but also, and I think most important, provide for individualized programs for students who have special needs, whether they be gifted students or students who are for some reason handicapped or behind other students. We are going to be emphasizing the use of community-trained and community-based resources wherever possible. This new initiative is a major step forward, in my view, in improving the overall quality of our education system and allowing ordinary students to be given the kind of attention they need and allow them to progress without having teachers and educational personnel distracted and occupied with the special demands of students with special needs. At the school level, I should also mention, that some resources, albeit limited, some resources have been provided which will allow us where it is warranted and where community support is present, to extend the level of services offered in certain communities to include grade 10. We also are working very diligently to develop alternative programs for students who may not choose the academic stream, and indeed who may not have the necessary academic qualifications, to take advantage of our vocational certificate program and in this regard the community occupations program which has been developed in recent years appears to be successful and will be expanded where appropriate, as well as other special programs, to meet challenges that we face at the high school level.

Initiatives In Advanced Education

I am also pleased, Mr. Chairman, to outline some of the initiatives that have been undertaken in the area of advanced education. Members will know this is a newly-established department within my ministry which was established with the approval and co-operation of six other departments and transferred resources to the division of advanced education, so that training activities could be consolidated within the Department of Education.

One of the major initiatives of this department is expanding the Arctic College system so that we consolidate the enormous progress that has been made at the Thebacha College campus and upgrade that facility, but we also plan the establishment of regional facilities so that programs can be delivered directly closer to home for students in other parts of the Northwest Territories to complement the extensive field programs that are already offered through Thebacha College. In that regard I am pleased to note that, again, education was identified as a priority by our government and through the priorities exercise, significant resources were identified to obtain funding in certain areas of our college structure where programs had been developed without required resources. I will just briefly mention the board of governors operation, the social services program, the ophthalmic training program, the conversion of contract positions into permanent positions, the establishment of a public and business administration program, and the improvements of the library at Thebacha College.

We have also completed major evaluations of both the teacher education program at Fort Smith and the Eastern Arctic teacher education program in Frobisher Bay. Recommendations as a result of these evaluations are currently being studied.

We also are concerned that we need to review and make even more effective our student financial assistance regulations and procedures to meet the needs of the increasing number of applicants for loans and grants and bursaries. We have also established and developed a plan for dealing with in-service training within the government and have identified the need for a consistent territorial-wide program for adult basic education across the Territories.

In the coming year some of the major objectives will include consideration of, in co-operation with the Government Leader's office and the Department of Justice, participating in explorations of negotiation of the transfer of the labour function to the Territories, developing a legislative base for the Arctic College system, which would include development of legislation regulating the establishment of private schools, development of a labour market information system which would provide the data required to allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to more effectively prepare human resource development plans for the Northwest Territories.

Co-operation In Federal Initiatives

I also must say that although it is not clear what may come out of this, I have had several fruitful meetings with the new Minister of Employment and Immigration for Canada, and I am satisfied that the new spirit of flexibility and territorial/federal co-operation, which seems to be the modus of the honourable Minister, Flora MacDonald, will allow for the special needs of the Northwest Territories to be considered in the policies of Employment and Immigration Canada for the first time. I think up until now we have been somewhat handicapped by having to incorporate our needs into national programs and national priorities that all too rarely fit in with the needs of the Northwest Territories. I think the federal government, and it is a little early to say now, but I think the federal government will be willing to allow us to catch up on our post-secondary infrastructure, with the rest of Canada and, also, although high tech and very highly-skilled employment development is a priority in Canada I think the federal Minister fully acknowledges that in the Northwest Territories we have much more basic needs for basic adult upgrading and I am hoping, with the co-operative relationship that has begun and with the new federal moneys which have been recently identified as being available for training in Canada, that the Northwest Territories will get its share of opportunities to provide and enhance training opportunities for all our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, in the area of legislative initiatives it appears that regulations in support of the formation of the first divisional board of education should be ready shortly -- the finalization and work is continuing on what has appeared to be a rather complicated task of developing appropriate regulations to enforce compulsory school attendance. I have asked my department to have appropriate methods available for implementation beginning in the coming school year, should there be community support for those kinds of compulsory regulations.

I think generally school attendance is still improving in the Northwest Territories. Overall there has been an improvement of two per cent in average attendance across the Territories. In the coming year much more needs to be done, particularly in communities where support for education is lacking. At the elementary school level, we are working actively on program development without a significant increase in resources and one of the projects that has been successfully completed is the development and implementation of English as a second language program. We have also developed a number of other programs and have been active in in-service training to ensure that our staff will be qualified to deliver those programs.

Alberta Program Review Recommendations

I would also like to mention, Mr. Chairman, that one of the major initiatives under way in the Department of Education has to do with the review under way now in the province of Alberta of the secondary school program itself which we still follow in the Northwest Territories as part of our high school program and I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the honourable Arnold McCallum who has served on a committee established by the Alberta Minister of Education, to ensure that there is Northwest Territories input into this review.

---Applause

The Alberta secondary program review recommendations have now been received and a group of senior educators from all parts of the Northwest Territories are now working on an analysis of the recommendations as they might affect the Northwest Territories. I will be working closely with the Hon. David King, the Minister of Education of Alberta, to ensure that our views and special needs are contemplated as these important changes are discussed. In that connection, I might mention, we have already made, I think, significant strides in the Northwest Territories in that the province of Alberta has now permitted programs developed in the Northwest Territories to be accepted for credit without any further scrutiny, that is on our word, and so it means that in addition to initiatives that may be taken in Alberta, we now have the opportunity to develop special programs for credit in the Northwest Territories.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that the Northwest Territories continues to be actively involved in interprovincial co-operation and an active participant in the Council of Ministers of Education for Canada, who will be considering full membership for the Northwest Territories at their next meeting this fall, and we are participating in a number of national initiatives including television production of Canadian literature for high schools, and our participation in the agency for Tele-Education Canada. Through membership in this national committee we now have the opportunity of entering co-acquisition agreements for prime learning materials, taking part in co-productions and gaining access to professional development in the use of educational television.

Mr. Speaker, one final comment. The department is concerned that there is a continuing need for improved public awareness concerning programs and educational issues. This was raised in this House the last time I presented my budget. Since that time I have put renewed efforts into the publication which has now been translated into Inuktitut of the departmental newsletter called "Education Focus". But we have determined that a great deal more is required and I will be actively working in the coming year to find ways of encouraging acceptance and awareness of the importance and value of an education. In the coming year I have also asked my new deputy minister to make a major effort to fundamentally assess new priorities and directives over the next five years, ultimately for presentation to the Legislative Assembly. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am now ready to consider comments and questions respecting my budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will take a 15 minute coffee break but before we do I would like to remind the Members that there are two caucus meetings happening now.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come back to order. We are on page 16.1, Department of Education. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: On just a technical point. On the second page of the errata there are about 17 changes and if I could make a comment about a note underneath.

AN HON. MEMBER: Note 17?

MR. BALLANTYNE: No, I will not comment on the 17. I think that speaks for itself. But the note says "In several cases the percentage change indicated in the main estimates will be one per cent different than derived from standard rounding. This is due to truncating of the decimal places." I want to add that even though the Department of Finance make a lot of mistakes I think they are very, very exact in their corrections. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. General comments. We will go to the details of -- Mr. Ballantyne.

Priorities And Evaluation

MR. BALLANTYNE: You are in a hurry here, Mr. Gargan. I guess this is one general statement. I will get into some of the details as we get into the budget but it seems to me that the Department of Education is trying to do a vast array of different things. We are looking at new education divisional boards, we are looking at having grade 10 in communities, and we are looking at an Arctic College concept. It seems we are trying to do so many things with limited resources and I wonder have we reached the point or will we reach it soon where we are going to start having to prioritize some of those areas? It might be that under formula financing and budget restrictions, that we will not be able to be everything to everybody. Do you see some danger of that, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, maybe not so briefly in my opening remarks, it has been agreed with myself and my relatively new deputy minister that we shall develop a strategic plan for the next five years which will set the kind of priorities that the Member has in mind. I will bring together senior departmental staff at a location where we need not be distracted with day-to-day concerns for the necessary number of days to set those priorities. In the coming year, I think we have focussed on evaluation, planning an enhanced college system and special education as probably the immediate short-term priorities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was pleased to hear the Minister in his opening remarks indicate to the committee that his department is in the process of evaluating the efficiency of a number of its programs. This is something that was raised by the standing committee on finance to various Ministers about the process of doing an after-the-fact evaluation of the expenditure of government funds on programs. I am pleased to see that this Minister has got specific evaluation projects in place or going to be in place in the next fiscal year. So that, Mr. Chairman, is simply a general comment of compliment to this Minister.

Moving from that, I had initially two general comments specific to Yellowknife I suppose. The whole issue of the transfer of jurisdiction of Sir John Franklin High School, the Minister addressed in a written return in the last day or so, and the Minister has satisfied me now that he is going to actively address that issue. So, Mr. Minister, I will perhaps defer any further explanation on that particular issue.

If, however, I could turn to the other issue specific to Yellowknife and that is the increased enrolment in the city schools which has caused overcrowding. The Minister indicated earlier in the session that he would get the numbers and advise the House of the steps that he would take as a result of, presumably, a confirmation of the overcrowding numbers. So, could I ask, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister indicate whether he is in a position today to provide some specific answers with respect to this problem in Yellowknife city schools?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Member would be willing to wait until tomorrow because that very subject is on the agenda of the Financial Management Board which is scheduled to meet tomorrow morning. I wonder if the Member could wait one more day.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, if the answer were going to be negative, I know the Minister would not wait to tell me that tomorrow, so that is fine, Mr. Chairman, if we can have an opportunity to deal with this tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. General comments. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In discussion of the department in the standing committee on finance, I raised the question of the teacher education program survey that was done by Dr. Bob Carney. Is this report out? At the time I think it was indicated that we would be able to get some information on it and it dealt specifically with the teacher education program. I think I asked then if it were possible to get some. I think we would like to take a look at it. I know Mr. Duggan replied at that time to it.

Public And Business Administration Program

I have also a concern, Mr. Chairman, with one of the priorities of the department and that is the setting up of a one year public and business administration program in Frobisher Bay. Now, let me clarify that, I do not have a difficulty with you setting up another program in Frobisher Bay. Where I have the difficulty is that at the present time there is great concern over a two year program at Thebacha College and the result, if you like, of the education process in that particular area, in that there has been some concern as to the course content, the methodology of the course itself, the capability of students to get into employment on completion of that program and, quite possibly, there are other criticisms that have been levelled against the program in that it has certification only with, I think, the Certified General Accountants of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. But if there is a difficulty with the program at a two year level, with the present students, why are you starting a program of a one year duration in another part of the Territories? It would seem to me that regardless of where you want to have programs and have them expanded -- and I agree with it because I think it is inevitable -- I just do not accept the inevitability of this. I think it is right that there should be programs throughout the Territories, but it would seem to me that in the instance of this program, a proper study, accountability for the kind of program that is being offered, the methodology of it, and again I am not criticizing who is doing it, the people hired, the personnel, but it just seems that you would have it all straight in some place first before embarking on a program that is half the tenure of an existing program. So, to start with, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to have a comment on those two areas.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, we have since the standing committee on finance discussions on this budget received the report of Dr. Carney. I think it is an excellent report and I had instructed the department to send it to the standing committee on finance. If it has not been received, I will make sure it is delivered immediately. On the public and business administration program, I agree with most of what the Member has said. Although it was originally planned that there would be only a one year certificate program, it has now been redesigned as a two year diploma program. I do acknowledge that there are concerns expressed about the program offered at Thebacha College which I am sure the Member knows was designed by northern employers to meet northern needs. This has meant we do have a good success rate in employing graduates but I think there has been a problem with the number of graduates and, particularly, the upgrading that they are required to do to meet our requirements.

It is also true, and I think this is a disadvantage, that the program has yet to be affiliated with programs in other colleges and universities so students really do not have the opportunity to build on those qualifications and go further. The board of governors of Thebacha College just this weekend addressed the problems the Member is referring to. He is obviously very well-informed as to what is going on and it has been decided, as a result of those concerns, that this program must be evaluated and reassessed as to how it can be improved to meet those identified problems. I would say that, although there are some problems with the program, I do not think they are significant enough that we should stop the program. I think it can be improved, but we can build on what is already in place and I am confident that this review which is now under way will address some of these problems. I agree that we must find ways of affiliating this program with other colleges and universities as has been done with the social services and renewable resources programs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to indicate that I hope I was not indicating in my remarks that the program should be stopped and as far as my being aware of what is going on, I get the Slave River Journal, and it was front page. That is where I got it, there is nothing untoward. I would hope that the program would be given, as the Minister said, time to go and from what he said, I understand now that the Frobisher Bay program will be now a two year program similar to the one on the Thebacha campus. Is that what I understood the Minister to say? Does that then do anything to the figures that we received regarding that program in our budget books for this year or does it mean they intend to now do something with future years' allocation of funding? As I recall, there was to be \$250,000 spent in this particular priority. That was the figure I think was given to us for this particular program. Is there now any change in the \$250,000 for this year, or does it come in succeeding years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Urgent Management Training Needs

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the funding requirements will not change although obviously in the second year we will need enhanced resources to carry those students through to the second year.

I might also just mention, Mr. Chairman, that the Member is correct that this will be substantially the same program that is offered on the Thebacha campus of the Arctic College. However, we have been approached by a number of primarily native organizations, such as the Nunasi Corporation, the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, the ITC, the Inuit Cultural Institute and they have identified to the Department of Education urgent management training needs within their organizations and within the communities they serve. As a result I have established what has been called a task force on Inuit management development, which I think will identify the urgent needs for management training within those organizations and in more of the public rather than the private sector. I think at the Thebacha campus, we have focussed on the private sector and the direction we are getting from that task force is that in addition to private sector needs there are important needs in what I would call the public sector. So I think the focus of management training will be more on the public side than the private side in connection with the new program. But it will be similarly designed to meet the employment needs in the Northwest Territories by prospective employers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum.

Student Financial Assistance

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your replies. I would like to turn to another topic if I may and it comes about from the Auditor General's Report on "any other matter" dated January 8, 1985, sent to the Speaker.

It is in the area of student financial assistance dealing with the living allowance rates and there are certain recommendations made by the Auditor General with that. There should be retroactive approval of the Executive Council for increases in living allowances paid to students. I think the reply from the Executive Council or the Office of the Commissioner, as in this case it would be, is that it is agreed that it will be sought prior to January 1st of this year. I wonder whether they have. Again, we get into the recommendations -- since the Executive Council decision provides the authority for amending regulations there had to be decisions made as regards the clarity of the decision to make them retroactive to determine whether the allowances are going to be paid for a five or seven day week, and that the regulations should be amended to recognize those living allowances are payable at DIAND rates, with the approval of the Executive Council. It goes on in this report to say that the regulations should be amended to clarify the correct method of calculating the living allowances during the school year so that there is consistency in the application of rate payments to students. I think the Auditor General pointed out that there was some difference in the way that this was calculated and the way it was paid to students.

I wonder if I could have some kind of comment from the Minister that, yes in fact, there was retroactive approval sought by January 1st of the year; that retroactivity to September the 1st, I think of 1984, would be that students would be paid on the basis of a seven day week; that regulations are amended or were amended by January 1st of this year regarding the DIAND living allowance rates and that there was a directive prepared and sent out, or is being prepared now to be sent out, for the next fiscal year beginning April 1st, to clarify the calculations so that students know what they are going to be eligible for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is speaking I believe of the question of rates for married students and clarifying the definition of a week. Yes, I am well aware of that problem, Mr. Chairman. We did last year change the married students rate to bring it into line with the changes that were made to the single students rate, and those new rates have been paid and are being paid at the higher level to date.

As to the appropriate financial and regulatory changes, the approval for the revised financial authority is on the agenda of the Financial Management Board tomorrow morning. It is going to be a busy morning. I expect it will be almost a routine matter of obtaining that approval since the amount is budgeted and has in fact been spent.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where do we stand on the agenda?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, I think after this afternoon there will be two items that will head the agenda, Mr. Chairman. Secondly, once that approval has been obtained the appropriate regulatory changes will be put in place and that work is under way. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Status Of Arctic College Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noted in your opening remarks, Mr. Minister, that you were talking about the development of legislation as a base for an Arctic College. I know that you have wanted to have legislation to establish the college but I also know that under the recommendations of the special committee on education, there was a recommendation that grades 11 and 12 be included as part of an Arctic College. But we have not heard much more about that particular recommendation since. I know that it was one that was of great concern to some members in my constituency who did not want to see that kind of a change take place. Myself, I was not that disturbed, I was willing to look more at it but in discussions with many of my constituents since that time, it appears that most would not want to see that step taken. So, can I ask what is the status of that particular recommendation and, in developing legislation for the Arctic College, would that play any role in that legislation at all?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The recommendation, I believe it was number 41 of the special committee on education, which was approved by the Ninth Legislative Assembly, was examined by a task force on implementation and it was recommended that that particular recommendation not be implemented particularly in jurisdictions such as those in the Member's constituency where there are existing kindergarten to grade 12 programs. That is really where the matter stands. I might mention that I have not ruled out the possibility of implementing this concept where appropriate, in a situation such as Keewatin where we have an opportunity to do things differently in establishing a high school and simultaneously being worried about the great needs of the large number of adults who are in need of basic education and vocational training. But I can assure the Member that I got the clear message from his constituents and others where there are existing high schools that this is not seen to be desirable and probably would be seen as disruptive.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would ask Mr. Lovely to give an up-to-date report on just where the work is on the development of new legislation. He is part of a committee that is composed of governors of the Arctic College which is working on this legislation but just to answer the Member's question, the so-called Arctic College concept, grades 11 and 12 being administered under the college activity is not being contemplated in the new legislation and if you will permit, I will ask Mr. Lovely just to comment on where that legislation is. I understand that recommendation from that committee is that more time is going to be required to do a proper job on legislation which will meet the special needs of the Northwest Territories and it may well be that the legislation will not be available for presentation to this House until the fall session of 1985.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY: The Executive Council approved the development of legislation for an Arctic College in the fall of 1984. A subcommittee of the board of governors of the Arctic College was set up and has met twice to discuss the items which should be included in the legislation. A draft legislative proposal has been prepared and critiqued by the legal draftspeople. A further paper has gone back to them and we hope that that will result in an approval which will be forwarded to the, I believe it is the subcommittee on legislation. We are expecting or hoping, Mr. Chairman, that the legislation will be available for tabling at the fall session and hopefully approval at the following session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Enforcing Compulsory Attendance

MR. MACQUARRIE: I am just wondering whether the Minister could give the Members a sneak preview of the substance of the regulations that are going to come into effect to enforce attendance in the schools. Will it be bullwhips or German shepherds or merely attendance officers or whatever? More seriously, I am just interested in quite recently what are the attendance figures in the Territories? Are we showing signs of improvement and then what are some of the ideas that may be associated with trying to get more students into our schools?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As to enforcing compulsory attendance, we are hoping to recruit some tough grizzled former teachers for enforcement of these regulations and perhaps there are even some Members of this Assembly who may fit that category.

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, generally, although we are having some quite complex legal issues arising, I have proposed to the department that basically initiatives for compulsory school attendance should come from the local education authority and should have community support. I have suggested guidelines which would see local education authorities appoint a person or designate a member of its staff to be what I would call an attendance counsellor for an education district. That person shall be responsible under the supervision of the local education authority for administration of certain provisions of the ordinance relating to school attendance. That person would have the ability to conduct investigations with respect to referrals from the principal concerning attendance problems,

make every reasonable effort to obtain co-operation of students and parents and indeed might be given powers where necessary to visit homes and if necessary enter homes and send home or to the school, students who have been reported as being truant and finally, and in sort of the last extreme, institute with the direction of the local education authority, proceedings against persons who contravene the regulation or assist pupils in contravening the provisions relating to compulsory attendance. This would be for students who have been absent more than four days in a month without an excuse or without a reason pursuant to exemptions permitted under the present ordinance.

That is sort of a sketchy summary of the regime that I have asked be developed. I feel, Mr. Chairman, that it will not work unless there is a community where there is acceptance and a local education authority willing to make that their concern.

As to the question about attendance, Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned the average attendance in the Northwest Territories which is a rather global figure but none the less interesting, shows that in the last year which is the only full year we have figures for, that is 1983-84, attendance has on the average gone up two per cent to 82 per cent average. But this represents a broad range of attendance patterns. For example, in the three school districts in Yellowknife attendance is consistently 93 per cent which I think is very good and really probably the best that could be expected when you consider normal absences. The next region is the Fort Smith Region which averages 87 per cent, then the Inuvik Region 80 per cent, Baffin Region 77 per cent, Keewatin Region 71 per cent and Kitimeot Region 68 per cent. I think it is obvious that we have still very serious attendance problems in Keewatin and Kitikmeot although two years ago those figures were about five per cent lower on the average than they are now. So, we are making slow improvements, but I think the climate is right now to look at the problem communities and where there is community support, give local education authorities the teeth to force that small number of families and parents who, either through ignorance or even for personal or selfish reasons, refuse to provide their children with their right to an education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am pleased that the Minister is taking steps to try to make sure that attendance is improved. In some sense, some of the things that are recommended could be seen as enforcement, I guess, and there is no doubt that a certain amount of that is necessary but, really, it would be far better if our kids were coming to school regularly because they felt it was important to come to school regularly. I know, on the one hand, there is the job of teachers to try to do a good enough job that young people feel it is important to come but on the other hand, I feel also, that young people will only think it is important to come if their parents and community leaders think that it is important to come and I think that in the Territories perhaps there has not been enough of that. If I may give some gratuitous advice to Members, something that I am loath to do and do not often do, of course, is that I think it is very important for Members of this House, who are persuaded that education is important for the young in the Northwest Territories, to visit schools and to tell the young people that that is the case and to give them the kind of encouragement that would make them want to come to school, to show them the kinds of reasons why it is important for them to be well-educated and I think that that, along with these other measures, would be a very desirable thing, Mr. Minister.

Important Recommendations From Alberta Review

Another general comment is on the review of the secondary programs booklet that was put out as a result of the review of education in Alberta which our honourable Member, or colleague, the Member for Slave River was a part of. I would just like to take note of a couple of the recommendations which I thought were very important and that I would like to endorse -- I know that the Minister is just now in the process of getting advice from educators in the North as to how those recommendations should be viewed and what should be done about them, but I would say that from my own point of view two of them were particularly important and I would urge the Minister to look very seriously at them. One appears on page six under the headline "Critical Thinking" and it is a recommendation. It says, "It is recommended that the goals of schooling be amended to include the acquisition of critical thinking skills and decision-making abilities, accompanied by a recognition of responsibility for the results of decision-making." Now, I am sure that a lot of parents would assume that maybe that is what schools are all about right at the moment and I say, I am afraid they are not really and so I take that recommendation in the fullest sense of its meaning and believe that is what our schools should be doing, that is what they are all about and I would like

to see that recommendation upheld. The other is on the next page immediately under "Conduct and Citizenship". Under the recommendations, there were three in that section, particularly the second one was important to me although I do not agree with each of the values that are listed there and I would want to talk more about which values should be endorsed and inculcated in schools but the general statement that schools develop policies that foster the development of moral and ethical standards is something that I believe is important for our schools.

Development Of Moral And Ethical Standards

Part of the problem over the past number of years is that because so often in history moral values have been associated, in my opinion wrongly, with religion, in a public school system, there has been a reluctance to foster and nurture particular values because some people will say, "Well, whose values are you going to foster? What values are you going to try to inculcate?" If they feel that they are values that pertain just to some particular religion, some parents are reluctant to see those values inculcated in their own children and I understand that but I do believe that there are certain fundamental, moral values that have a rational basis, that have nothing whatsoever to do with religion but have a rational basis that can be explained by reason and that you could find a very large support for. One example I would give is the age-old advice, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." That I say is perhaps the most profound moral value that has been enunciated...

AN HON. MEMBER: People have...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just remember it, I practise it, Mr. Curley. That, I believe, has been one of the most profound moral statements ever enunciated. The fact that it is so simple, too often it is seen as a truism and therefore ignored but I would like to see -- I believe it can be justified on a rational basis and where a large number of parents can agree, in fact, that that is a desirable value, I would like to see the school systems do something to try to inculcate a value like that in children. I think it does not have to be done in any heavy-handed way, in any didactic way that would likely turn children off rather than encourage them. I note for example in recent months, television ads that are sponsored by the Mormon church and by the Mennonite churches, I believe, in which they have little snippets, scenarios of family life that make you think about certain values and I believe that is a desirable way to approach the whole thing. But at any rate, without trying to persuade everybody at this moment that the kinds of values I espouse are the ones they should espouse, I simply say that it is important for public schools to have some concern about moral values and do something to inculcate them in the system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Would you like to comment, Mr. Minister?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I found that recommendation to be a most intriguing aspect of the Alberta review. I think generally that I felt that the emphasis in the Alberta review in that area was more related to values of the market place and I am not sure whether those values are appropriate to the Northwest Territories. I think that generally people in the Northwest Territories, particularly the original people in the Northwest Territories, are unique because of the certain values such as respect for elders and for sharing that may not be emphasized in other parts of this country and I, of course, am awaiting advice from educators and the general public. The committee that is reviewing this matter now within the department has been asked to find effective ways of gaining further public input. I do not really feel I am in a position at this point to make a comment one way or the other, but I do appreciate the Member's advice and I think I can accept his assertion that, if there is support of local education authorities, there are values that it may be appropriate and indeed possible to teach in our schools, values which will not interfere with the distinction which I think is important between a church and state. I am looking forward to hearing their recommendations and discussing their advice with them and with the Minister of Education for Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): General comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Enhanced Program For Special Education

MR. MacQUARRIE: There was one other item and the Minister may have addressed it. I heard him briefly mention that he was announcing an enhanced program for special education and then I was taken away and I did not hear what followed. I am just wondering, did the Minister specifically state some of the things that would be attempted under that enhanced program? What kinds of new

services might we expect to see? If the Minister listed it, merely say that and I will look at the record for tomorrow. If he did not, I would be interested in some of the kinds of programs that might be planned for children with special needs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can provide a brief explanation of this. The total new moneys, and I am quite pleased to be able to announce this, the total new moneys which have been added to the existing budget for this area are a total of \$972,000 and 12 person years.

---Applause

I have been waiting for this moment for every budget I have ever presented in Education, and I must thank my colleagues for very easily recognizing that this was a priority that needed attention.

Of that amount, \$322,000 will be used to meet increased costs in dealing with students. Severely handicapped students who we have already identified have needs for special help but we have not been able to adequately provide for. These are blind, quadraplegic, hearing impaired, severely retarded, severe behavioural problems, deaf students, spinal bifida, etc. There are a number in all regions of the Northwest Territories.

Secondly, an amount of \$650,000 has been identified to develop a program which will deal with children with special needs in a community setting wherever possible. The funds will be used to hire and train teachers, classroom assistants, tutors and in some cases, child care workers. Some of the moneys will be allocated to materials, transportation and special equipment. I may say that in 1982, approval was given to hire regional special education consultants in all regions. So I think it is fair to say, we now have a very good knowledge of the needs in various regions and we are now quite ready, I think, to make excellent use of these new moneys to fill the needs that have been I think rather carefully quantified and identified by those regional special education consultants.

I must emphasize that wherever possible we are going to try to keep those students in the communities rather than putting them in institutions. There are certain numbers of students for whom there is really no alternative but institutional placement. But on my direction, the department is avoiding that alternative wherever possible. I am very much looking forward to participating in the implementation of this enhanced program because, I can say from some years of frustration over this matter, it really is well overdue. I think some of my colleagues in this Assembly who have been Education Ministers can vouch for this as well as I can. I hope that answers the question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Paniloo.

Language And Cultural Programs

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I already asked this question. I am going to ask it again. The Inuit language and culture teachers, instructors, have been requesting or demanding some things and they have not been able to attain them or get them. I would like to ask concerning the culture and language of Inuit which is now recognized, is it going to be like that for quite some time? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, if I understand the Member's question correctly, it relates to programs that might be offered by the local education authority respecting cultural or language instruction in the schools. If that is the Member's question, I am pleased to announce that effective April 1st, 1985, the budget provided in this area to local education authorities will be increased 20 per cent from \$35 to \$42 per student. This will permit local education authorities to increase salaries or expand their programs as they deem appropriate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to further ask, it was already asked, for the schools in Baffin Region, I think there are many student drop-outs. You mentioned who would be looking after this. Now the communities, will they be looking or investigating this

process? There are many problems in communities when they could be still attending school. There are many drop-outs and they cannot attain any employment or get any employment. Is there going to be some investigation into this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was referring earlier in comments from Mr. MacQuarrie to really the problem of poor attenders rather than the problem of drop-outs. Measures that will be in place by next school year will permit local education authorities who wish to, if necessary, take legal action against students who are not attending school. This could include students who have dropped out before the school leaving age. Generally, may I say that I feel that local education authorities are growing in abilities and interest in education and I am looking for opportunities like this to give them meaningful powers to do with the operation of their schools. The question of drop-outs, however, will not be resolved only by forcing students to attend school. In that regard, I might ask Mr. Duggan just to outline some of the new programs that have been developed recently to try to deal with students who cannot seem to fit into the existing school system, particularly at the community level. I would like to ask Mr. Duggan to describe these two new programs that we have established which have met with great success at the community level in attracting students to school who just do not fit into the more academic programs.

But first let me say that I think we are going to have to do even more than we have done with the two programs Mr. Duggan will describe. In the Baffin Region, for example, I am well aware that despite the facilities offered at the regional high school, there still are large numbers of students who simply cannot meet the entrance requirements of any of the programs due to being severely behind in their education for whatever reasons, some of which might include poor attendance. The principals of the schools in the Baffin Region I know have, working with the superintendent, tackled the project of meeting the needs of these students who simply cannot meet the entrance requirements for existing programs. I am also hoping that the special education program that I just mentioned will, I think, deal with students who have learning disabilities or who are severely retarded in their progress in school compared to their age. These students might be able to get through this program, special assistance in line with the tutorial program which has operated I think with great success in many communities in the western part of the Northwest Territories. I think of Fort Simpson, Hay River and Fort Smith as examples of communities where students who are potential drop-outs have been helped to remain in school and survive in school by tutors who come right from the community. That is another way of tackling the problem which is not an easy one to address.

In conclusion, I would like Mr. Duggan to describe the two new programs that we have developed which have met with some success.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Duggan.

Two New Alternate Programs

MR. DUGGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have two programs that we call alternate programs that are presently being provided in a number of communities in the Territories.

The first of these is the community occupational program. This program is usually delivered in the smaller communities and it is a program for older students who are considerably behind the grade level where they ought to be for their age, where they take half-time in the school in the classroom where they are taking upgrading to try and bring them up as far as possible academically and life skills and a number of other skills they need when they go out in the world to make a living.

The other half of their time is devoted to on-the-job experience in various occupations that are available in the community. We go out and we find employers who are willing to take these young people in, give them experience on the job so that they will learn what these jobs are all about. They will have an opportunity to find out whether they have any skill or interest in those particular jobs and they will also develop in the process some salable skills that they can use later on when they do go out into the world.

We have another version of this program that is a little more organized and is usually delivered in one of the larger schools, the regional high schools, and this is called a senior practical program. It is much the same type of program, where there is a considerable amount of on-the-job

experience but they also use the shops, as well, in gaining experience and skills. Usually this is devoted to three or four areas and we develop a competency profile for that and they learn very definite skills either on the job or in the shops. These are skills for which we can give them a certificate which says they have these skills. When they go out they can take that to a potential employer. Both of these programs, we feel, do an excellent job of preparing young people, who are not likely to graduate, to go out into the world and find jobs that they like and that they can bring some skills to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question of the Minister, Mr. Chairman. It has to do with the funding submission that this government has before the Treasury Board; between 1985-86 and 1989-90, some \$22,775,000 in capital and base level deficiency funding of \$2.674 million in 1985-86 rising incrementally into \$12,628,000 in 1989-90. Because of the new fiscal regime we are embarking on with the federal government in formula financing, it would seem to me anyhow, that any initiatives in education are initiatives made by this government and as such would not fall within the framework of formula financing. I wonder if the Minister has any comments as to what our chances are of being successful with these Treasury Board submissions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Federal Support In Education

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately I do not have our Treasury Board submission in front of me and it has been some time since I reviewed it. Frankly, it has been some time since there has been any action on it, I believe, in Ottawa. And maybe Mr. Butters might more appropriately answer this question. But let me say, I believe that as far as enhanced funding for education is concerned, which I think is sorely needed in addition to what this government can provide within its existing resources, even with the flexibility that formula financing will permit, I am convinced that the major sources of federal support lie within the post-secondary and training area and the new initiatives of the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As the honourable Member knows, at the First Ministers' Conference on the economy, it was announced that a further \$900 million would be available across the country for employment-related initiatives, employment and training. My discussions with the Minister of Employment and Immigration lead me to believe that the Northwest Territories will get its fair share and indeed that we will have a much greater degree of flexibility to negotiate for our specific needs.

Now, I know that our submission to the Treasury Board includes adult education and plans for establishing adult educators in every community in the Northwest Territories. Right now we have 34 adult educators, I believe, out of some 60-plus communities. I have already made Ms MacDonal aware that basic upgrading is a prime need in most of our communities. I am very hopeful that through the federal government we will be able to help address these needs and if it does not come through the Treasury Board submission, I expect that it could well come through the new initiatives that were recently announced.

Similarly in the capital area, I am very hopeful and I cannot be anything more than hopeful at this time, because our negotiations are not yet well enough advanced, but I am very hopeful that through the skills growth fund or the successor to the skills growth fund, which did result in a contribution of \$1.7 million in the last fiscal year to build the addition to the trades complex in Fort Smith, we will have necessary moneys to construct improved training facilities in the NWT. In that connection we are, as the honourable Member probably knows, contemplating long-range plans which will meet capital requirements of expanding the college system at the campuses in Fort Smith, Frobisher Bay and recently we have determined that we should study the potential of developing training facilities in the Inuvik Region. Not that there are not also needs in other regions but those are the areas that have been targeted as the priorities. So in the area of adult training and adult education and in the area of post-secondary capital facilities, we have, I think, quite good opportunities of obtaining necessary federal support.

Also I have recently received word from the Secretary of State that funds will be provided to make a federally-funded study of the needs for enhanced bilingual education, I mean French language education in the Northwest Territories. That study is actually now under way and I am hoping that a result of that study will be our ability to negotiate improved bilingual education in parts of the Northwest Territories where it is demanded. I am hoping that the federal support, from the Secretary of State, for this kind of study means that it will have the credibility for us to negotiate enhanced funding.

Those are the three areas where I think we have some prospect of gaining new moneys outside our own budget and unless Mr. Butters has any comments, I am afraid that I do not have any indications that we are going to have additional prospects of gaining moneys in such areas as establishment of enhanced local education authorities or special education which I think we really have decided can no longer wait on a federal response. As Members know this is something that our government has decided we must fund from reallocating our priorities within our own budget. I am not really a financial expert, so maybe Mr. Butters can add some further comments to what I have said but these are my own views of the prospects of getting federal funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Butters, would you care to add to the Minister's comments?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Not particularly, Mr. Chairman. The Treasury Board submission is in Ottawa as the Minister pointed out. It awaits the federal Minister's decision and direction and if it is approved or part of it is approved, it will be an addition to the budget that we currently are examining.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I guess my concern is that if this very significant level of funding is, for whatever reason, turned down then many of the recommendations of the special committee on education would be in jeopardy. It would necessitate looking for other sources of funding within our total budget. I wonder if there has been a certain level of expectation raised in communities that we might have some difficulty meeting in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to state the obvious but I think what sometimes makes the job of an Executive Member so difficult is that when public expectations are raised and it is impossible to fully deliver on those expectations, then either the Minister or indeed the department may suffer a lack of credibility. I think, by and large, that many of the recommendations of the special committee on education have been implemented as best we can with existing resources. I think, for example, of the native language area where the special committee did recommend the establishment of an indigenous language fund which has, I think, operated with some considerable degree of success to improve our resources in that area, and I perhaps should have mentioned that we are expecting that the federal government will, through the language initiative, continue to assist in that important priority. But the acid test I think will come with the initiatives that I have just mentioned, which we are hopeful can be responded through the federal Minister of Employment and Immigration; those are, developing our decentralized college system and secondly, providing more funding for basic adult education. I think that our school programs, now that we have a special education capability, can now concentrate more on the needs of the average student. I think that is going to make an enormous difference in the average class and to the average teacher, who is now hopefully not going to be so burdened with the needs of special students in addition to those of the average student.

I think if the discussions I have had with the federal government do materialize, we will be showing continuing progress in improving our education program. If they do not, then I agree with the Member that we are going to be hard pressed to meet the public expectations. That is not going to be anything new to me as Minister of Education, and I think Mr. McCallum and Mr. Butters and others may know that it is not the easiest portfolio in the world because public expectations are high and our ability to deliver, in an area where costs are so high, must of necessity be limited. This is why I have decided with my department to concentrate on rigorous evaluation of our existing programs so that we can squeeze every dollar to its maximum, because I am still convinced that there are programs which can be streamlined or replaced to take our precious dollars a little further than they are going. But I think generally that education continues to be a priority of the Executive Council and I think the priorities exercise has shown that education and training have certainly not been neglected in comparison with the other demands on our government. I am satisfied that with what we have, we are doing the best we can to put our new resources in that area.

Federal Training Priority May Address College System And Adult Training

I am afraid I am sounding as if I am not answering the Member's question very precisely. I suppose I am not, but there is quite a large unknown in the whole situation of the federal training priority which really, I think, has been identified by the new government as the only major area of

growth. So, if we can get involved in that priority and get our rightful share of those new initiatives I think that we will have a college system and an adult education system that will finally start to address the tremendous needs we have.

AN HON. MEMBER: Progress.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair will recognize the clock and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister and Mr. Lovely and Mr. Duncan. Thank you.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, if I may, it is Mr. Duggan, with two "g's". Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, I'm sorry Mr. Duggan, with two "g's".

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 7-85(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985-86

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering the departmental details of the 1985-86 main estimates and wishes to report progress.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Members have heard the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 27th at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion

11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Appearance of Atomic Energy of Canada Witnesses; Bill 7-85(1); Bill 3-85(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 27th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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