



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

4th Session

10th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report
DAY 27

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1985

Pages 967 to 1024

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

The Hon. Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1877
Hay River, N.W.T., X0E 0R0
Office (403) 874-2324
Home (403) 874-6560
Office (403) 873-7629 (Yellowknife)
(Hay River)

Angottitauruq, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
Gjoa Haven, N.W.T.
X0E 1J0
Phone (403) 360-7141 (Hamlet Office)
(Kitikmeot East)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
X0A 0W0
Office (819) 266-8860
Home (819) 266-8931
(Hudson Bay)

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

Ballantyne, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1091
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N8
Office (403) 873-8093
Home (403) 873-5232
(Yellowknife North)

Butters, The Hon. Thomas H., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 908
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N7
Office (403) 873-7128
Home (403) 920-4411 (Yellowknife)
(403) 979-2373 (Inuvik)
(Inuvik)
Minister of Finance and Government
Services

Cournoyea, The Hon. Nellie J., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1184
Inuvik, N.W.T.
X0E 0T0
Office (403) 873-7959
Home (403) 979-2740
(Nunakput)
Minister of Renewable Resources and
Information

Curley, The Hon. Tagak E.C., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 36
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
X0C 0G0
Office (403) 873-7139
Home (819) 645-2951
(Aivilik)
Minister of Economic Development and
Tourism

Erkloo, Mr. Elijah, M.L.A.
Pond Inlet, N.W.T.
X0A 0S0
Phone (819) 899-8845
(Foxe Basin)

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2131
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P6
Office (403) 873-7999
Home (403) 699-3171
(Deh Cho)

Lawrence, Mrs. Eliza, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2053
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 1W9
Office (403) 920-8052
Home (403) 873-2457
(Tu Nedhe)

MacQuarrie, Mr. Robert, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2895
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2R2
Office (403) 873-7918
Home (403) 873-8857
(Yellowknife Centre)

McCallum, Mr. Arnold, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 454
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
X0E 0P0
Phone (403) 872-2246
(Slave River)

McLaughlin, The Hon. Bruce, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 555
Pine Point, N.W.T.
X0E 0W0
Office (403) 873-7113
Home (403) 393-2226
(Pine Point)
Minister of Health and Social Services

Nerysoo, The Hon. Richard W., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
Office (403) 873-7112
Home (403) 873-5310
(Mackenzie Delta)
Government Leader and Minister of Justice
and Public Services

Paniloo, Mr. Pauloosie, M.L.A.
Clyde River, N.W.T.
X0A 0E0
Phone (819) 924-6220 (Hamlet Office)
(Baffin Central)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 310
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.
X0A 0H0
Office (819) 979-5941
(403) 873-7123
Home (819) 979-6618
(Iqaluit)
Minister of Education

Pedersen, Mr. Red, M.L.A.
Coppermine, N.W.T.
X0E 0E0
Phone (403) 982-5221
(Kitikmeot West)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 22
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.
X0A 0V0
Phone (819) 252-3737
(High Arctic)

Richard, Mr. Ted, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
Office (403) 873-7920
Home (403) 873-3667
(Yellowknife South)

Sibbeston, The Hon. Nick G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
X0E 0N0
Office (403) 873-7658
Home (403) 695-2565
(Deh Cho Gah)
Minister of Local Government

T'Seleie, Mr. John, M.L.A.
Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.
X0E 0H0
Phone (403) 598-2303
(Sahtu)

Wah-Shee, Mr. James, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 471
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N4
Office (403) 873-8099
Home (403) 873-8012
(Rae-Lac La Martre)
Deputy Speaker

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
X0C 0A0
Office (403) 873-7962
Home (819) 793-2700
(Kivallivik)
Minister of Public Works

Officers

Clerk
Mr. David M. Hamilton
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk
Mr. Joel Fournier
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant (Procedural)
Mr. Albert J. Canadien
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard
Mrs. Marie J. Coe
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant (Administrative)
Mr. S. James Mikeli
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Sergeant-at-Arms
S/Sgt. David Williamson
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1985

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	967
Members' Replies	
- Mr. Ballantyne's Reply	967
Ministers' Statements	
- On Proposed Amendment to Public Service Ordinance	973
Oral Questions	974
Returns	978
Tabling of Documents	978, 979
Notices of Motion	979
Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills	
- Bill 11-85(1) Vehicles Act	979
Motions	979
Second Reading of Bills	
- Bill 4-85(1) Young Offenders Act	980
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 7-85(1) Appropriation Act, 1985-86	
- Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat	981
- Department of Health	987
- Department of Social Services	1023
Report of Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 7-85(1) Appropriation Act, 1985-86	1023
Orders of the Day	1024

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Curnoyea, Mr. Erklou, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, 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 Monday, March 25. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. Ballantyne's Reply

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome this opportunity to reply to the Commissioner's Address. I found my first 15 months as an MLA to be both challenging and frustrating. The 10th Assembly, thus far, has been marked by some major accomplishments and by some fundamental differences of opinion. I do not believe that the present controversy and impasse in the area of constitutional development and division should lead us astray from our prime responsibility which is to provide good government to the people of the Northwest Territories. There has been much discussion and explanation as to the events which followed the tentative boundary agreement of January 13th and 14th. There is not much more that I can say on this subject that has not already been said. I do, however, have a few brief points that I want to make.

Tentative Boundary Agreement

First of all, I congratulate all members of the alliance for the hard work and pragmatic compromise needed to reach the tentative agreement. I fully support the positions taken by the Western Constitutional Forum and the western caucus since the tentative agreement was made. I believe that all Members of this Assembly have a mandate during the life of this Assembly to ensure that, if there is to be division, the boundary established and the process for constitutional development that is acceptable to the majority of the NWT residents continue. It appears that the parties that belong to the Nunavut Constitutional Forum have rejected the tentative agreement although there has not been an official letter from the NCF to the WCF confirming this. Members of the WCF and Members of the western caucus would prefer that an honest attempt be made to carry out the principles and process as contained in the tentative agreement. If, in fact, the tentative agreement is dead then certain realities must be recognized by new members of the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. They will find, as part of the alliance, the same problems in trying to achieve a solution and the same necessity to reach compromise as the alliance came to grips with in January.

It is a very emotional and very difficult issue. I, for one, supported the principle of division in 1982 when it was not very popular to take that stand in Yellowknife but I have never supported and will never support a tree line boundary. The Dene and the Metis today in a press conference have issued a joint statement that clearly outlines their position. I will refer very briefly to a couple of elements in that joint statement. I think Members, in the next few days, will become aware of the total resolutions passed at the joint chiefs and Metis board meeting in Fort Providence last Thursday.

"Whereas the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs clearly indicated before the Legislative Assembly on February the 6th, 1985, his support for division based on the principles of the alliance boundary agreement and whereas the tree line would never be an acceptable boundary for division under any circumstances, therefore be it resolved that if division is to occur, the Dene Nation leadership and the Metis Association board of directors hereby unanimously support the tentative alliance agreement of January the 13th, 1985, which was negotiated in good faith by WCF members and which was approved by all Members of the Legislative Assembly's western caucus by Motion 8-85(1) of the Legislative Assembly, passed February 25th, 1985."

Role Of GNWT And Constitutional Forum

Also if I could put on the record a portion of motion number three, which was also passed at the same conference: "Therefore be it resolved that the Metis Association's board of directors and the Dene Nation's leadership continue to support the alliance as the only type of mechanism capable of legitimately and successfully addressing the issues of constitutional development, division and selection of a boundary, and any attempt on the part of the GNWT or any other single party to assert primary responsibility for this process will be rejected. And furthermore, be it resolved that constitutional development must remain a priority for all northern peoples, whether or not division takes place."

I think the position of the Dene Nation and the Metis is very similar to the position taken by the western caucus. The western caucus considers the alliance and its forums as the most appropriate mechanism capable of legitimately and successfully addressing the issues of constitutional development, division and the selection of a boundary. And though we in the western caucus agreed that there is a legitimate and important role for the GNWT which must be clarified, that no one party, including the GNWT, should assert or hold primary responsibilities for the process of developing that consensus.

I feel that if the good will and pragmatic reality is present to achieve a political division of the NWT acceptable to the majority of NWT residents, then division is possible. If those factors are not present, we are at an impasse and perhaps division should be put on the back burner, and we should get on with constitutional development and with our major responsibility to provide good government to the people of the NWT.

I feel that the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs is very receptive to the direction we want to see the North follow, and I am confident that he will let us decide our own fate and not impose a solution on us. I feel confident also that Members of the House will be able to separate the roles and responsibilities we have in the area of constitutional development and the roles and responsibilities we have in providing much-needed programs of housing, economic development, alcohol and drug programs, education, social services, health, just to name a few. The people in the North cannot wait for new political institutions to develop. They need solutions to their problems and they need those solutions now.

Constituency Concerns

At this time I would like to reflect on some of the needs and concerns of my constituency, and some of the positive responses that this government has made in the previous year. I represent a unique constituency and their perceptions and needs are quite different and quite varied. In my constituency I have Rainbow Valley and Detah. Rainbow Valley and Detah historically, because of their proximity to Yellowknife, have really been forgotten and have been in a backwater of economic and social development. I would like to go into the record as thanking this government for some of the initiatives they have taken trying to help the people of Rainbow Valley and Detah to achieve their true potential.

As Members are aware, Tom Eagle has become an economic development adviser to the band. The band in Rainbow Valley and Detah have joined the Dogrib Tribal Council LEAD Corporation and there are many new economic development initiatives coming out of Rainbow Valley and Detah. I think that is a very, very healthy sign and there has been excellent support by the Department of Economic Development for these particular initiatives.

In the area of recreation, Mr. Sibbeston was very helpful in helping to provide a ball park in Detah. We know there are many, many young people in Rainbow Valley and Detah and for a number of reasons they have not been able to fully utilize the many recreational facilities in Yellowknife. It has been my belief and the belief of the band council that there should be facilities in their own community to meet their own needs. We are starting on that path right now -- that was a first step and there are many things to come but I am generally very happy with that sort of response.

Areas Of Concern In Rainbow Valley And Detah

There is a problem in Rainbow Valley and Detah with senior citizens. There is no place for senior citizens. Later on in my reply I will respond to some of Mr. McLaughlin's actions in the area of senior citizens in Yellowknife but I think Mr. McLaughlin is aware that there are some unique situations in Rainbow Valley and Detah which have to be addressed, hopefully during the life of this Assembly.

In the area of housing, Members of the housing committee who toured Rainbow Valley and Detah understand that some of the most severe overcrowding in the Northwest Territories takes place in Rainbow Valley and Detah and some of the houses in the worst condition in the Northwest Territories are found in Rainbow Valley and Detah. This year there was only one HAP unit but we have the assurance of the Minister that a proper evaluation will be done in Rainbow Valley and Detah so that, hopefully, their needs can be considered along with the needs of other communities of the Northwest Territories.

We have major problems in Rainbow Valley and Detah in the area of education, that of absenteeism from schools, and the fact that the facility now found in Detah is not considered to be adequate. I have the assurances of Mr. Patterson that he will participate in a public meeting with the people of Rainbow Valley and Detah to hear their concerns with education and I appreciate the Minister's commitment to participate in that meeting. Because of the proximity of Rainbow Valley and Detah to Yellowknife, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse are terrible in Rainbow Valley and Detah. I know that it has been a tremendous concern to the band over the years but really nothing seems to have worked up to this point in time. I really feel that the initiatives that we take as a Legislative Assembly can be very helpful to those people particularly. It is a very, very serious problem and I want to bring it to everyone's attention that people who are living that close to the city of Yellowknife do have a problem and I think we have a responsibility to help them alleviate that problem along with all the other people of the Northwest Territories facing serious problems with alcohol and drug abuse.

I would like to thank Mr. Wray for the repair work done on the Detah road. It was probably the worst-kept road in the Northwest Territories. There was some work done last year and there will be some work done this year and hopefully the end result will be that road will be passable. There were instances last year when they actually had to close the road. In the springtime when the ice is melting, many times the road is not passable, so I thank Mr. Wray for his initiatives on our behalf.

In the long-term plan there is a multipurpose hall for Detah which will be coming on line in 1986-87, and a community hall for Lot 500 which will be coming on line in 1987-88. I think both those units are very, very important to the integrity of those communities. I think there is a recognition, now, by this government that small communities, and I consider Rainbow Valley and Detah to be small unique communities, need a focal place where people can gather, where there are activities for young people and for seniors. I welcome this initiative of the Department of Local Government and I can assure the Minister that people are looking forward with great anticipation to those two facilities being completed.

My final remark on Rainbow Valley and Detah is that for the first time that I am aware of, in the last six or seven years since I have been involved, people in Rainbow Valley and Detah are starting to have a very positive attitude to what they can accomplish and what this government can accomplish. I am very happy to see that and I appreciate all the support I have had from Members of the Executive and Members of the House to try to help these people come to grips with their very serious problems.

Contribution Of Mining Industry To Economy Of NWT

To move on to another area of my constituency, probably the opposite extreme, the mining industry. I have within the boundaries of my constituency, Giant Mines, and I would like to make a couple of comments, if I could, about the mining industry generally and Giant Mines specifically.

I think though that there are many differences among Members on exactly how northern participation can be maximized in the mining industry. The fact is, for any program that we as a government want to run, there is a need for sectors of our economy that do produce wealth. The mining industry right now is probably the single most important sector of our economy which produces wealth. There was a recent report of the NWT Chamber of Mines that was put together by the new general manager, Dave Nutter, which gives a few statistics.

Presently in the NWT, there are 10 working mines and they employ some 3000 workers of which 1600 are residents of the NWT. I think we all can look to ways to increase that percentage so that in the future a higher percentage of workers in mines will actually be residents of the NWT and native people will be given the full opportunity to work in mines. I think that it is our responsibility to work closely with the mining industry and try to see those sorts of things come about. None the less, presently the mining industry in the NWT has a pay roll of some \$69 million which is spent in the NWT, that is for the 1600 workers who are residents of the NWT.

There is another \$20 million to \$25 million spent by the mining industry with northern suppliers, etc., in the NWT, which is a direct injection into our economy of wealth. In exploration activities, the closest estimate is some \$30 million was spent last year. So I want to emphasize that obviously there always will be some problems with industry but the mining industry is making a very positive contribution to the economy of the Territories and we have a responsibility I think to work closely with them to try to ensure maximum benefits to the North and to northerners.

In Yellowknife itself, Giant Mines is a very integral, important part of Yellowknife. Historically one of the reasons that Yellowknife is here is because of Giant Mines and Con Mine. Presently Giant Mines employs some 300 employees and Salmita which is a mine run by Giant outside of town, some 90 employees. There are presently some three years of reserves now in Giant Mines and I, for one, think it would be a tremendous blow to this city if Giant Mines closed down. I said they have contributed a lot to the wealth of this city and my fear is that if Giant closed down, we could lose a basic part of this city, and this city would become like Ottawa, merely a civil servant town. And I do not think any of us want that to happen. I think the mining industry gives this city a broader base and diversity that I think we need and enjoy.

Old Town, Yellowknife

Another part of my constituency is the Old Town section. I think one of the realities we are facing in Yellowknife because of the housing crisis is that people are finding many innovative and different ways to provide their own housing. I know most of you are aware of some controversy over the last six or seven months about squatters in Yellowknife, and I have a couple of comments to make about squatters. First of all I do not like the term. The fact is there are a number of people in different circumstances that have found different ways to provide their own housing needs. They are not all the same. I think the term "squatter" is a very negative term. The fact is they are people with different needs and I think they should be treated on an individual basis.

I was very glad to hear in the recent edition of the Yellowknife newspaper the city council is taking a more conciliatory approach. Because I for one have said from the beginning I think there is a way to look after the legitimate interests of this city, the legitimate interest of people who are living in diverse housing in my constituency and still be able to retain the unique character of Old Town, I was happy to see that there is a beginning of some positive responses from the city administration.

There are some businesses which are operating and thriving in my constituency. I would like to make some note of those. There is a new business, Yellowknife Trading Post, which is providing I think a unique business in my constituency. You know the Wildcat Cafe, many of you have eaten at the Wildcat Cafe and I think it is a very important facility that reminds us of our history and our past. I for one am very proud of it and I am glad to see that it is thriving.

There is Weaver and Devore Trading Ltd. It has been part of the Yellowknife landscape for decades. What I see in Weaver and Devore's store is a true family operation, a family general store. There is more than Weaver and Devore's providing you with your necessities. There is the friendly attitude and the human way that the Weaver family has run that store I think does themselves and does Yellowknife very proud.

Another one of my constituents is Marion LaVigne. I am very pleased to note the success of the new magazine "Up Here" and also of "Business North". It is a very risky competitive field and it is really good for all of us to see a magazine that will be read in the North and South and it is as well put together as any southern publication.

General Areas Of Concern In Yellowknife

If I could get into some general areas of concern throughout the city of Yellowknife. There is the ongoing concern with day care. Because of the very high costs of living in the North, both spouses in families in many cases are forced to work. Now in Yellowknife there are various types of day care services being provided but I would like to see this government get more involved in the situation by offering more support to day care and to recognize the need for a day care support system throughout the North. It reflects the reality of northern living. It is not a luxury here that one might find in southern places. Here we have to look at day care as a necessity.

In the area of housing, I think there has been much said in that area. My two colleagues and I have made the Minister, I think, very aware of the serious crisis in Yellowknife. The problem in Yellowknife is that we have probably the largest grouping of people on welfare in the NWT. I think the second largest grouping of native people in the NWT live in Yellowknife and sometimes those groups or segments of society are forgotten because of the perception that everybody in Yellowknife is well-off and everyone is taken care of. I think we made our points and I trust that the Minister responsible for Housing will take our concerns seriously and will attempt to respond within the limitations of his department.

In the area of highways, as you know the Ingraham Trail is now being heavily used by recreation users and industrial users. Because of the heavy usage and because of the conflict of usage, there is a lot of danger on that particular highway. I brought these dangers to the Minister's attention. He has allocated resources to try to improve that situation. What I want to get on the record, what I do not want anyone to kid themselves about -- we must come to grips with the problem. If we support economic development, if we support mines which are at the end of a winter road and in order to get to those mines you have to use the Ingraham Trail, then we as a government have a responsibility to upgrade the Ingraham Trail. I thank the Minister for his concerns and responses and I hope to see in years to come, more work done on the Ingraham Trail before we do have a serious accident.

With sewer and water, something that has been brought to the attention of this House I think quite frankly and forcefully, there is a serious problem. It is going to take some five years to come to grips with this problem. There will be some eight million dollars necessary to come to grips with this problem. I want to thank the Minister responsible, Mr. Sibbeston, and the Executive Council for responding to the needs, this year, of some \$2.5 million in priority funding. Mr. Nerysoo had a point that he made when we were discussing the standing committee on finance report on support for the \$20 million priority moneys allocated. I, for one, want to go on the record as saying that I support the initiatives taken by the Executive Council for priority fundings. My comment and the concerns of the committee was that next year we want the process streamlined. We do welcome and support the concern and the response of the Executive Council to this Assembly.

Another point that has been brought up during the year is NWT Air has applied to have a direct flight to Edmonton from Yellowknife. I know that is one that this government has not directly got involved in but I, for one, want to be on the record of saying that I support that initiative of NWT Air to have a flight from Yellowknife to Edmonton. I think competition is very positive. I think having another air line on that route will, hopefully, improve the service given to the people of Yellowknife and the North.

High Power Rates In The North

In the area of power rates -- that is something that has been an ongoing concern to myself for a number of years and for all Members of this House. Again, a very difficult problem. I know that there are certain recommendations now in front of the National Energy Board. I know our Minister,

Mr. Curley, has made a representation to the Energy Board. Whatever the mechanism that is finally worked out, I think we all have to recognize that power rates in the North and especially in the smaller communities are, I think, far too high. If we are to thrive and grow in the North I think there has to be some relief given to power rates throughout the North. I hope that the government perceives this as a priority and keeps plugging away at it because it is a very important one. The bottom line -- with everything else we may do, in housing and economic development and in mining, the fact is that if power rates keep going up it is going to make everything else almost irrelevant. So, I think that is a point that I hope the Executive Council keep at the top of their agenda.

Another point in relation to housing is the Condominium Ordinance. I think it is a very important aspect and I am very glad to hear that Mr. Nerysoo is pursuing it. I think that if we do have enabling legislation in the Northwest Territories so that builders can build condominiums it will do much toward alleviating part of the housing problem. I emphasize part of the housing problem. That is the part that the private sector can handle. The other part is the responsibility of the Housing Corporation, the public sector, for those people who cannot afford to either rent or buy houses provided by the private sector.

Taxation Of Northern Benefits

The issue of taxation of northern benefits might come to a head during the next budget of the federal government, I think it is in May, and I hope that the Minister of Finance and his people emphasize again that there has to be some equitable way of giving people in the North a tax break. There are examples in Australia, there are examples in Russia, there are examples in northern parts of Scandinavia where there are definite tax advantages in those areas to encourage people to live and work in those areas. I think our country, with this vast northern area has been very retrogressive in its attitudes toward the North. If the federal government in fact wants the North to develop then, I think, it is imperative that they give those sorts of concessions to the North to allow that to happen in a realistic way.

In the area of schools, my colleagues and I made representation to Mr. Patterson. As everybody is aware, the school population in Yellowknife has dramatically increased. At this point in time there are some real strains, serious strains, put on the system. Mr. Patterson has responded and I am sure that he has an open mind and if the school boards of Yellowknife can justify and explain the need for added facilities, I am quite confident he will respond positively. We will have in the weeks and months to come other discussions about the aspect of Yellowknife Education District No. 1 taking over the high school along with other related education subjects.

I would like to congratulate one of my constituents, Mrs. Barbara Bromley, for her efforts on behalf of the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors to begin the process to build a comprehensive facility for senior citizens in Yellowknife.

Recreational Facility For Yellowknife

I know one subject in this House that we as MLAs have not introduced and I will start the process now. I think we recognize the limitations of government and we recognize that there is an attitude that Yellowknife is well taken care of. That attitude is only partially right, but not 100 per cent right. So what we have tried to do is prioritize to the government our needs and try not to ask for everything at one time. We have said publicly that we thought that the most important need of our city in the last fiscal year was assistance with the sewer and water problem. I know the Minister responsible for Local Government has had a request for a new recreational facility in Yellowknife and we are aware of limited dollars. We hope the Minister takes that request seriously. I would like to emphasize this particular facility will not be a new facility. We are talking about replacing two facilities that at the present time are in very bad condition, very much overused and almost about to fall to pieces. So, what we are looking at now is, because of the growing population, because of the city of Yellowknife's commitment to pay a significant portion of the capital and ongoing O and M cost of these facilities, that in the next couple of years the Minister will look favourably toward some form of capital assistance to the city to replace these two facilities.

These are just some of the concerns of my constituency and I would like to thank the Executive. I would like to thank Members of the Legislative Assembly for their responses in the last year toward many of the concerns. Obviously all our concerns cannot be solved in one year but I think the Executive Council and the Assembly made a very good start on it and we appreciate it.

Committee Work Was A Positive Experience

If I could go on, I would like to end this discussion on a positive note, with my work on committees. I think being chairman of the finance committee and being a Member of the public accounts committee has been a very, very worth-while exercise. I know for both the committee and for the Ministers dealing with a lot of detail is a lot of work. There are hard decisions that have to be made, a lot of choices that have to be made. But I found that the role of the finance committee this year was very positive and I enjoyed most of the discussion that we had in committee of the whole. So I think the Executive and the finance committee came to a better understanding as to what our role is, as to what the role of the Executive Council is and how we can co-operate to achieve our primary role which I think is to provide good government. So, I found that my experience on the finance committee has been very good.

I think the experience I had on the housing committee was extremely unique and a fulfilling experience for myself. I think that we, in the housing committee, with Members from the East and the West, and Dene, Inuit, Metis and non-native Members -- we travelled thousands of miles together. I think we established very close friendships, and some tremendous co-operation. I remember one point -- and I think I brought this up in the House -- that maybe symbolized it all, was Mr. Arlooktoo pulling Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Gargan and Mrs. Lawrence on a skidoo when we were out on a seal hunt in Resolute Bay. I remember those experiences we had together. I felt they were very worth-while for all of us. I feel that the understanding and the trust and the co-operation among MLAs that developed over the community hearings on housing should be the model on which we run this House, and not the misunderstanding, the public insults and the accusations of past weeks. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Item 2, Members' replies. That appears to be all for Members' replies for today. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On Proposed Amendment To Public Service Ordinance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As honourable Members are aware, the government has introduced an amendment to the Public Service Ordinance in the form of Bill 2-85(1). Since the introduction of the bill, honourable Members have expressed concern about the intention of the bill. Our local press has also reported on the bill and has in my view unfairly described it as a "gag" law.

Mr. Speaker, the need for this bill was realized in a routine examination of the Public Service Ordinance. It was discovered that while the Public Service Ordinance provided for an oath of secrecy, it does not contain penalty provisions for the breach of such oath of secrecy. The bill was introduced, therefore, to correct this anomaly. Unfortunately, it would seem that the action of the government in correcting this anomaly has been construed by some of the Members and the press as a new initiative on the part of the government to further restrict the freedom of speech of public servants. In my view, the bill does nothing of the kind.

Mr. Speaker, public servants by the very nature of their jobs come into contact with matters of state, some of which may be classified as secret or confidential. This is particularly true at the higher echelons of the public service and in respect of confidential support staff. In my view, a government, any government of any political stripe is entitled to expect that such matters of state will be kept confidential by the public servants.

The government places a trust in those public servants and in my view it is entitled to see that such trust is not violated. The GNWT, like any other government, has placed that trust in its public servants, and in my view is fully entitled to expect that its public servants will not violate that trust.

Mr. Speaker, while I have the opportunity I wish to allude to one other aspect of this trust that I referred to a moment ago. The requirement of confidentiality in my view applies not only during the term of a particular government but applies equally between the expiry of one government and the beginning of the next government. During that period as well, public servants must ensure that

they do not infringe the norms of confidentiality that have been imposed upon them. Mr. Speaker, this government like any other government will take a very dim view of any attempt to breach the trust that it places on the public service. That is not to say, however, that the public service does not enjoy rights accorded to all Canadian citizens. However, by entering the public service such individuals have agreed to voluntarily enter into an arrangement whereby due to the nature of their position, some degree of confidentiality has to be imposed upon them. I find such a situation to be fully compatible with the democratic principles of our nation.

In view of the concerns expressed by honourable Members and so as not to give the impression that some additional restrictions are being imposed through the public service bill, the Executive Council has decided not to proceed with the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, the bill will be allowed to die on the order paper. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 3, Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude this item. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 182-85(1): Materials For Coffins, Clyde River

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Justice and Public Services. In Baffin Region whenever a person dies up in the North they are not given any coffins because they have not paid for their coffins yet. This has caused some problems in my community of Clyde River. However, the RCMP have provided us with some wood to make coffins but I was wondering if you would be able to provide us with some funding to buy some wood for coffins. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that that particular responsibility is a joint responsibility between the Minister of Health and Social Services and myself as Minister of Justice and Public Services and I will take that suggestion as notice and provide a further response. I believe there is probably a different way of approaching this than has been done in past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, you are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 183-85(1): Travel Funding For Inuit Musicians

MR. ARLOOKTOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Local Government. Although we had just dealt with the main estimates for Local Government I think I was too unaware when it was time for the questions. My question is in regard to some Inuit musicians. I was wondering if there is going to be some source of funding for these Inuit musicians to go into another community for festivals. I was wondering if you could provide some funding for the year 1985-86. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will reply to the Member's question tomorrow so I will take this question under advisement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking this question as notice then. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Erkloo.

Question 184-85(1): Travel Funding For Volleyball Tournaments

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Local Government. Sometimes there are some students or people in the communities going to another community to play volleyball. For example, there was a volleyball tournament for Igloodik and Hall Beach and I had to pay for their plane tickets because they did not have enough funding for that. I was wondering if you would be able to look into this matter or if you would be able to find some source of funding for these people who go out and play volleyball games.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. I would be pleased to look into the matter and also get more details from the Member and we will provide the Member with a response tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 185-85(1): Drop-Outs To Attend Adult Education

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Education about students attending adult education classes in the communities. I would just like you to know that since I grew up in the communities and I grew up in the Inuit ways of life. There are a lot of Inuit people who can survive up in the North who are older people. I think that we should be altering the adult education curriculum and materials for those students who have dropped out from the high schools. I think that we should let them attend the adult education instead. I think that is the only way that we will be able to rectify our problems of school drop-outs in the North. Some of them do not know how to go out hunting and some, although they do not go to school are not working either. Those students who dropped out of school, I think should be going to adult education. I was wondering if this were an actual fact, would there be some problems arising from this? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 185-85(1): Drop-Outs To Attend Adult Education

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, we do tend to encourage students to go as far in school in their local communities as they can. It is not impossible for a drop-out to go to adult education but we have set an age limit of 17 so that students will be encouraged to use the schools rather than crowding our adult education centres. I hope that answers the Member's question. Thank you.

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

Question 186-85(1): Enhancement Of Native Language Services

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader and it is with regard to the enhancement of native language services. One of the parts of this program is that the GNWT ministerial task force be commissioned to recommend to the Executive Council on the implementation of language programs and that is in regard to the enhancement. But also, in a press release done in September 1984, the Minister indicated that the initiatives, to take the form of a senior level priorities project, will be headed up by Brian Lewis. That is another level that I do believe there is. The third level is with regard to the commission or task force, going into the communities, I guess, to consult with the communities with regard to the development or enhancement of the native languages within government. I would like to ask the Minister if there are actually three different levels. There is a senior level priority project, there is also the GNWT ministerial task force and also the commission or task force. Are there actually three different types of ministerial levels that are going to be used to implement the language program?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 186-85(1): Enhancement Of Native Language Services

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to indicate that there are not necessarily three levels. We are trying to deal with this issue of language and provision of language services and programs from a number of perspectives. Firstly, within government itself we already run and

have the responsibility for carrying on a certain number of programs and projects. As well, we are also responsible for the provision of interpreter/communicator service, as a government. Within government we have now the new initiative on the part of this government to respond to the issue of culture. In order for us to respond appropriately we have to bring together at least some idea of what those programs and services now are, that as a government we perform and review what the deficiencies within those programs are.

Secondly, the case of the public process would be the task force. The intent of that is to seek public input into what they perceive as being some of the deficiencies in government and how they see the government improving the services and programs in the areas of languages. So in reality they are not necessarily competing with one another but rather trying to bring together what responsibility we have as a government and also giving some direction as to what the general public and as well, we as a government might see as an amalgamation of the responsibilities within government, of languages.

The other element you talked about was the ministerial committee dealing with languages. It is comprised of myself, who presently is responsible for the implementation of the agreement, in conjunction with the Minister responsible for Information, the Minister responsible for Culture and the Minister of Education, who all have some responsibility in language services and language programs. So whenever we bring together all the elements that are part of the report itself, of the task force, and some of the concerns that we might see as Ministers with regard to the provision of services, after having amalgamated all that information we believe that we can best respond to the issues and show where there is a need for extra money, as well as show where there is a need not to spend money as a government. Because in reality we might already be spending that money. In other areas we may require more. So I believe that there are three elements but not necessarily in conflict with one another and not necessarily expending more money but rather bringing some consensus on the direction we wish to go. I believe that the Member also realizes that within government itself, particularly as it relates to the Athapascan languages, we have already an Athapascan language steering committee which reports to the Minister of Education and which has made a number of recommendations on the manner in which we can implement the use of aboriginal languages, particularly the Dene languages and how we can best respond to the concerns in the Dene communities. I just say that is one indication of another committee that is already in existence and reporting to government. We also have in the Eastern Arctic the Inuit Cultural Institute which has done a lot of work in languages. I just say with regard to those three elements, it is not intended to deal with conflicting interests but rather to bring together some consensus or some amalgamation of the direction we wish to go. I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, that an additional responsibility of the individual to bring together a position on languages also has to deal with the question of developing a position paper on the manner in which we are going to address the whole French language question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Gargan, a supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 186-85(1): Enhancement Of Native Language Services

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, with the warm weather, summer coming, whether he will have the task force in place to travel to the communities during the summer months. I believe it is the best time to go into the communities. I would just like to ask the Minister how soon he would have the appointments made for this task force to do the travelling to the communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 186-85(1): Enhancement Of Native Language Services

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I can have all that done, probably within the next week, announcing of the names of the individuals. They may not necessarily be names that all Members agree with, but like yourself, I feel that it is necessary to name the people and get the work done. The Executive Council has also indicated that it is necessary to get the work done but we have been waiting for some direction from some of the native organizations on this issue. Certainly we have no problems. I believe I made you aware of the information and we will be prepared to proceed as quickly as we can. As soon as I get final approval from my Executive Council colleagues, then I will proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 187-85(1): Issuance Of T4s To Boarding Homes

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question of the Minister of Finance with respect to the issuance of T4 slips. I have had a concern expressed by constituents with respect to providing a local boarding home. For example, in the fall a call went out to the community as to whether people could provide local boarding for students at Akaitcho. In some cases it is done sort of as a public service -- people feeling that they could accommodate, so they are not particularly trying to make any money out of it, they provide a public service. Yet they found recently that they received a T4 slip on income. There are varying rates for local boarding, depending whether it is foster homes or local boarding for medical purposes and so on. So the question to the Minister is: Is it possible, first of all, to maybe rationalize the varying rates of various local boarding purposes? That would not be the Minister's responsibility directly, but would it be possible to note that a certain portion of those, very specifically, are to cover costs of feeding, in which case that could be deducted as an expense, where only a portion of the allocation went to income? So is the Minister aware of the problem and will he be addressing it at some point?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, although the Member gave me notice of his question this morning, I have not had a chance to research the various elements to which he has alluded. I will take the question as notice and reply before the end of the week.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Appaqaq.

Question 188-85(1): Visit Of Wildlife Officers To Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources -- just last month in February, she replied to me in written form that wildlife officers were supposed to be going to Sanikiluaq toward the end of March. I was informed they have postponed their visit until April. The local hunters and trappers in Sanikiluaq wanted to have a meeting with the wildlife officers in Sanikiluaq. I would like to ask the Minister if you cannot direct your staff to go earlier than they have indicated.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyca.

Return To Question 188-85(1): Visit Of Wildlife Officers To Sanikiluaq

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 189-85(1): Additional Fine Imposed On Offender In Pangnirtung

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know whether this is an appropriate time to bring my question up or not. I think the person, Silas Kilabuk from Pangnirtung was taken to court last November and after the court hearings he was informed or told that he would have to pay a \$400 fine and that there would be no other charges laid against him. He was informed by the RCMP. Something else new came up today that he has \$190 additional fine to pay other than the \$400. My question is that as the RCMP did not inform the charged person properly, can the \$190 be dropped? The reason why I am bringing this up is because I was asked to bring it up in the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 189-85(1): Additional Fine Imposed On Offender In Pangnirtung

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could not make that decision to remove any fine that was made with regard to a judgment of the court. I could look into the circumstances under which that judgment was made and inform the Member as to the circumstances of that particular situation. But again, I could not make a decision of that type. It is really the Judge that has to make those kinds of decisions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Inasmuch as it is a personal matter, I imagine you will just be contacting the Member with regard to this problem.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be contacting the Member and the individual.

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

Item 5, written questions. Are there any written questions today? Do we have any returns? Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 127-85(1): Full-Time Adult Educator For Snowdrift

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to Mrs. Lawrence's written Question 127-85(1) concerning an adult educator for Snowdrift. There will be an adult educator established in Snowdrift who will begin programs in October 1985 to March 1986. This is in keeping with the times when people in Snowdrift who wish upgrading are resident in their community. Eight seats in each of two programs, basic office procedures and academic upgrading, will be funded with allowances by Canada Employment and Immigration. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 181-85(1): Assistance For Travel

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written Question 181-85(1) asked by Mr. Erkloo on March 23, 1985, regarding travel assistance for patients' families. The medical transportation cost for status Indians and Inuit is the responsibility of Health and Welfare Canada. If a patient has to be accompanied and the escort does not have to be a nurse, then a relative or friend may be sent as the escort on the same plane as the patient. When a patient requires ongoing help after he leaves the hospital, the doctor may request that someone from the patient's household be transported to the hospital to learn the necessary procedure. However, when a terminally ill patient is in the final stages of his illness, travel costs will be paid for on compassionate grounds for a close relative who has no other source of funds. The GNWT Department of Health or Health and Welfare Canada authorizes this travel after consulting with the Department of Social Services, whose responsibility it is for the cost of this particular travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two motions that arose from a joint chiefs and Metis board meeting at Fort Providence, March 18 to 22.

The first, Tabled Document 63-85(1), is a resolution that offers support to the tentative alliance agreement that was reached on January 13th.

The second, Tabled Document 64-85(1), affirms support for the alliance as the only type of mechanism capable of legitimately addressing the issues of constitutional development, division and the selection of a boundary.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Tabling of documents. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document. Tabled Document 65-85(1), a letter sent to me from the Hay River Reserve with regard to their opposition to NTCL's land use application and the reasons for it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 19-85(1): Development Of Nunavut And A Western Territory

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Wednesday, March 27th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that this House endorse the following: that this House continue to encourage and support the discussions and negotiations between the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum through the auspices of the Constitutional Alliance toward the development of Nunavut and a western territory; that this House continue to deliberate on the outcome of such discussions and negotiations and recommend to the Government of Canada a course of action that this House thinks appropriate for the creation of Nunavut and the western territory; that this House suggests that any reports brought forward by the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum through the auspices of the Constitutional Alliance, be based upon recognized forms of public government, taking into account other proposals including the Nunavut proposal, "Building Nunavut", and the Denendeh proposal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to go back to Item 9. I did not quite get my hand up fast enough and I have a document on THIS which might be relevant to the Department of Health budget when it comes up this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous approval being requested for us to return to tabling of documents.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

REVERT TO ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 66-85(1), Territorial Hospital Insurance Services and Medicare Annual Report for the period ending March 31st, 1984. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Is there any further tabling of documents? Back on motions. Are there any further motions for today? Pardon me, notices of motion. Any further notices of motion? Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 11-85(1): Vehicles Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 27th, 1985, I shall move that Bill 11-85(1), An Act to Amend the Vehicles Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion for first reading of bills? Item 12, motions. Motion 18-85(1), Boating Safety Practices Legislation. Mr. T'Seleie.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 18-85(1): Boating Safety Practices Legislation, Carried

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the coroner's jury, inquiring into the drowning of Philip Modeste in Great Bear Lake, determined that the death was the direct result of poor judgment and unsafe boating practices;

AND WHEREAS the coroner's jury submitted a list of recommendations which they felt would help prevent other such incidents in the future;

AND WHEREAS the report of the coroner's jury has been tabled in this House;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that this House recommend to the Executive Council that appropriate legislation be drafted to incorporate the recommendations of the coroner's jury and that this legislation be introduced at the spring session of the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Proceed, Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I think most of the information that Members need to know was tabled last Monday. Last summer a young man from Fort Franklin was working at one of the lodges there and he drowned. He was 17 years old. The coroner had appointed a group of community people as a jury and they made five recommendations that they thought were important and that could prevent those kinds of accidents from happening again. I hope that other people would support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. Mr. Gargan, do you wish to speak as seconder? To the motion? Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not to oppose the motion itself, but just maybe for a point of information, to indicate to the mover and seconder that the direction that is being given to us may not be within our legislative responsibility but that I will, in fact, as the Minister responsible for safety, carry out the direction even in convincing and speaking to the Ministry of Transport, I believe, who is responsible for safety measures on inland waters. If it is not within our jurisdiction we will research this situation and find and take the appropriate steps that are necessary to carry out the direction that the Member is giving.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Motions. Are there any further motions?

Item 13, first reading of bills. No attempt at first reading of bills today? Item 14, second reading of bills. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 14: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 4-85(1): Young Offenders Act

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 4-85(1), An Act to Amend the Young Offenders Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide a definition of "alternative measures"; to provide for alternative measures; to provide that a young person may consult with an adult without delay upon arrest or temporary restraint if he is unable to retain and instruct counsel; to provide the content of the notice in the case of a young person's arrest; to clarify that a disposition made in respect of a young person shall not result in greater punishment than that which is applicable to an adult; to state that section 722 of the Criminal Code, Canada, does not apply to an offence committed by a young person; to specify that a report of the territorial director or his delegate to the youth court on the availability of a place of intermittent custody may be oral or written; to provide that a notice be given to a parent and a spouse of a young person when the young person is transferred from one place of custody to another; to provide that a youth court has the power to modify the terms of custody where a young person is before the youth court on custodial review; to provide that the Executive Member shall appoint youth justice committees on the recommendation of the municipal or settlement council; to clarify the wording of certain provisions; and to correct technical errors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin, do you have a seconder to this bill? Mr. Wray, thank you. To the principle of the bill?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 4-85(1) has had second reading and I hereby order it into committee of the whole for today.

Second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 7-85(1), Bill 3-85(1), Bill 9-85(1), Bill 10-85(1), Bill 1-85(1), Bill 4-85(1), with Mr. Wah-Shee 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

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Would the committee come to order. We are dealing with Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat on page 2.7. Mr. Patterson, would you like to introduce this secretariat?

Opening Remarks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some opening remarks in introducing the budget for the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat which I am in charge of, along with the associate Minister, Mr. Sibbeston. This secretariat is a small group within the Department of the Executive which has three main responsibilities that have evolved over the past four years. I would like to speak briefly about each of them, Mr. Chairman. They are comprehensive aboriginal claims negotiations and the co-ordination of settlement implementation; secondly, political and constitutional development in the NWT, including support and advice to the Executive Council and the Assembly relating to initiatives undertaken by the Constitutional Alliance and the forums and a role in preparing the Government of the NWT for division and the transfer of responsibility from the federal to the territorial levels of government in devolution; and thirdly, advice and input into the intergovernmental conference process where items affecting aboriginal rights matters are involved, such as the First Ministers' Conferences on Aboriginal Rights and the Constitution of Canada and conferences of native affairs Ministers.

Aboriginal Claims Negotiations And Settlement Implementation

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to briefly touch on progress in these three areas, beginning with aboriginal claims negotiations and settlement implementation. The Dene/Metis claim has to date initialled a subagreement in principle on eligibility. It is expected that wildlife provisions are likely to be initialled very soon, although two federal government departments still have outstanding concerns on the progress to date. Also in the Dene/Metis claim, the matter of Aklavik land selection is being negotiated based on an agreement signed February 1984, between COPE, the Dene/Metis and the federal government. It is expected that the next topic on the agenda for negotiations will be land and resources, after the wildlife and Aklavik land selection provisions are initialled. The Dene/Metis and the federal government are looking at a possibility of an overall agreement in principle being in place by the end of this calendar year.

On the Inuit claim, known as the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut claim, there have been 13 subagreements initialled since October 1981 and two discussion papers. The subagreements in principle initialled were on municipal lands, public sector Inuit employment in Nunavut and land use planning. Several discussion papers were also initialled which will be a basis for further negotiations prior to a final agreement. They covered equity participation in mining and equity participation in on-shore oil and gas. So far only one subagreement in principle has been initialled -- provisions on water. Negotiators are currently working on the Nunavut development project impact and review process, which it is hoped will be completed before the summer of 1985. It is expected that the next item for negotiation will be land identification and selection which is anticipated to be complete by late summer or early fall of 1985.

On the Inuvialuit settlement implementation, Mr. Chairman, the secretariat is active in this activity. We have co-ordinated the development of a Treasury Board submission to cover the net additional cost to our government as a consequence of obligations under the settlement. The Financial Management Board has approved this submission which amounts to approximately \$10 million. The GNWT submission will be part of an omnibus Treasury Board submission to be submitted by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs sometime this month or next month. Hopefully we will have our share of the funding for implementation early in the new fiscal year. The secretariat is currently developing memoranda of instruction for guidance to territorial government departments and agencies on the key components of that final agreement. Section 14, dealing with wildlife is almost complete. The secretariat continues to monitor and provide support to the establishment of the various boards and agencies such as the wildlife management advisory council, the research advisory council, the environmental impact screening committee, the environmental impact review board, and the arbitration board. Designations and appointments to these bodies by our government are currently being dealt with by the appropriate departments and the Executive Council.

Secretariat research staff are currently embarked upon some fairly substantial research and analysis projects in this area, which includes the federal claims policy review, a comparative analysis of wildlife provisions contained in the James Bay agreement, the Inuvialuit agreement, the initial TFN provisions, and the soon to be initialled Dene/Metis provision. We will also look at the Alaska claim. We have just recently begun a more comprehensive comparative analysis of all the initialled provisions and final agreements as a whole.

Constitutional Development

In constitutional development, Mr. Chairman, the secretariat monitors and reports to the responsible Ministers on the activities of the constitutional forums and the alliance, and in the course of carrying out this role has attended most Western Constitutional Forum and Nunavut Constitutional Forum meetings, workshops and other meetings, and reporting on forums' community visits and drafting notes of proceedings for the responsible Ministers. A discussion paper on preparing the Government of the NWT for division, as well as addressing devolution has been prepared.

Aboriginal Rights And The Constitution

On the subject of aboriginal rights and the constitution, Mr. Chairman, the secretariat continues to be involved along with the Department of Justice and Public Services, which has the lead role in this area, in preparation for First Ministers' Conferences on Aboriginal Rights and the Constitution of Canada. Recently work has begun on the development of a discussion paper on the issue of aboriginal self-government from a Northwest Territories' perspective.

Those are my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I would ask that Mr. MacKay, who is the executive director of the secretariat, be permitted to attend as a witness during this discussion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Just to remind Members that Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat is under the Department of the Executive on page 2.7. General comments. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciated the detail of the Minister's opening remarks. I can see that the volume of work that the Minister has indicated -- I know in the standing committee on finance, there were questions asked about the size of the staff but with that introduction I can see that the resources are probably taxed as it is now.

Mr. Chairman, I did have a few questions. One specifically directed to the Minister's comments about the Treasury Board submission of our government's implementation costs. I guess it was referred to as being \$10 million. This is for the COPE -- implementation of the Inuvialuit settlement. Is that a one-time cost or are there ongoing implementation costs that we would be seeking from the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Treasury Board submission that I referred to actually does cover a period of five years. It is proposed in this implementation process that approximately two years into it we will review with the federal government ongoing costs and likely develop an arrangement whereby those ongoing costs could be addressed. The agreement itself makes it clear that the federal government will cover the implementation costs that bear on our government's jurisdiction. So, I am pretty confident that if the Member is concerned about our government having to bear these costs, this has been taken care of. It is in the agreement and we will be taking care of it in the implementation process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Richard.

Public Access To Wildlife Management Agreement Positions

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one other question of the Minister and this is the question that I asked one or two of the other Ministers having to do with the wildlife management agreement that is being negotiated as part of the Dene/Metis claim between the federal government and the Dene/Metis. The Minister is probably now aware, because I had asked the question earlier in this session, of the concerns of certain organizations, groups of outfitters, sport hunters, etc., about getting information on the negotiations. Can the Minister now respond as to the position of the secretariat in somehow getting the initial positions or the position papers of perhaps the federal government and the Dene/Metis, the two sides to the thing, as to what the draft wildlife management agreement might say? Is there a mechanism by which the public, if you will, or these interested groups could have access to this information or documents so that they could comment publicly on it? Especially in view of the Minister's statement today -- I took him to say that that agreement is not far from being concluded or at least initialled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am quite concerned that there have been great fears expressed by organizations in the Member's constituency particularly or representing territorial outfitters and fishing and hunting interests that this agreement would doom their businesses and wipe out their businesses. I have heard some very extreme concerns in that line and it concerns me because those fears are based on no knowledge whatsoever of the provisions that are being negotiated, and unfortunately I think are based on the worst-case scenario or the worst fears.

Release Of Information Would Prejudice Ability To Participate

I am in a difficult position in responding to the Member's concern, Mr. Chairman, because we are participating as part of the federal team in negotiations that are fundamentally between the Dene/Metis and the federal government. It is not our place to release information about the content of those negotiations. Indeed if we were to do so, it would very certainly prejudice our ability to participate in those negotiations. So, the release of information would be up to the parties to the agreement.

In that regard, Mr. Chairman, we have through our representative at the negotiations encouraged both the Dene/Metis and the federal government to consider releasing details of the negotiations as they might affect outfitters and hunters and non-native hunters and fishermen in the NWT but so far there has been no agreement on releasing that information. I can say, however, Mr. Chairman, that as much as possible we have tried to meet with the organizations concerned and describe to them, in as much, but only in as much detail as the bonds of confidentiality permit us, describe the parameters of the negotiations and the process that is going on. We also, of course, have full input from departments like Renewable Resources and Economic Development who are, I think, quite properly concerned about the interests of native and non-native people in these matters.

As to when the information might be presented to the public on the details of these negotiations, like any other negotiations, they are secret at the moment but I would anticipate that when the subagreement is initialled that would be an appropriate time for public release and public comment. I think there would be an opportunity for public input into that area prior to the settling of the final agreement. I hope that answers the Member's question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do thank the Minister for those responses and I can only agree with the Minister that the concerns, perhaps even alarms, that are in the minds of these groups may well be as a result of lack of knowledge or ignorance of what is going on and what is contained in the negotiating positions. I think that, simply, is the root of the problem and anything that the Minister and his secretariat staff can do to alleviate those concerns or provide some knowledge, I am sure would be appreciated by those groups. I take it from the Minister's comments that they should also address their concerns directly to the federal government who, as the Minister indicates, is a bargaining member at the table. I take it, Mr. Minister, that it would be open to these groups to seek some of this information from your secretariat office as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Certainly the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat is most open to receiving input on these matters and considering them in the position that our government brings to the negotiations. We would welcome input, although my officials cannot be blamed if they cannot provide as much detail as members of the general public approaching them might want but they would be happy to receive input. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

Role Of Secretariat In Transfer Of Responsibilities

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. On page 2.7, Mr. Chairman, there is a description of the role of the secretariat and in the second paragraph within that description one of the responsibilities of the secretariat is to co-ordinate the government's thrust in the development of structures and responsibilities implicit in the division of the Territories as well as in the transfer of powers and authority from the federal to the territorial government. Regarding the second part of that, "the transfer of powers and authority from the federal to the territorial government", I wonder if the Minister could actually explain the role. The Government Leader has told us that there is a new group to be set up in the Executive that will look at that particular issue. The Department of Justice and Public Services has a role in that area. What will be the role of the secretariat that is different from those other two groups that will be handling those responsibilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should, first of all, explain Mr. Chairman, that the secretariat's mandate really stems from direction given by the Ninth Assembly in a sessional paper of June 1980 which laid the basis for the current terms of reference and mandate of the secretariat. At that time, Mr. Chairman, the mandate was a broad one developed at a time when the GNWT was starting to get directly involved in issues relating to aboriginal claims and constitutional development. It led, of course, to the support that our secretariat gave to the establishment of the Constitutional Alliance and also laid the basis for a more co-operative role, I think, between our government and native organizations on land claims negotiations. However, since that detailed discussion in 1980, there have been changes and considerable strides made in both areas of aboriginal rights and in constitutional development and it was felt that a review of the mandate of the secretariat is now appropriate. I approach this discussion with some trepidation because I know Members have expressed some scepticism about reviews but suffice to say, Mr. Chairman, that the mandate of the secretariat in this area is now being reviewed by the Executive Council and particularly by myself and Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. Nerysoo.

The feeling generally on our part is that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in the areas of constitutional development. It is important that that work be co-ordinated with the land claims negotiation process and we are in the process now of considering a revised mandate which will make the best use of our experience and our resources along with new initiatives that will be forthcoming from the Government Leader's office. So, I cannot give a clear answer now about how this process will work but this review is actively under way and I would imagine would be completed by the next session.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: So up to this point in time the secretariat actually has not undertaken any work in the area of transfer of powers and authority from the federal to the territorial government. If they have, then what sort of work have they done up to this point in time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, there has been a fair amount of research done some years ago in this area. One of the papers that was presented by this secretariat to the House, "Our Land, Our Future", attempted to provide recommendations on constitutional development initiatives in the North. In recent months, no, there has not been any new work developed since the new federal government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments? Mr. Gargan.

Confidentiality Of Negotiations

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess just responding to Mr. Richard's concern with regard to negotiations that are going on between the federal government and the Dene/Metis. I believe, Mr. Minister, at the time when the COPE agreement was being signed there was no exposure of the details, with subsections of those agreements being made available to the public. I think that that same kind of token is going to have to be given to the Dene/Metis negotiations. We cannot give preference to one native organization and not the other. Either you treat them all the same or you do not. I believe that the COPE agreement was not made public until after the agreement was signed. I just wanted to mention that to the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister, do you wish to respond to that?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct. Although it caused some considerable difficulty for some Members of this House at the time, and for myself in attempting to try and account to them, the COPE final agreement was not made available to the public until some time after it had been signed and only when the federal government and the Inuvialuit agreed to its release. I think we are in a similar dilemma here as far as the confidentiality of the Dene/Metis negotiations are concerned. I would suspect that once the particular subagreement on wildlife is initialled, I would suspect that the parties might be more amenable to releasing it to the public. I know that has happened with two similar subagreements in the Tungavik Federation claim and I would expect things might change once the agreement has been initialled but that will be entirely up to the parties. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments. Mr. T'Seleie.

Adequacy Of Resources Available To Secretariat

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a general comment that I feel the same way as Mr. Gargan about any release of information that might jeopardize those negotiations. With regard to the whole area of aboriginal rights and constitutional development, it is only one very small section of the government and yet it covers quite a bit of ground and it is a very important issue in the North today. We have, in the budget, a little over half a million dollars and eight people working there. What I am saying is maybe the government should consider putting more PYs and more dollars into that part of the Executive because it is so important. Those are my general comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. T'Seleie, it was not too clear if you were asking the Minister to give them a raise or whatever. Mr. Minister, do you want to respond to that?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just briefly say that the Member should be aware that we do rely heavily on the input of other departments in developing our government's position in land claims negotiations. For example, I believe the Department of Renewable Resources has appointed a person whose job is primarily to participate and monitor the land claims negotiations to ensure that the Department of Renewable Resources knows exactly what is going on. So, we do in a way have a lot more resources available to us than might appear from this budget because other departments have the responsibility of putting their input in through their own resources. So it is not quite as limited as it might look. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whatever results finally from the land claims negotiations is something that will be binding in law and protected by the constitution. So it is something that all people in the Territories for a long period of time will live with. That is the

way it is. I certainly accept that. But in some of the questioning that we have done previously, it seemed to me that we have not regularized a system for agreeing upon, determining and putting forward the collective concerns of the government, and presumably they would reflect the kinds of concerns that the Assembly would have. If I have that wrong, you will certainly correct me, but I got the impression that various departments are asked for input as to the kinds of concerns they might have, and that these are forwarded to the Aboriginal Rights staff and presumably to the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development.

Co-ordination And Determining Of Issues

I am wondering, is there not a point at which the Executive Council as a whole meets and says, "This is the input we have to date. What will we put forward as the concerns of the GNWT on behalf of public government at the land claims talks?" Or is it just the more informal method where concerns find their way there but there is an awful lot of discretion or latitude in what is brought to those discussions? You know, I would be concerned if it is not something that the Executive Council as a whole addresses and determines, and gives direction to our participants in the talks saying "Here are the kinds of concerns that we feel you should be raising on behalf of this government."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly feel that we are doing a very good job as a secretariat of co-ordinating the responses of various government departments and ensuring that they have input into all aspects of the claims negotiation process. That is very clearly our primary job -- to co-ordinate that kind of departmental input. Often departments make comments that can be dealt with at the claims negotiations themselves and, of course, I think our government has probably had a lot of very useful input into making suggestions that make the provisions workable and co-ordinate with our existing government structures wherever possible. Where there is any problem, however, and where a department says, "Well, we just can't live with that," then indeed it is my responsibility to raise the matter to the Executive Council and indeed we have established what is called a special policy committee on aboriginal rights, which is specifically charged with dealing with these issues on a regular basis at the Executive Council level, and making recommendations to the Executive Council. That happens quite regularly and I think works well. Now, it is not always true that departments' views prevail once it comes to the Executive Council level but it is very clear in my mind that departmental concerns are well-accounted for in the process and indeed that the Executive Council at the highest level resolves any matters that are not worked out at the negotiations themselves and between our secretariat and the departments. So, I do not have any qualms about the way we are doing that part of our mandate, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, that is fine. If there is a structure that is in place to deal with it, that was my main concern. I had not realized that there was and -- you know, it can work both ways. There could have been departmental concerns finding their way to the discussions or negotiations when in fact the Executive Council may not have felt that they warranted being there if there was not a good structure in place. So the system that the Minister has described seems to be adequate and I will accept that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments. Does the committee agree we go in budget detail? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat budget summary. Total O and M, \$578,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree that this secretariat is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I would like to thank the Minister and his witness for appearing before us. Mr. Butters, would you please advise this committee what is your wish?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The Minister of Health will be next, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please excuse the witness?

Department Of Health

We are now dealing with the Department of Health. Mr. McLaughlin, would you like to introduce this department, please?

Opening Remarks

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my pleasure to present the budget of the Department of Health for your consideration.

As you are aware, health care is delivered in the Territories by two agencies, the medical services branch of Health and Welfare Canada and the GNWT's Department of Health. The budget I am presenting to you today is only for this government's current share. Someday I hope the full budget for health services in the NWT will be in our main estimates.

While my department does not deliver programs to every community, we do cost share expenses of services provided in all communities and pay for other services provided by hospitals and doctors. We have developed the plan for assessment of the health care needs of the elderly and chronically ill and with new funding under the priorities exercise hope to carry that out this year. I have proposed to you a new Mental Health Act this session and will advance it as a bill at the June session in Rankin Inlet. We hope to see the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital project go out to tender this spring with completion some two or three years hence.

We are now entering the second phase of the transfer of health services in the Baffin and I have had talks with the federal Minister and native leaders on transfer of other parts of the Territories.

I have tabled, for your and the public's consideration, a preliminary report on the delivery of ambulance services as part of emergency health services. I have consulted with hospital boards, associations, and committees. As well, I have met with the federal and provincial Ministers of Health and am pleased with the progress in our jurisdiction.

Our priorities and objectives for this year concentrate on health promotion and awareness, long-range planning and administrative structures with a general aim at year end to have a system that does more of what it is mandated to do and does it better. With several key pieces of legislation coming forward, reports on the elderly, health care services, ambulance services, the expansion of extended medical benefits, and negotiations for the transfer of health services we can expect a very full year over and above the other new priorities we have introduced this year.

The budget I am proposing to you for 1985-86 is a budget of modest increase and few program changes. I trust that you will find that this budget meets the objectives of maintaining the programs which this Legislature has put into place, seeks to advance the responsibility of this Legislature with respect to health matters and plans for changes in the delivery of services now and in the long run that will best suit the needs of the residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, I have a few other short statements about the priorities and I will give you those when we have reached the appropriate pages. Mr. Chairman, I would like permission to bring in my officials, the deputy minister, Mr. Paul Moody and the assistant deputy minister Mr. Michael Pontus.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. The witnesses have already been introduced to the committee. General comments. We are dealing with the Department of Health. Does the committee agree that we go into budget detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Richard.

Request For Expansion Of Mental Health Services

MR. RICHARD: It is not that easy, fellows. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister some questions regarding the mental health services provided by the department throughout the Northwest Territories. The Minister recently received correspondence from the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital board of management, indicating that the psychiatric team operating out of the Stanton Hospital has difficulties recruiting for the two professional psychiatrist positions but, more importantly, Mr. Chairman, the letter to the Minister indicates that this psychiatric team cannot possibly service the demand in the Yellowknife regional area, the Inuvik area and the Kitikmeot area. The letter from the Stanton Hospital board of management calls on the Department of Health to expand their services in the area of mental health services and calls for the creation of a full-time position of director of mental health services and calls for funding for not one mental health team but rather three -- three teams similar to the one that is in place now, so that the other regions that they are attempting to service now, all the way north to Inuvik, might have better service with three mental health teams rather than one.

I would ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, to comment on these requests coming from the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital board of management. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mental health is still a responsibility in the jurisdiction of Health and Welfare Canada. I have had recent meetings with Mr. Epp concerning this and written a few letters. Basically my concerns stem from the sudden large number of suicide attempts in the Kitikmeot area recently and it did not seem that work was being done in the field that would make RCMP, teachers, local nurses, etc., aware of the signs of suicide and potentials in communities. In discussing this I have asked for consideration for them to turn that program over to us. In the particular situation of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, because that is a territorial hospital, the psychiatric team there deals with the Yellowknife residents and those referred to it from outside of the Yellowknife area but really the responsibility outside of our own territorial hospitals is the Department of Health and Welfare Canada.

Difficulty In Attracting Professionals To Remote Areas

As for the difficulty of attracting psychiatrists to come up here to work, when we make contracts with doctors and arrangements with doctors, we are fairly flexible with those arrangements depending upon the community we are trying to attract the doctor into and what his specialty is. In this case, as far as I am aware, the contract or financial offer being made to the psychiatrist is a fairly substantial amount and that is a guaranteed amount. If the psychiatrist sees more cases or enough cases so that if he were to bill us for each case the amount would exceed that, then the doctor would get the larger of the two amounts. So what we are doing is saying that the offer is that he could bill us under the standard arrangement as all private doctors do, but we guarantee him that minimum amount of wage but he could bill us above and beyond that. In this case, unlike other doctors, we are providing for him the staff and the facility to work out of in addition. There is a great deal of difficulty attracting professionals up into the remote northern areas of the country and that is happening in provinces like Quebec and Ontario who cannot get people to go into the northern parts of their provinces, so it is not a problem that we have alone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether he has any difficulty with the concept of creating a mental health services component within his department? That is one specific question I would like the Minister to answer. Is it not desirable to have such a position within the department to have authority and responsibility to identify the needs in the mental health area and to develop a comprehensive mental health program? Can the Minister indicate whether he is in favour of such a concept?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have indicated to Mr. Epp that I feel that the GNWT, because we have people in the field, for example, social workers in every community who are familiar with the residents in their area, could do a better job with mental health than the federal government can. That is why I have asked him to consider transferring that authority to us. I do favour such a team concept or more than one team, if the work is there, and it is. I was discussing with Mr. Wray the other day -- apparently a psychiatrist from Winnipeg or Churchill is going to go into Baker Lake and see 35 cases in one day. So that is the kind of situation we are in in the field. I would like to hope that if we could take over mental health we could pursue two concepts. One is to have some professional teams to work with cases and the other thing would be to have an awareness program taking advantage of the community workers this government already has in place to make our RCMP, teachers, nurses, etc., in the communities aware of the signs of mental stress and this might help us prevent suicides as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Richard.

Motion To Recommend That Mental Health Services In NWT Be Expanded

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in order to move things right along here and to assist the Minister in his lobby with the honourable Mr. Epp, I would like to make a motion at this time, Mr. Chairman. It is fairly lengthy and I will give you a copy when I have finished it, Mr. Chairman. Whereas the board of management of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital in consultation with other responsible persons in the mental health area and related fields has identified an urgent need for the establishment of a comprehensive mental health care program in the NWT; and whereas nationally accepted standards have shown that the establishment of at least two additional mental health teams to serve the people of the NWT is presently required; and whereas to fully explore all the requirements of such a program, it is necessary to create the position of director of mental health; and whereas because of the urgency of this matter funding for this program should be identified in this fiscal year; now therefore, I move that this House recommend: 1) That the Minister responsible for the Department of Health obtain the funding necessary for a) the creation of a full-time position to be known as the director of mental health for the NWT and b) the establishment of two additional mental health teams, the composition of which would be similar to the existing team; and 2) That the Minister responsible for the Department of Health direct the person hired as director of mental health for the NWT to fully explore and identify all aspects of mental health care needs in the NWT. I would move that motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Will copies be available to all Members, Mr. Chairman? I do believe the last portions of the motion may be out of order because of what it requests the Minister to do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Okay, we will just take a five minute break to get sufficient copies for all Members as requested by the honourable Member.

---SHORT RECESS

Before I rule on such a delicate motion as proposed, I would like to recognize the former Member of the Legislature for Yellowknife South, Mrs. Lynda Sorensen, in the gallery.

---Applause

In regard to the motion proposed by Mr. Richard, as chairman I rule the motion in order. To the motion. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that the Minister is in support of our government taking on the mental health care programs in the Territories, I feel that this motion should assist the Minister in his deliberations with Mr. Epp. I believe that mental health is an area where our government should be running the programs rather than leaving it to Health and Welfare Canada. We all in this Assembly know of the alarming suicide rates in some of the communities. Counselling services are desperately required in the communities. All of this must be co-ordinated somewhere and I think that place is within the Department of Health. I believe it has a responsibility and should take on that responsibility.

Existing Resources Overtaxed

The one mental health team or psychiatric team that is in place in Yellowknife -- I cannot recall the last time it was fully staffed but when it is staffed fully or partly, the resources there are overtaxed. The psychiatrists who have been in place in recent years have always been in demand to go to the communities, to service the communities outside of Yellowknife. Also the psychiatric social worker, psychologist, have been in demand by the communities and I feel that the service that is provided is not adequate to service all of the communities and that the time has come for the department to take on a lead role here. If this motion is passed it should be of some assistance to the Minister in pressing these concerns with the federal Minister.

As for the motion calling on the government to find funding to achieve these objectives, I submit to my friends opposite that the Executive Council has told us time and time again they wish direction from us in establishing their priorities. This motion is a recommendation in these areas. I finally, Mr. Chairman, note that the budget we have before us under the new format does have a reserve of some \$7.5 million for O and M. And I feel that we should give the Executive some direction in this Assembly as to how they should spend the government funds that have not been allocated. And I would urge then, Mr. Chairman, other Members present to support the motion for the creation of a comprehensive mental health care program in the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you. I do not have anything to say on this motion but I am going to support the motion, because there were a lot of people that needed help in this area at the end of 1984. I am sure it would be supported by the Baffin people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask the Member if maybe he could defer that until we deal with Social Services, under the alcohol and drug services first of all.

The other thing too is that the Member said that to fully explore all the requirements of such a program it is necessary to create a position. I think he mentioned something about looking at all aspects of mental health before -- but also at the same time creating some positions for those areas. I understand that it is the responsibility of the federal government right now but there is also the urgency to have a program in place, but I am sort of reluctant to deal with this motion until maybe we get into the area of alcohol and drugs. I understand there is going to be a report from Dr. Ross Wheeler. Is that true, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the committee of the whole at the last session and the caucus requested me to have Dr. Wheeler available as a witness at a set time. But I would like to say to Mr. Gargan through you, Mr. Chairman, that mental health is a part of Health not Social Services and even though some of the people who drink do need mental health services, it is most appropriate really that this mental health motion be dealt with during the Health budget not Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have always been interested in health but I am having problems supporting this motion, mainly because of the way it is worded. As much as I would like to support it, I have to make comments. There was a comment made by the Minister where someone had

to fly in to the Eastern Arctic and try to do 35 cases in one day on mental health. That person should not be allowed to go in there and do 35 cases. He should be examined first.

---Laughter

I would like to see more funds made available -- adequate funding for training in all areas regardless of the level. I think that is needed more at this time. I keep saying that there has not been too much training in the area of health and I would like to see our Minister negotiate with the federal government for more training dollars for training in the health field. I realize they have some types of training right now like eye technicians and levels like that but I think we should aim at training in professional levels with the Health department. I have to think about this motion before I can support it because I have some reservations on it. That is all I would like to say. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

Make Existing Resources Available At Regional Level

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some reservations about the motion as well. I do not think I will vote on it since I realize direction would be given to the Executive Council. But I really question what the Member is suggesting. I do not really know what he means by a mental health team but if a mental health team is a group of experts based in Yellowknife who are going to go into Coppermine or any other community where the problems are, then I do not understand, I do not support the establishment of teams in headquarters that would travel to dispense aid to communities that need it. I think that in this area and in the area of legal aid, for example, that the answer is to reorient our existing resources at the federal and territorial level to have professionals available at a regional level. I think the real problem now, as I understand it, is that all the experts are really isolated in Yellowknife. I know there are innumerable positions within the federal Health and Welfare establishment that are supposed to be looking after the mental health needs of the people of the Northwest Territories and I think clearly that is not happening. Certainly I agree with the Member that there are great needs for change but I am not sure what a director of mental health for the Northwest Territories can do. I do not know what a director of mental health, based in Yellowknife, is going to really be able to do to meet the needs of communities like Coppermine.

I think they need on-the-ground services, not a team that is available if they have problems but people who are available in the regions who can do preventive work and be available on a daily basis to assist communities that are in crisis. I am just afraid, generally, that this motion is sort of a reworking of the concept of having resources based in Yellowknife which are somehow going to trickle down to the community level and I think that is the wrong approach, if that is the approach that is being recommended by the motion. I think that the approach we have to take is to locate professionals in the regions at the community level. I do not see that being done through the hiring of a director of mental health and I do not see it clear from the establishment of mental health teams. They have to be on the ground, at the regional and community level. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Gordon Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I could ask the mover of the motion to explain to me what he means by this, and how he sees it working, and how he sees it benefiting the communities in the NWT?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Richard.

Training Could Be Included In Mandate

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not disagree with anything that Mrs. Lawrence or Mr. Patterson has said. Perhaps the motion is unclear in that regard and perhaps by responding to their concerns I can respond to Mr. Wray's question. Mrs. Lawrence indicated that what was perhaps more important was more training in this field. I agree whole-heartedly and when the motion purports to set up a directorate, if you will, of mental health programs within the Department of Health, training would necessarily be included in that directorate's mandate. I simply say let us not leave it up to Health and Welfare Canada any more to provide training in this area. Let our government take over the responsibility for training to ensure that it is, in fact, done and not rely on bureaucrats in the federal government in Ottawa.

Next, Mr. Chairman, if I might address Mr. Patterson's comments or concerns. I agree. I do not suggest for a moment that these mental health teams be based in Yellowknife. Certainly if there was more than one, by definition, they should be based in more than one centre. Mr. Patterson suggested that there be professionals on the ground in the communities, well, I agree and perhaps three is not enough. Maybe 10 or 40. I am told that the national standard, in terms of one mental health team per a certain amount of population, indicates that we, in the Northwest Territories, with 48,000 or 50,000 people should have a minimum of three mental health teams and one partial team based in Yellowknife right now cannot possibly service the demand. I agree with Mr. Patterson. The team in Yellowknife are attempting to provide services in some of the communities close to Yellowknife and just cannot do it. It is better that those teams be in the communities or at least in the regions. So, I agree with Mr. Patterson.

As to what a director of mental health, based in Yellowknife, might be able to do to meet the needs of a problem in a place like Coppermine, well, we have to start somewhere. Someone has to set up the program for the community needs in Coppermine and in every other community. I will concede that I am not one to suggest how programs are established but I believe you need a leader somewhere and for lack of a better name, we need a director of mental health services in these Territories. So, I certainly, Mr. Chairman, agree with the comments of Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Patterson and I hope I have responded to the query of Mr. Wray. I would certainly be open to any amendment that any of those Members might suggest in order to clarify what is intended here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe right now in Yellowknife we do have an NWT Mental Health Association. I do not know what creating these positions would do with regard to that particular association. The other question that I wanted to maybe direct to the Minister is, is it not part of a social worker's job to maybe do a bit of work in that area too?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

Efforts To Transfer And Locate Resources In NWT

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said before, the responsibility for mental health rests with Health and Welfare Canada and, in fact, there are four teams funded by Health and Welfare Canada for the Northwest Territories: one out of Quebec, serving the Baffin; one out of Manitoba, serving the Keewatin; one out of Alberta, serving the area outside of Yellowknife, and then there is a team funded for Yellowknife. Now, the level of service that is being given by those teams and the amount of dollars they have to spend and how well those resources are being used can certainly be called into question. I have told the Minister of Health and Welfare Canada that I feel that our government, because we have social workers in the field like Mr. Gargan says, who are in contact with the residents of the NWT on a day to day basis, that in conjunction with our social workers in the field we could do a better job if we had the mental health program. We would try to have those mental health teams located in the Northwest Territories. We would want the funds and PYs that go with that, not just the people, the dollars and PYs that they have in the Yellowknife office. We would also want those contract dollars that they have with psychiatrists in the provinces.

The difficulty might be that we would not be able to get them to move up here any more than Stanton Yellowknife Hospital is able to get psychiatrists to move to Yellowknife. It is difficult to recruit people to come and live in the Northwest Territories or any other remote area when people have specialties like that. What our department feels we need in the field is -- and I agree with the Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Richard, that it would be good to have a director of mental health in our government, and I would also like to have a co-ordinator in each of the regions that would be able to give the staff of the Department of Social Services, teachers in the Department of Education and nurses in the nursing stations, courses and material that would enable them to identify the people in communities that need help. That is the approach our government would like to take. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

Co-ordination Of Response To Mental Health Problems

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I am speaking in support of the motion. I think the intent of bringing the motion on the floor is to get a discussion. I think that during the course of this budget and also when we get into the budget of the Department of Social Services there are any number of mental health problems that we, at the Legislative Assembly, are trying to respond to. We are trying to respond to the increased number of suicides. We are trying to respond to the increased incidence of spousal assault and violence generally. We are trying to respond to alcohol and drug related problems. We are trying to respond to the implications of the Young Offenders Act. We seem to have more and more young people engaged in criminal activity. One of the major problems I think that we as a government have had is that we have never had a focus. We have never been able to co-ordinate our approach. We have a number of departments, there are a number of community-based organizations all of whom are doing their best to deal with these problems. It seems that there is a lot of frustration now in the communities and through the Territories and even though we are spending a fair amount of money to deal with these problems, we do not seem to get very positive results.

So I guess the underlying principle of this motion is that the territorial government should be the agency that is responsible. Right now I think there is a little bit of confusion as to the territorial government's role and the federal government's role and sometimes a lack of co-ordination between those two roles. I think that people in the communities wonder who actually is delivering these particular programs.

I agree that Mr. Wray's and Mr. Patterson's comments are very valid. I think the emphasis has to be on community-based involvement to try to solve these problems. It might well be that these mental health teams should come out of different regional centres. Mr. Richard is not saying that they necessarily should come out of Yellowknife. The fact is now that the mental health team that comes out of Yellowknife is understaffed, and one of the major problems we have attracting trained psychiatrists or psychologists is because the team in place is so overworked. I think there is a major burnout factor, that after two or three years it is very difficult for them to function under the pressure they are under. By having other teams in the Territories under the jurisdiction of the territorial government I think we may find that in fact we can attract people because the workload will be a little bit more spread out. I see the possibility of a director as being an individual to co-ordinate. Now there are any number of government departments, government agencies, many volunteer agencies, all of whom are dealing with the problems. Nobody is co-ordinating all these different programs. Nobody is finding ways to maximize the input of these various agencies or government departments.

I was a director of the Mental Health Association, and I know they try very, very hard and they rely extensively on volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort. They spend probably half their time trying to raise money to carry out their programs. The Helpline is one very good example of a much-needed program. I know that they are dealing with problems not just in Yellowknife but problems of many communities outside of Yellowknife. So I think that there might be a better way to come to grips with this problem than the ways indicated in the motion. But I think this is a starting point and I think that if we can identify the problems, realize there should be a co-ordinated approach to the problem, and realize that the territorial government should be taking this responsibility from the federal government, I think these are the three underlying principles in this motion, so I support the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion, Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that I have trouble supporting this motion because it appears that there are people out there that have the responsibility of working on mental health. To me the mental health of the Northwest Territories is too complicated to be dealt with in this fashion. Therefore I think what would probably happen is that another bureaucracy would be created without much input from those for whom it is supposed to exist. That seems to be a track record, therefore I just cannot support this motion right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion, Mrs. Lawrence.

Easier Access To Services At Community Level

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the concern I have is that in my mind I see this as setting up another bureaucracy with the structure that is not meeting the needs of the people at the community level. I just think regardless of how many teams we have, if it does not

meet the needs of the people, there is no sense setting up such programs. I would support more funding to run the existing program that we have, even if it means putting more counsellors at the community level or regional level, where individuals when they need help can seek help immediately. I just do not know how this mental health team is going to operate. I would like to see more of a program set up where it is not so complicated to get help. In the past I have had experiences trying to get help for individual people with the departments and it is very difficult unless you know all the rules and regulations. If you do not, you have had it. I just cannot see how this set-up will help the people at the community level. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion, Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I see there is a lot of merit in going in this direction. However, it seems to remind me a little bit of the last problem area we had, I believe a few years ago, when we had a great deal of difficulty in our region with dentists. They created a director of dentistry and took the only position and moved him to Yellowknife, and we did not have any dentists in Inuvik. I wonder if possibly we may be approaching it from the wrong direction. I have always found that when a bureaucracy was set in place it generally followed the trend of what is normally done in the South and was not necessarily responsive to people out in the communities. As time went along more and more people ended up not wanting to travel to communities because they got too busy in their offices in Yellowknife, or some of the major communities.

Southern Viewpoint And New Bureaucracy Not The Answer

In some relationships and discussions I have had with people who were involved with the mental health problems of the NWT, many of them expressed the concern that in dealing with the particular needs of remoter communities or communities outside the larger service areas, they had a difficulty in understanding people and why in particular they had such problems was by trying to address it from a southern point of view. I do not know how with this motion we are going to resolve that problem because all we will be doing is infusing another southern point of view in trying to address those problems. I realize that there is a lot of work to be done but, I think it was about seven years ago, one of the people that came in to deliver the mental health course in the Tuk area, said after a while that he could not stay in Tuk too long because it was driving him crazy. I believe that if we want to explore and look at the problems from the community level, we will have to get people who might be selected particularly for working in the communities first, and then from there identify positions of a higher nature once that has been identified.

I believe that there are often times that the larger communities are the first ones to get the major funding for major programs such as alcohol and drug abuse and for family care. The smaller communities generally receive the funding after these larger needs are met. I am wondering if perhaps we are missing an opportunity particularly if we are going to address the mental health needs of the very long-term residents of the NWT by trying to infuse a bureaucracy before there is an identification of what is required to serve the needs that people generally have. I do not know -- I am not aware of all the statistics -- if there is a bigger need in larger communities, but my understanding is in the larger communities there is not as much stress because there are generally more recreation facilities, more other programs. Some of the major hospitals and places where you can get help are situated in the larger communities. If there are professional people, they are generally within the larger communities. However, I see the biggest need to be addressed is outside of the large service areas, outside of Frobisher, outside of Yellowknife and outside of Inuvik. I believe if we look at it from that point of view, we can work the problem up from where it is all happening. Although I certainly say that a motion is in order, I am just questioning whether this is the direction you go in establishing the need and what is really needed to address this very, very high profile concern and need of mental health care to residents of the NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Obvious Need Must Be Addressed

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will support the motion because I feel there is obviously a need -- there is a problem in the NWT that needs to be addressed and even those who have spoken against the motion recognize that there is a need but feel that it ought to be addressed in some different way. At the moment I cannot see what that different way could be and I feel that this would be a suitable beginning. I know that there is one team in place. I know that

it is used. In fact it is overused and that is part of the problem. Mr. Ballantyne earlier referred to burnout among people who are on the team. That includes the staff psychiatrist who because there is no director of mental health and no comprehensive programs, sometimes is not able to directly address clinical work that a psychiatrist should be doing because he is dragged in the other direction of making suggestions for programs and that kind of thing.

So anyway I feel that there is a need and I will support the motion but even if the motion does not succeed, I would ask the Minister to recognize that there is a general concern about meeting mental health needs in the NWT. If this is not to be the approach, some approach is necessary and I would also invite those who feel that this is not the approach to come in soon with some alternative approach so that the problem will be addressed, and addressed in the manner that is most suitable to the need.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we vote on the motion, I just wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, that I am rather surprised at those who have difficulties supporting the motion. Perhaps the wording is unfortunate or not understood. I believe everyone who has spoken agrees that there is a serious problem with mental health in our Territories. It is exemplified by the suicide rate in recent years in the communities. It is clear that there is a counselling service required in virtually every community. The intent of this motion, Mr. Chairman, is simply to make a start on solving this problem, to put someone in charge of the problem and to put professional teams in the regions to deal with the serious problem. For those who feel they cannot support the motion because of the wording, if they believe that the problem is serious and must be addressed, I can only plead with them to move an amendment or to put forward a motion that they can support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

Statistical Approach Not Welcomed

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What exactly would this director of mental health for the NWT do? I am not too sure whether they will be maybe the people that are going to be used in the courts to say whether you are sane or insane or whether they are just going to be going out to explore avenues that might be able to be used to cushion the mental health of individuals in the communities.

Another thing too, Mr. Chairman. I have been going to conferences down south for the last three years with regard to the Canadian Psychiatric Association. In all of the conferences that I went to -- I guess they base a lot of their knowledge on statistics -- a lot of it has to do with the way the native people live, the type of communities they are in, urban areas, and really I have gone to a lot of these conferences and nothing much has come out of it except a lot of statistics. I am just wondering whether this individual that is going to be hired is going to be doing the same thing with no really apparent results. Just another person that is going to be located up here that might belong to the association and all they will be doing is gathering statistics and trying to direct governments based on statistics. I still have reservations. I am not going to vote against the motion but I am certainly not going to support it either.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

Need Recognized By Department Of Health

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I have to attempt to reiterate the concern that Mr. Richard put forth, that kind of disbelief that he has about the reluctance to try to attack the problem that according to statistics that have been developed over the years and that the department recognized, through the Minister's statement to the standing committee on finance, that mental health problems in the Northwest Territories are four times the average, four times the national average in relation to the population that we have. The kind of mental health problems that we have in the Northwest Territories are caused by a number of problems, not the least of which would be the abuse that this House has talked about on numerous occasions, whether it is alcohol or drug related or whether it is family abuse, spousal abuse or everything else and it is caused to some degree by the frustration of people attempting to come to grips with what they have in terms of educational background and how they cope with the transition, if you like, or trying to take a traditional way into a more modern way of living.

There is no doubt that the problem is of a nature and of a size that something must be done about it. I agree that what has been established in the past has been necessary. It has taxed the resources that have already been put into place. There is a realization on the government's part that something must be done in education and something has been done along those lines -- the counselling services that are in existence now in the high schools and in schools, the realization that it must take place within the only area of higher education that we have in the Territories.

Regarding the sense of fear by people of the development of a professional bureaucracy that would only be involved with an urban area, I do not think that that is what is being contemplated here. I think what is being asked by the motion is to set up more of the same, to set up in areas a team approach to dealing with the problems of communities. I do not necessarily think that this team has to be totally professional in its make-up. Obviously there is a concern by some Members that there are people in communities who can contribute to it in the way of paraprofessional work or, at least, just people knowledgeable of what goes on in a community, knowledgeable of people in a community.

Co-ordination Of Resources Necessary

What is necessary, of course, in my opinion, is to set up some kind of a co-ordination so that rather than going at a band-aid approach -- I do not think simply putting more money into a situation or in a program to try to correct the situation is necessarily the proper way to go. I believe the intent of the motion is such that if we recognize there is a problem in the Territories, not only in the urban areas but in all the other small communities, something more tangible has to take place. It is not enough simply to say that you have one group of people to whom everybody can turn to to try to get some relief for the problem in a community.

I would support the concept that is here within the motion because there has been identified an urgent need for a comprehensive mental health care program in the Northwest Territories and I think that there has to be an exploration of all the requirements of such a program. It is not enough simply to set up a team of people to react. I think there has to be an approach taken to look at, to anticipate, if you like, and to be open to requests from different parts of the Territories. It seems to me that you have to start with somebody who can have an overview or take an overall look at things and then try to develop an approach that would be workable, given the resources that we now have, either in Health, Social Services, Education or simply in any other community group. In most communities there are all kinds of organizations trying to deal with similar programs and unless there is to be a co-ordinated approach to the whole aspect then each will run on their own and we will only have a band-aid approach or solution to what is required.

So, I would be in favour of the motion, Mr. Chairman, if only to ensure that all aspects of mental health care needs in the Territories would be looked at and identified and an effort made to direct the total amount of resources, that is, in finances as well as human resources toward the solution of the problem, and if not the solution, certainly toward an attempt to set up some kind of a preventive approach to deal with people. When we are talking about a mental health program, we are talking about how people react to particular situations and that involves not just an adult approach but because of the concerns that are raised, because of the statistics, we have to deal with it in terms of young people as well. I would be, as I said, Mr. Chairman, in favour of the motion if only to ensure that there is a concerted effort attempting to reach a solution dealing with this whole problem of mental health. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if Mr. Richard would consider amending this motion and word it differently at the end?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mrs. Lawrence, the mover cannot amend his or her own motion so if an amendment is going to be made then it has to be done by some other Member. Mrs. Lawrence.

Motion To Amend Motion To Recommend That Mental Health Service In NWT Be Expanded

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to amend the motion by deleting 1(b), and adding wording in the last paragraph, "that the Minister responsible for the Department of Health direct the person hired as director of mental health of the Northwest Territories to fully explore and identify all aspects of mental health care needs in the Northwest Territories including the training of northerners".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Your amendment is in order. Do you wish to speak to the amendment, Mrs. Lawrence?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I have stated before, the establishing of a mental health team -- I guess the concern I have is that it might not meet the need of the community people. Regardless of how highly qualified these people are, sometimes they are unable to cope with the problems themselves. Like the Member mentioned, when they went into Tuktoyaktuk it was driving them crazy so they had to get out. To avoid that sort of situation I think we should train northerners where they are used to the hardship of some of these communities and they are able to cope with it. I do not have too much more to say on this. I am sure everyone is aware of the problems.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the amendment. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: No, I am not going to oppose the amendment. I just want to ensure though that this does not restrict the ability of the Minister responsible to negotiate whatever funds are required to ensure that we have the professional support to provide the expertise required in any training programs that would be necessary to allow for the communities to have the people in place. Another thing that was identified by Mr. Richard earlier is that in comparison to other jurisdictions, presently we do not have the professional expertise that should have been allocated to the Northwest Territories. So, in that sense, I just wanted to make you aware of that but not in opposition to the motion. I think you should proceed with question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Amend Motion To Recommend That Mental Health Services In NWT Be Expanded, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour of the amendment? Opposed, if any? Thank you. The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Recommend That Mental Health Services In NWT Be Expanded, Carried As Amended

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. Opposed, if any? The motion as amended is carried.

---Carried

Does the committee agree that we consider the budget in detail at this time? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just in a general way and it is related to what we were just doing. I know the Minister has tabled a Mental Health Act and when I read it through I noticed that it does deal largely with the rights of individuals, it deals with limitations on restrictions and that kind of thing, and in that sense, is not what you would call a real mental health act. I recognize that this kind of legislation is needed and I was also interested to note then that some people from the Mental Health Association felt the same thing. So could we expect then that perhaps if the recommendation just passed were to be carried out, or even if it is not accepted by the Executive Council, that the Minister in any event would consider developing a mental health act that deals with programs and the delivery of mental health programs in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Executive Council and this Legislative Assembly agrees to the final turnover of Health and Welfare Canada's program in this area to us and we get the funds, I would be happy to come forward with a mental health act in which the existing ordinance is just a section, but right now this is the only area we have responsibility for in

mental health so that is why our Mental Health Act is so tight in what it talks about. The Member is right. Basically our Mental Health Act only deals with the committal of mental health patients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are five priority programs funded to the sum of \$295,000 and at the time of the standing committee on finance review, programs had not been developed for those five areas. Have you in the interim developed programs for those five priority areas? If so, may we have a brief explanation of what you plan for the coming year in these five areas?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have developed programs and as I indicated to you, Mr. Chairman, when we reach that page I will give an outline of each program before we start the page.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We are under general comments. Mr. Gargan.

Legislation Regarding Health Services

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if we have such a thing as an NWT health act and if not, why not?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as I just indicated five minutes ago there is an existing Mental Health Act which covers the committal of mental health patients in the Northwest Territories. It is fairly old now and the other day I tabled a proposed new Mental Health Act which will set out in better terms the procedures that will be used when mental health patients are committed to an institution. It also outlines their rights and we are doing this partially due to the fact that on April 1st, the Charter in the Constitution will come into effect and we want to show everybody that we are making an effort in this area. I hope that Members will approve that bill when it comes before the House in June. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not referring to the Mental Health Act, I was referring to whether this government has a Northwest Territories health act, and if not, why not?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, yes, we have acts related to health in areas where we have responsibility or shared responsibility with Health and Welfare Canada. We have a Public Health Ordinance, a Mental Health Ordinance, a Medical Care Ordinance and a Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance. As well, I believe, we have a Medical Profession Ordinance, which was just passed a short time ago. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: So we have all these ordinances but no actual NWT health act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, that is correct Mr. Chairman, there is not much need for us to have an NWT health act when health in all the small communities is a responsibility of Health and Welfare Canada. Our only responsibility is for the operation of the hospitals and some other programs that we have taken initiative on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments. Does the committee agree we go into budget detail at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mrs. Lawrence.

Services To The Elderly And Chronically Ill

MRS. LAWRENCE: I would just like to ask the Minister what kind of programs he was referring to. Was it to develop a health service plan for the elderly and chronically ill for all the Northwest Territories? Can you explain that to me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you are aware there are several levels of care in the Northwest Territories for elderly people such as home care, personal care, nursing care, chronic care, acute care, and each one of those levels, I believe, up to and including personal care is delivered by Social Services, and after that -- nursing care and beyond -- those levels are delivered by Health and we are developing this program. As well as that, this year we are going to do a survey of all the communities in the Northwest Territories to carefully determine the present and long-term needs of the elderly in the Northwest Territories as well as the disabled people in those communities so that we can come forward with a decent long-term plan for regional and local facilities and programs for the elderly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that include building senior citizens homes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Those figures and statistics will be used in order to allow the Departments of Social Services and Health and the Housing Corporation to make long-term plans for facilities to house the elderly and the disabled in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I understand there was a proposal put for a senior citizens home in Fort Resolution. What is the status on this? How soon can they have that home built?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have several requests from across the Northwest Territories for elderly citizens residences but the Executive Council is unable to determine which community really needs the facilities first and that is one of the reasons for the survey. Perhaps I can say that there is no possibility in the immediate future of my getting Executive Council approval to build senior citizens facilities that are not already in the capital plan until the Executive Council gets statistics which they feel are reliable to determine what we are going to do in each region and subsequently each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one other thing. This request came through last May, 1984. Is that request in the capital plan then for next year or this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: No, Mr. Chairman, it is not. But if we ever do build a senior citizens residence in Fort Resolution, we will build it up on a hill with a large window overlooking the new bridge on the Fort Resolution highway.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): General comments. Does the committee agree we go into budget detail at this time? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Administration, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Administration. Total O and M, \$2,599,000. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very appropriate that you caught me pausing to light a cigarette because that is the matter that I want to deal with under administration. I know that the department has been undertaking an anti-smoking program in the NWT...

HON. GORDON WRAY: Executive Council.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes.

MR. RICHARD: It lasted one day.

MR. MacQUARRIE: ...and that it is an important program. There is no question about that in my mind at all. I do not take pride in the fact that I am a smoker. I regard it as a weakness and I regret that I have that weakness. It is pretty clear from all the evidence that it is damaging to health. We do have a sizable problem in the NWT. A good study was done in 1982 and put out by the Department of Health. I think it was a joint study by the federal department and our department and the statistics were kind of shocking in that it is clear that we have a significantly higher percentage of smokers in the NWT than in other parts of Canada, and that the smoking begins at pretty early ages. Some statistics showed that ages five to nine -- these were current smokers who had reported they had smoked in the past four weeks -- in the Baffin area, ages five to nine, 12.6 per cent of young people in that age group indicated that they were smokers. The Baffin area was the highest with respect to smoking but there was indication of smoking beginning in all other areas at that age level. When you go to ages 10 to 14, the statistics rise quite alarmingly and then when you get to ages 15 to 19, they range from Baffin, 78.9 per cent of people in that age group smoking -- that is the high -- to the low of the Keewatin, 46 per cent. But generally in all cases, male and female, and among all cultural groups in the Territories, the percentage of smokers is quite a bit higher than in other parts of Canada. I approve of the approach that the government is taking to try to discourage smoking but could I ask the Minister -- part of the problem I am told by constituents is that young people can go to tobacco outlets in the NWT and generally have no problem at all buying cigarettes or snuff or whatever it is they are going to buy. Could I ask the Minister what is in place now in the NWT to restrict minors from purchasing tobacco and what kind of penalties are there for those who sell tobacco to minors?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, first I would like to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Kane Tologanak, who brought this important problem before the Executive Council and got funding and approval to develop health and drug programs into an education curriculum which is being introduced in the schools in order to prevent young people from wanting to smoke.

As for the laws regarding how old you have to be to purchase cigarettes and tobacco, I believe it is probably 16. If there is such an ordinance it is not within the Department of Health. I do not know what type of enforcement takes place, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Well, I did a bit of checking and the best that I could find is that federally there is something called the Tobacco Restraint Act but it is kind of an ancient piece of legislation. It says, "Everyone is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction in the case of a first offence to a penalty not exceeding ten dollars, and in the case of a second offence to a penalty not exceeding twenty-five dollars." Of course, I think the police probably do not act to enforce the Tobacco Restraint Act. They might if there were specific complaints lodged or perhaps they would go and visit the establishment and inform the owner as to what the law is. But I doubt that it would go much beyond that. I do know that there are some other provincial jurisdictions that have -- I know Ontario has one called a Minors Protection Act to try to bolster the federal legislation. I certainly approve of the more positive approach of trying to discourage young people from smoking but I think that that might be aided if we had some type of legislation that imposed maybe a little more severe penalty for outlets that willy-nilly sell tobacco and tobacco cigarettes and other tobacco products to young people.

Motion To Recommend Examination Of Need For Legislation On Sale Of Tobacco, Carried

So, I will move that this committee recommend to the Executive Council that it examine the need for legislation to prohibit the sale of tobacco and other potentially damaging inhalants to minors. That might include things like solvents and so on. Just examine the need. I can give you a copy of that if you want.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Yes, I would appreciate a copy please. The motion is in order. Do you wish to speak to your motion at this time, Mr. MacQuarrie?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just very briefly to say that I recognize that prohibitive legislation is not always the best route to go but in view of the extent of the problem and the fact that once people are hooked on it, it is very difficult to get off and the fact that people do start so young in the Northwest Territories, I am merely asking the government to examine that need and see whether it would be a suitable approach to put some legislation into place that would bolster penalties for people allowing minors to purchase tobacco.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think I could support this motion because the young people, the under-age people start smoking when they are very young. Without letting us know, they start smoking and I think this would just start letting the young people steal more. I do not know any other smoking materials but I think they would just start stealing so for this reason I do not think I could support the motion. I know it has good intentions but I think it would be hard to enforce an ordinance and even if they are prohibited from buying this kind of thing, I do not think it would stop them from smoking. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I would be the only one to support the motion. I do not have any problems with not using these smoking materials or other things. It is very dangerous for the health and I am sure it is the greatest cause of bad health or death. I think it would help if some people are prohibited from buying smoking material or other hazardous things so I will support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Question has been called. All those in favour?

AN HON. MEMBER: All the smokers.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Opposed, if any? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Administration, Total 0 And M, Agreed

Administration. Total 0 and M, \$2,599,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed..

---Agreed

Supplementary Health Programs, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Supplementary health programs, total 0 and M, \$1,379,000. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think the Minister recalls when we went through the finance committee hearings that there was a problem with a base deficiency of \$386,000 for supplementary health funding which represented an increase of 46.2 per cent for the 1984-85 main estimates and the 1985-86 estimate is 12.8 per cent above the new 1984-85 level. The department indicated that this incorporates a pharmacare utilization increase of only 12 per cent while, in fact, the last three years average has been 17.2 per cent and at that time there seemed to be some problem in the department coming up with a proper forecast. We were told that there would be a supplementary appropriation to cover the 1984-85 base deficiency and it has not been included in this third set of supps. What happened to that?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the plan is to have that in the fourth supps.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Budget detail. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Could the Minister explain why it is not in the third set of supps?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, because the year end is March 31st. We will not know how much over until then.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I hope you have a better idea of how much you are over or under. You used to be away off so I hope this year we can anticipate that you are a little bit closer to the mark.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Projected Costs Based On Experience

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, these are services that the Department of Health provides on demand as the general public requires them. Sometimes we have situations that are just a fact that one person might have to go to the Mayo Clinic, for example, for something, that could cost us \$200,000 and that would completely blow our budget for that year. These benefits are programs put into place to meet the demand and the department attempts, from past history and experience, to put a budget item in that is going to be realistic. If you had a large population of say five or six million people like Ontario, if one person has to go to the Mayo Clinic for a major health problem, that would hardly put a dent in their final figure, but for us in a small jurisdiction, one expense like that throws the whole total amount out of whack. We have these programs in place, we will deliver the programs and we just do the best we can every year on past experience to identify the figures. The Health department has a history of that as far as medical services are demanded by the residents. Another case similar to this, Mr. Chairman, is that, as we, through our public health awareness programs, make people in the Northwest Territories more aware of the programs and services that Health and Welfare Canada and GNWT Health have, those people are taking advantage of those programs and so we have a continuous escalation of expenses in that area as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understand there is a certain degree of conjecture in these projections but I think that the Minister's response during the standing committee on finance hearings was that the department should be able to tighten up those projections a little bit more than has happened in the past. I think that was our understanding out of the hearings of the standing committee on finance.

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

Listing Of Goods Potentially Damaging To Young People

HON. GORDON WRAY: I am not referring to the motion that just passed but in the discussion something clicked in terms of part of the problem that we have in terms of sale of any goods because I just recently became aware of the fact that propane and Scope mouthwash are now potentially dangerous. In fact we have just had a case in the Keewatin where a young man has died from sniffing propane. I did not know that sniffing propane was something that was done. I have also just been made aware of the fact that Scope mouthwash is apparently an intoxicant and can be

used as such. As a former retailer, I would suggest to the department that something they might want to do if we are going to move into the area of legislation with fines in that, is to provide, I think, to the general public and to the retail section of the business sector, a list of things that could be potentially damaging to younger people. I think there are a lot of people out there who do not know that there are things that are damaging to health. I know that these last two were surprises to me. I was not aware that propane and Scope mouthwash could be used for purposes other than for what they were intended.

Even if we do not go to legislation, I would still like to see some kind of list prepared by the Department of Health which lists all these various substances that can be used to people's detriment. Perhaps we should move to legislation to have retailers not sell them to minors, to people under the age of 18 because I know in the Keewatin we have in many circumstances, and I have seen it, eight and nine year olds buying large quantities of snuff and chewing tobacco which are just as dangerous as tobacco. But before we move there, I would like to see these retailers get a list of substances which could be dangerous so that at least they know and if families are buying large quantities then they might want to be able to let the RCMP know of that, that there is an abuse taking place. That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it the responsibility of health for the treaty Indians is primarily responsibility of the federal government. However, I would like to ask the Minister whether any agreement exists between Health and Welfare Canada and the GNWT in regard to providing health programs to the treaty Indians? And if so, what does that agreement entail and are there any funds earmarked for implementing that particular agreement, if such an agreement does exist?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Health and Welfare Canada provides the medical services in the communities outside of the four hospitals that we operate, as a government, and the total cost of medical care for status Indians and Inuit is borne by the Department of Health and Welfare. If a status Indian or Inuk has need to go to one of the four hospitals operated by the GNWT or if the GNWT incurs an expense for transportation or hospital or medical service to a status Indian or an Inuk, we bill DIAND and are reimbursed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Present Responsibility For Clinics And Hospitals

MR. WAH-SHEE: Would the Minister indicate what health clinics are presently being operated by the GNWT, if any, up and down the Mackenzie Valley pertaining to Dene communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only clinic funded by the GNWT right now is the one in Pine Point, which the mine quit operating. We took over the responsibility of running that and are currently negotiating for Health and Welfare Canada to take over that one clinic because we do not want to be in a position of operating one nursing station when Health and Welfare Canada is operating all the rest. Our only operation is hospitals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: If hospitals in different areas are requested then obviously the normal procedure would be then to go directly to Health and Welfare Canada instead of dealing with GNWT. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes. Of the four hospitals owned by the territorial government, those in Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife were started by our government. They were not turned over to us from Health and Welfare Canada. The only turnover we have had is Frobisher Bay hospital. The other three hospitals, in Inuvik, Fort Simpson and Rae-Edzo, were started and are still operated by

Health and Welfare Canada. And at this stage we are not negotiating a turnover of those hospitals until the Dene Nation and NWT Metis Association and in the case of Inuvik, COPE have, generally, an all party agreement that we would get into that area. So any concerns you have with the nursing stations or one of those three hospitals is best resolved by dealing directly with Health and Welfare Canada, because if you phone me at one o'clock in the morning, which has happened on occasion, all I do is phone Mr. Maurice Aked at Health and Welfare Canada and he phones the person in charge. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Budget details. Supplementary health programs. Mr. Appaqaq.

Blood Testing In Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes I find when blood has to be assessed, the patients are sent out to a very far away place although the expenses of the travel are so very high. In Sanikiluaq area there have been some patients leaving our community to get blood tests and although they are very healthy people, they just have to go for blood tests. When they go for blood tests they are gone out of their community for a period of time. I was wondering if the Minister of Health can provide blood tests in Sanikiluaq? Is this possible or not? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am not sure of any of the specific instances that the Member is referring to, but I do know that in many cases when samples of blood are taken, the doctor is looking for possibly a specific chemical or something in the blood, while it is in the person's body. If the sample is being transported by air from Sanikiluaq to the research laboratory where the blood is analysed, because of the time and maybe temperature changes the blood may change while it is in the sample bottle and therefore the doctor would not be able to find out what he wants to know. So, sometimes the patient has to go to where the laboratory that analyses the blood is, so the blood can be analysed immediately after it is taken out of the patient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Budget details. Supplementary health programs. Mr. McCallum.

Reasons For Increase In O And M

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular activity of the department, there is a substantial increase in the O and M this year as opposed to last year, roughly 60-odd per cent. I understand the Minister and the department to have indicated that this is due to an increase in the utilization of the services offered through the supplementary programs. Now I recognize that the Minister has indicated that he will now supplement the benefits supplied by the department to help ease the costs to non-status people for particular long-term diseases. Are there any other instances other than the addition to the list of these so-called long-term diseases that brings about this 60 per cent increase in the utilization of services? Certainly the population of the Territories has not grown to any great extent over the last year, but you are pretty near doubling the amount of money. You had approximately \$900,000 and now you are talking about \$1.4 million. What brings this about? Is the Minister or the department indicating to us now that more and more people are taking advantage of these costs than they were in the past, and if they were not doing it in the past, what is the reason?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of factors. One of the reasons for the increase is the fact that -- we have already discussed this previously -- that we are short somewhere in the range of \$300,000 to \$400,000 this year in order to meet the demands. So we are reflecting reality when we put this figure up to what our actual expenditures are going to be. In 1985-86 they are probably going to be in the \$1.2 million range or maybe more. The other thing is, and I know of some specific instances in my own community, where people had their children living with their relatives outside of the jurisdiction. They became ill so they now have decided to bring them home. If you get one person deciding to stay up here because he can get diabetic help with a kidney dialysis machine, that is approximately a \$50,000 bill for each

person. So when you get many people on dialysis machines, it becomes advantageous to purchase a machine and do it in your own jurisdiction, for example. So as I said before, a small change up here in numbers is a big change in our budget. I would like to ask my assistant deputy minister for some examples of one or two specific diseases where there have been large new demands.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to the specific instance of diabetes that Mr. McLaughlin pointed to, there were also the congenital anomalies and chronic diseases of the urinary system. As well we have had a significant increase in costs for mental patients in the facilities in Alberta. The last area that has seen a significant increase is that through an administered system we pay the pharmacare program for the treaty Indian and Inuit and charge back to Health and Welfare. This has also experienced significant increases in the past few years.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the latter instance, those costs are fully reimbursed by the federal government though, so there should be a corresponding increase in the amount of revenue then. Is there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, there is a corresponding increase in the revenues and yes, the Member is correct, the cost of pharmacare when we deliver it to status Indians or Inuit is fully recoverable from the federal government.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I agree with that kind of response. What the Minister is indicating is that he is trying to catch up from past years when the actuals were greater than the budgeted amounts. Now you are trying to put a proper amount in the base, as it were. So we would not expect to see large supps come into the House, say, in the next supp one, two or three and maybe four, in relation to this particular activity, if you were \$200,000 or \$300,000 short in the past X number of years and you were anticipating approximately \$200,000 additional expenditure this year. Is that what I understand the Minister to be saying to us?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we hope that we have identified a figure which properly reflects the large jump we have had lately and will also reflect the fact that we have added an extended medical benefits list to the pharmacare. But I am not going to promise this committee that I will not be before the House next year in either direction, I might lapse \$300,000 or I might need \$300,000 more than is in the budget. With a small population like we have you could have just a small number of people afflicted by a very expensive disease and needing help and this budget will jump. Or the family of a person with severe difficulties may get frustrated and move out closer to a medical facility in Edmonton and we will lapse \$100,000 because of that. So I cannot make any undertaking other than we are hoping to be close on this one, but we could go \$300,000 either way.

Supplementary Health Programs, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Budget details. Supplementary health programs, total O and M, \$1,379,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Northwest Territories Share Of Health Care Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Northwest Territories share of health care services, total O and M, \$3,279,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you very kindly. Well, Mr. Chairman, again here, we are talking about the territorial share of health care services, not the share for indigenous peoples, and there is a substantial reduction in this particular amount to the tune of about \$1.4 million in other O and M. Could I have an indication of what brings this about?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as Members are aware the operation of nursing stations in the communities for example, is cost-shared by us. For example if a community is populated by 95 per cent status Indians or Inuit, then our government pays the five per cent of the operation of that facility. We often rely on figures from Health and Welfare Canada, their predictions as to what their expenditures are going to be in each of these communities and we cost share that O and M. So, if they decide that the community needs an extra nurse then we pay a percentage of that, depending on what the population of non-native people is in that community.

There is another anomaly in this particular case where we were being overbilled, \$1.4 million I believe it was. We discovered that and have since realigned that with Health and Welfare Canada and that is why there is a reduction in this particular expenditure area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Budget detail, Northwest Territories share of health care services, total O and M, \$3,279,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Territorial Hospital Insurance Services. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I will bring up an old chestnut that has been going on for some time, a number of years. I would like to know what the department is doing about bringing forth a piece of legislation, or whatever it is, that will repeal the THIS Board. Or, what I would like to get from the Minister is why do we have it? Give me some rationale for having it. It seems to me this House, as well as a previous Minister embarked upon a program dealing with the elimination of the THIS Board because you recognized the hospitals now would do well to deal directly with the department rather than making them go through the hoop of the THIS Board. As I recall it has been going on for at least four plus years, even before that, I know. Had certain people been kept in particular places it would have occurred.

---Laughter

However, with the transfer and the shuffle that goes on, similar to the kinds of shuffles that go on with Education -- you just move people back and forth -- I would really like to know what is going on and why you have not moved to get rid of the THIS Board. Do you have any good reasons why you still have it? I would like to hear them because I am from Missouri, I have to be convinced.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Proposed Repeal Of Ordinance

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that when Mr. McCallum was Minister responsible he took initiatives in that area and there may have been a lull in the interim between his being Minister and mine in that particular area, I am not sure, but I agreed at the time with him when I was a Member of the Assembly that it was a good idea. I also have recently discussed with the Executive Council the individual hospitals and their financing and their reporting relationship. Members have to be aware that some of the hospitals in the Northwest Territories, the four that we operate, have bigger budgets than some of the departments of this government. So they brought it to my attention that they want to see, within the ordinance, a reporting relationship directly to the Minister responsible, so we can have more coverage of each individual hospital's budget and that will make THIS legislation redundant for sure.

The other thing I should say, Mr. Chairman, is that the Department of Justice and Public Services only has so many people to work on legislation. As the priority for our department was the Mental Health Act, that is what I asked them to get done and I will take the consequences for that. But repealing the existing THIS Ordinance and replacing it with another ordinance is now the major legislation that our department wants and hopefully within a year we can show you something on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Budget details, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: (Inaudible comment)

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, total O and M, \$45,179,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aqreed.

---Agreed

Medicare, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Medicare, total O and M, \$11,371,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: We had another case under this activity wherein the medicare expenditures identified the 1984-85 base deficiency of \$756,000. This has been adjusted and calculations for the 1985-86 budget are based on the adjusted figure so it resulted in a total increase, in fact, of just over \$1.6 million in this activity. Again, the department indicated that the 1984-85 main estimates were low and it is difficult to predict the number of people who are about to become sick. That is what you told us. Is this years projection realistic or again are we just guessing and we could look at possible base adjustments in years to come?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, as I outlined earlier, the demands on health services in the Northwest Territories vary from year to year. As I said earlier when we initiate programs on health awareness and people in the smaller communities become more concerned about their health and the services they want, those demands increase, so it is only a guesstimate each year on the part of our department as to what those demands for medicare are going to be. These are specifically, the fees paid to doctors. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: One of the detailed descriptions dealing with positions inside the NWT were that the 1985-86 figure represents 11.6 per cent increase over 1984-85. Although past trends indicate an eight per cent increase in utilization this trend is not expected to continue at such a high rate. On what do you base that? If you are saying that you do not really know, why are you saying that you can anticipate it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Public Health Programs In Preventive Areas

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: As I said before, the public health programs that create a demand on our services, by making people aware that they are there, cause these figures to increase dramatically sometimes but at the same time we are hoping that the public health programs, which are preventive like the anti-smoking program for example, will help us out in this area. I believe that diseases related to smoking in the Northwest Territories account for four million dollars of our expenditures. Between hospital and medicare added together smoking-related diseases are four

million dollars in our budget. Hopefully, the \$50,000 to \$100,000 we are spending on anti-smoking, awareness programs on health in general and for other related diseases like fetal alcohol syndrome, etc., will have pay-offs in the long run but that is how serious the smoking situation is in the Northwest Territories, as mentioned by Mr. MacQuarrie. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: So what in fact you are saying is though a lot of these education programs have not been evaluated that you are projecting decreases in the usage of health programs based on, in your estimation, a positive response to these programs. You have not evaluated the programs, you have told us that before, so you are only guessing that these programs are being effective.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, exactly Mr. Chairman. By the year 2000 when the non-smoking program pays off I hope we are not here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Medicare, total O and M, \$11,371,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I am not going to talk smoking. Can I get an idea of the number of doctors that are now on contract rather than full-time? I note that there is a decrease and I recognize why. I recognize that the decrease is offset by the O and M because that is where you pay for these contracts. Could I have an idea of what the average contract price is for a doctor in either Cambridge Bay, Fort Smith or -- where are the other ones?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, maybe he is not finished his question yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum?

MR. McCALLUM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe that there are contract doctors in those three communities, Cambridge Bay, Frobisher and Fort Smith. The doctors are not full-time doctors. The contract may be for a year, it may be for a period of time, but on a yearly basis. Could I get an idea of what the actual contract price is for a doctor in those communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically I will describe to the Members what we do in the way of recruiting doctors. In Frobisher Bay we have two doctors there operating out of a private clinic and I think we have five doctors in the hospital. In Yellowknife almost all the doctors are in private practice, but there are some specialists that are employed on an employer-employee relationship. In Fort Smith, for example, we recruit doctors there on a guaranteed salary and I believe in some of the other communities we have attracted doctors by guaranteeing them a minimum salary. Doctors are able to bill the system for each patient that they see, the amount that is approved in the cost list, and if a doctor exceeds the amount, we guarantee him the higher amount. We guarantee him a minimum amount. As to the exact amounts that we have in contracts in each place I am not sure, but one thing I will advise you is that we have made a substantial saving over the last couple of years, I believe in the order of half a million dollars or so, by recruiting doctors as employees rather than having contract situations, whether it is by the day or by the month. I think they call it "locum" -- whatever that means. I will ask my assistant deputy minister to explain the dollars related to the physician positions that the Member requested.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS: Mr. Chairman, a locum is purchased at about \$250 a day and a full-time physician averages a salary of about \$75,000, and with the other total employee benefits it probably comes to about \$100,000 a year.

Medicare, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pontus. Medicare, total O and M, \$11,371,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Medical services contract. Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just came back from the lounge. I was supposed to ask a question on page 13.8. I was wondering if we could go back to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Do the Members agree that we return to page 13.8 for the benefit of Mr. Appaqaq? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, Mr. Appaqaq.

Insurance Liability In Air Crash

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I had a question when we came to Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, but I really do not fully understand it myself. Just before Christmas there was an air crash just outside our community. The patient that was on that aircraft died and it seemed that was the cause of his death, although it does not seem that it should have been. The life insurance, whether it is caused by accident -- are you responsible for life insurance also?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Unfortunately, no, Mr. Chairman. The insurance as the word is used in this section relates to health insurance for the different medical services provided to residents. In a case where a person dies in an air crash the life insurance would have to be a policy which the person himself had purchased from a life insurance company to protect himself against death or injury. That would be a thing he would buy himself. In addition to that, there may be money available from the insurance company of the company that owned the airplane. The company that is operating the airplane would probably have some public liability insurance and the relatives of a person who dies in a plane crash usually sue the aircraft company if they believe there was negligence on the part of the charter company or air line that was flying the plane. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is that satisfactory, Mr. Appaqaq? We will go back to medical services contract. Mr. McCallum.

Negotiations For Salaries Of Doctors

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask a question dealing with medicare which is on 13.9 before we turn the page. In relation to the salaries or the amounts of money paid to doctors, it is my understanding that funding paid to a hospital board, any of the four that we have, is done on a formula basis. Can you give me some indication as to whether, when a board negotiates a contract with a doctor, the board has any authority to go beyond the formula figure to provide a salary to the doctor? In other words, is the board, under this formula that has been developed, restricted to that particular amount in their budget, or can they submit a supplementary request either through that infamous board, THIS, or directly to the department or the Minister, or can they manipulate other parts of their budget to do that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, yes, the boards negotiate each year with THIS for their O and M and capital. In addition to that they can negotiate to have a salary -- I guess you call it "top-off" -- for one of the doctors in the hospital. Boards are able to come back during the year and

identify shortcomings in the budget that was approved for them, to try and negotiate more funding for areas that are in their responsibility, which does include partially paying or offsetting the cost of doctors' wages. But I think I will ask Mr. Pontus to make sure I am entirely right on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I can add much more than that. The hospitals do have the right to adjust the salary but they always come back and check it out with us to see if there are sufficient funds available first.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, when you say that they can come back, do they have to go through THIS or do they go directly to the department, the deputy minister, or do they make representation to the Minister for this? Or in terms of their own existing budget, can they take from other parts of their budget to get this amount over and above a contract document? In other words, can they take from another particular budget item?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said before, the board negotiates their initial budget with THIS and they may identify a certain block of funding. If they have not overexpended that part, then they could on their own initiative make an adjustment in the doctor's salary if that is one of the areas they negotiated and they have some extra money in a particular area. If they do not, they have to come to THIS for funding through a supplementary estimate. Thank you.

Medical Services Contract, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Budget details. We are on page 13.10. Medical services contract. Total O and M, \$785,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Medical Transportation, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Medical transportation. Total O and M. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question of the Minister. When a non-status patient is travelling from a community to Yellowknife, who is responsible for that individual patient in Yellowknife once they get off the plane? In most cases they have a small child and do not have any money for taxi. They came on the understanding that there will be someone to pick them up. A lot of time there is no one there to pick up the patient and the child. I would like to know what kind of arrangement is made for this type of patient or these kinds of cases?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: In the case of status Indians and Inuit, the responsibility for the funding of the entire care of the patient from when he leaves his community to when he reaches his bed in the hospital is entirely Health and Welfare Canada's responsibility. If we actually do any part of that service, we charge it back to them.

In the case of non-status native residents or other status residents in the NWT, -- non-status are included as other status -- our responsibility as a government is we pay the air fare with the exception of the \$50 and that is really our only responsibility in this area. Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. If the person does not have the funds or resources to pay for hotel or whatever when they are in Yellowknife, they can see the social worker in the community and the Department of Social Services helps out in that area. But it is not something we can recover funds from the federal government for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One day I was at the airport when this young girl came off the plane with her young baby. First thing I questioned was if she was status. She said no. She was stranded there with no money and she was under the understanding when she left Aklavik that someone was supposed to be meeting her here to take her to a boarding home. She had no money whatsoever and some kind soul took her under her roof and took her into town. I just think that is not doing the service or individual any justice by letting her think that she is going to have somebody pick her up and then no one showing up. She would have rather stayed home if that was the case. Thank you.

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

Boarding Home In Montreal

MR. BALLANTYNE: I had a question about a new boarding home in Montreal. I understand that there is no operation and maintenance money included in the budget. There were some negotiations with the federal government and a submission before Treasury Board, I think, to pay for the O and M of that boarding home. What is the status of those negotiations and of the Treasury Board submission?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital money to purchase the Montreal boarding home was not actually identified in last years budget but the Department of Health had approximately \$1.5 million more than required which was caused by the fact that Health and Welfare Canada decided to spend its capital in different communities than originally, because the formula depends upon what the percentage in native population is in a community. Therefore, this extra \$1.5 million was going to be lapsed by our department and the Executive Council was kind enough to my department to allow us to use some of that money to purchase a facility in Montreal. We have identified a building and I believe we are on the verge of finalizing the purchase. The Montreal boarding home funding is different than the one in Winnipeg. In Winnipeg the boarding home there was arranged on a per diem basis. But in Montreal we negotiated with Health and Welfare Canada that they would have an O and M contract with us on an annual basis. The exact amount of dollars and whether it has been approved by Treasury Board, I am not sure. I believe it has, but the amount I am not sure of. I will ask my assistant deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pontus.

MR. PONTUS: Mr. Chairman, the amount has been approved by Treasury Board. The amount for a full year of operation is I believe \$359,000. The home is likely to open August 1st this year because there is some time required for renovation and setting up of the staff. The contract is fairly well finalized with Health and Welfare though it has not yet been signed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pontus. Medical transportation, total O and M. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Baffin Region we have a problem in medical transportation. The responsibilities have not been transferred to the Baffin regional board. I would like to ask the Minister, last year in 1984 I was informed that the territorial government are responsible for half of the services that are provided in the North. Have there been any changes since I was informed last year in this area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Takeover Of Responsibilities In Baffin Region

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Members are aware in the Baffin we received the co-operation of ITC and the Baffin Regional Council as well as the Baffin Region Inuit Association, that the Government of the Northwest Territories should take over the full responsibility from Health and Welfare in that region. It was agreed to do it in a two phase negotiation. The first stage was to be the turnover of the Baffin hospital, to be operated by a board with representatives from nearly all the communities in the Baffin. After that turnover occurred, the success of the turnover was supposed to be monitored for a period of time before phase two would occur.

Phase two is the takeover by the Department of Health of the nursing stations in all of the Baffin Region communities, except Sanikiluaq. The negotiations of this are in the starting stages right now. Both governments and the Baffin board will be represented on a committee that will look into this turnover and they will recommend the proper amount of funding. We have to make sure that as a government we get the same number of person years, the same number of dollars that Health and Welfare Canada has, and that extends beyond Health and Welfare Canada's own expenses. It also entails the money that the federal Department of Public Works, for example, spends maintaining their facilities. We have to be very careful that all the money that the federal government is spending gets turned over to our Department of Health or our Department of Public Works so that we are able to deliver the same level of care.

There has been a report recently done on the turnover of the hospital and its operation and everybody is satisfied that an excellent job has been done of operating that hospital under the board. So now stage two is going to start negotiations shortly. I have briefly talked to the federal Minister, Mr. Jake Epp, about that a couple of weeks ago and he is very supportive of turning that program over to this government. Our plan is that the board of directors of the Baffin Regional Hospital and the administration which is employed by them will administer the hospital and the nursing station program in the region.

Medical Transportation, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Medical transportation, total 0 and M, \$3,675,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Details of grants and contributions. Mr. Richard.

Program For Public Awareness Of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had missed an opportunity under an earlier activity to ask the question but perhaps under grants and contributions I can slip it in here and I know you will be fair with me, Mr. Chairman, and allow the question. I have been asked to ask the Minister at this time, Mr. Chairman, about the issue of fetal alcohol syndrome and the concerns that have been expressed by some of the consumers groups and I believe the nurses associations as well, both nationally and territorially, their concern being that there be an increase in the public awareness of this problem. I understand that they have called on the Government of the Northwest Territories, perhaps directly to the Minister of Health, I am not sure, to put these warnings about FAS on the liquor bottles that are distributed through the government system and also to display signs with a similar warning in the government liquor stores. I do believe that something has been done as far as displaying signs in the liquor outlets, but I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister can indicate whether he or the government have established a policy on these two requests by these groups. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The problem of fetal alcohol syndrome is a very serious one in the Northwest Territories and in a lot of other jurisdictions in Canada. As Members are aware fetal alcohol syndrome is caused primarily by mothers drinking alcohol during their pregnancy, especially during the last period of their pregnancy. The other thing that is even more important is that very few jurisdictions have a handle on what is called fetal alcohol effects which are not obvious to doctors at birth because there may not be physical deformities of the baby, but there may be long-term very serious consequences which may emerge later in those newborn babies' lives as a consequence of mothers' drinking. So this government is very aware of it.

Both the Departments of Health and Social Services have had major public awareness programs in the past. In particular as to what the Member is asking, our government's response, the first thing we did is I contacted the Minister of Government Services, the Hon. Tom Butters, who is responsible for the liquor system, and I advised him that both of my departments had posters which explained and warned about the seriousness of drinking by pregnant women. He took those posters and instructed the liquor stores and agencies in the Northwest Territories to post them in a

prominent place. I have personally seen, upon visitation to some of these stores, that they are in fact present and posted in a prominent place in the three stores I have been into since that happened. As for the labelling of bottles I know there is some difficulty which I can explain. It is convincing the manufacturer of a large distillery to put this on their bottles, or whether we can make them do that or not, or whether we instruct our stores and agencies to put those labels on the bottles themselves. There are some legal difficulties, maybe with contracts and also with the suppliers in this area, and I am not sure what the details are. I would like, Mr. Chairman, to possibly defer to Mr. Butters in this instance, as it affects his department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Butters, do you have anything to add to the comments of the Minister?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Chairman, except to say that it is under active consideration and it is being looked into. The Minister has very clearly explained the difficulty of attaching this message to the bottle itself.

Total Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Details of grants and contributions. Total contributions, \$26,573,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

NWT Share Of Health Care Services

Nursing Stations And Residences, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Details of capital. NWT share of health care services. Total nursing stations and residences, \$1,627,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Acquisition Of Equipment, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total acquisition of equipment, \$268,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

NWT Share Of Health Care Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Total Northwest Territories share of health care services, \$1,895,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services. Total buildings and works, \$9,712,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Acquisition Of Equipment, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Acquisition of equipment, \$300,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, \$10,012,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed.

Department Of Health, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total Health, \$11,907,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Are there any questions on the information items here, the items remaining in the last pages? No questions on any of the information items? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I was out but did we get a definition of all those priority programs the Minister said he was going to get? Somehow I think that we did not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Priority Programs

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, I had my hand up when we were on that page but you did not notice me. Mr. Chairman, these are all included within page 13.5, administration. In the family life program which is a priority, we have \$60,000 and one person year, which has salaries and benefits of \$45,000, and other O and M of \$15,000. This is to reduce the NWT incidence of infant and maternal mortality and handicap arising from conditions associated with pregnancy and birth, to promote family health.

Under the tobacco education and cessation program, we have \$55,000, one person year. Of that \$40,000 is for salaries and benefits, and \$15,000 for travel. These funds are to develop NWT tobacco education and cessation programs aimed at creating a generation of non-smokers by the year 2000. Mr. Chairman, when I said that I hoped we would not be here, I meant I hoped we would not have to be in this room, or in this job either. The other priority area...

---Laughter

...suicide prevention program for \$65,000 is to reduce the incidence of suicide and the prevalence of mental disorders in the Northwest Territories, and to improve the ability of mentally handicapped residents to function in a normal environment. The deaf awareness and prevention program has \$15,000 allocated and this is to reduce the incidence of deafness among NWT youth in the Kitikmeot Region.

For the territorial assessment of the aged and chronically ill, we have \$100,000 and one person year. Here the goal is to perform a territorial-wide assessment of needs of the aged for health services and facilities for the aged. Also, we want to train local Health and Social Services personnel in each community who will, in turn, be able to assess and reassess clients using the assessment and place record and the co-ordinated home care assessment record. Those priorities, Mr. Chairman, total \$295,000.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think, looking at Mr. Richard's previous motion, I see there is already \$65,000 allocated to reduce the incidence of suicide and to promote mental health. Maybe if you could get some more money, obviously you thought of this when you were doing your priorities, how important promotion of mental health is, but it seems to me that particular area is one where the possibility of one PY for a co-ordinator or director might be worth considering.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Mental Health Programs Are A Federal Jurisdiction

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our difficulty that we see as a government is the fact that nothing is reaching out into the communities to solve mental health problems in the communities. These often lead to suicides and there is an alarming rate of suicides among youth in the Northwest Territories. As well, young mothers whose families are in crisis and spousal assault are examples of that. We, as a government, feel that we have to do something with the program in the field and we feel that a public awareness program is what is needed. But in our case this is a priority item. We are trying to do something in the field where we do not have the jurisdiction turned over to us, or the funds. There is approximately \$1.7 million in Health and Welfare Canada's budget for mental health in the Northwest Territories. As to what was talked about earlier, the NWT Mental Health Association having a lot of involvement in the communities and problems in the field with their budget, I met with them just recently, last week or the week before, at one of their evening meetings. They indicated to me that they, as an NWT group, are not trying to get into the field and establish programs, physically, in the field or have a person on their board in every community. This is something they went through quite a while ago and they find that they just do not have the resources to do that. They have enough problems just offering a Helpline here and getting information out.

They do serve all the communities in the Northwest Territories by promoting mental health awareness and by sending information to residents of any community who ask for information but they do not have a program in this field either. The only people capable of putting a program into the field is the Department of Health and Welfare Canada. They have the funds and they have the responsibility and I see my task is to emphasize as much as possible to the Minister of Health and Welfare Canada, that our government can do a better job. The main reason we can do a better job is we have employees in the field like social workers who can be used to work in a decent, co-ordinated, health program and we would have a co-ordinator here in Yellowknife, a director, and a regional co-ordinator in each region. It would be a great thing which we would like to do but we do not have the resources to do that. I think that a lot of our social workers are very frustrated right now because they are the ones that have to deal with these crises in communities but we give them no support in this area, in training or in back-up by professionals to help them out when they come across these situations. So I want to say to this House that I am very aware of the shortcomings of mental health services in the field and psychiatric services, even in our major centres, but we just do not have that responsibility nor the funds to work on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think the point has been made that there are probably two parts to trying to deal with the problem of mental health. One, obviously, is a long-term solution which would include taking over the responsibility from the federal government but I think what we were saying in the House was that we cannot wait for that. That might take a period of time. The other is the possibility of getting one person now, even if it is a term position, even if it is a contract position to co-ordinate the existing agencies and departments that are working in this field. We are not talking necessarily about a PY but a contract person to try to tie together and co-ordinate all the different agencies right now that are dealing with mental health related problems in communities. I think we all agree that it has to be, ultimately, a community-based approach but the fact is that while we wait for a year or two years or whatever it takes for the federal government to make up their mind, now this problem just gets worse and worse. We are looking at the idea of getting a person who can focus on the problem and try to at least co-ordinate the existing resources of this government or private volunteer groups within communities.

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

Meeting With Federal Minister

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, at the recent meeting I had with Mr. Epp, I stressed the seriousness of the suicides in the Kitikmeot as an example of the shortcomings of Health and Welfare Canada right now. I told him that his department was not doing anything out in the field to the extent that we could as a government. I wish we had the resources to do what the Member says. I think with the resources that Health and Welfare Canada has, their \$1.7 million, if we had those resources, we could get out in the field with it because we could then take advantage of people we have in the other departments, in Education for example, school counsellors, social workers and nurses at nursing stations, to do something. We could work with existing resources and put that \$1.7 million to better use than they are right now. I emphasized that to him and I have written him letters on the subject but I cannot do any more than promise that I will just keep trying to push the Minister to do something in the field federally if we cannot take over the program ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a major information item -- it relates back to the hospital insurance services -- hospital contributions. I recognize that there is an amount shown not only for the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, the Fort Smith Health Centre and the H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital, but as well for part of the Northern Addiction Services. Of course, the Baffin is cost-shared with the federal government. It is my understanding in relation to the breakdown that the Baffin is included, with approximately \$29,126,000 which is not a net THIS contribution to the operation of hospitals but with the revenue from, basically, the Stanton Yellowknife I guess. There is this total contribution including the Inuvik hospital of \$26,477,000. Could I get some sort of breakdown of what is put in each of those hospitals as well as that portion of the Northern Addiction Services? I do not see it broken down in the budget book. If it is maybe you could point it out to me but I do not see it broken down.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Hospital Budgets Negotiated

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a few factors there. One, you have to realize that the budgets for the hospital are negotiated each year individually. The needs of different hospitals vary from year to year. The other thing is that we do not have final figures on a negotiated settlement for the public service employees yet. So we do not know what that figure is. And to be truthful, each year we negotiate with the hospitals and that is what it is, a negotiation. We do not take the budget and arbitrarily put it before them on their plate. Each hospital has to come to us and negotiate their needs. There might be a piece of equipment that a hospital wants but we might feel it is more important that they replace an existing piece of equipment they have. We may not approve of what they want to do, so it is in fact a negotiation process. We could certainly give the Member the budget figures that were approved for the fiscal year that just went by so that he could get an idea of how that breaks down into each of the four hospitals and our contribution toward the Inuvik hospital. But we do not put those items in the budget because in fact we negotiate and the hospitals have to prove a need before we give them the money. We do not give them a plateful of money and let them spend it on what they deem fit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Well, to utilize a government phrase, notwithstanding all that, I would appreciate getting what it was in terms of the previous years budget. You obviously have some idea of what you are contemplating this coming year. I would like to know whether, for example, there is an increase for the Northern Addiction Services. Do you contemplate an increase in the contribution to be given to Northern Addiction Services? There is an increase of two million dollars in this from last year. I recognize that you go through a series of negotiations. You have set aside the sum of \$14,609,000 for salaries. Now, that includes obviously salaries for the doctors, as well as the other personnel. I would like to get something that could be a comparison from past years to this year. If the Minister wants to give me that at another time, then I do not have any difficulty with it. But I would like to get some idea of a pattern or some historic pattern over last year, at least in this year if that has been very historic.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will give the Member the 1984-85 approvals before the budget review hospitals, verbally right now. On the other more detailed information I can prepare a letter for him and I will try to get that to him by tomorrow. Of the four budget review hospitals, Fort Smith was \$1,757,340, Hay River was \$3,335,837, the Baffin hospital was \$6,658,653, and the Yellowknife Stanton was \$10,272,657. The detox limit was \$257,000.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Department of Health. Dollar summary. Total O and M, \$68,267,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total capital, \$11,907,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): First of all I would like to thank the witnesses, Mr. Moody and Mr. Pontus.

Department Of Social Services

The next department is Department of Social Services. Would the Minister like to make his opening statement? Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to possibly ask my assistant deputy minister of Social Services, Mr. Dunbar, to join us then I will proceed with my presentation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is it agreed by the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Opening Remarks

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, it gives me pleasure to introduce the Social Services main estimates this year for your committee. Under family and children's services the following is being emphasized in this years budget. We have a study on services to children that is being conducted. Already steps have been taken to upgrade services with revision of files and record keeping. The department, with day care professionals and the Women's Secretariat, is reviewing mechanisms for funding day care and is considering introduction of legislation. Following the release of the Report by the Task Force on Spousal Assault, the department is developing its plans for working with victims of family violence.

Implementation of the Young Offenders' Act is proceeding on target. Young offenders, and there are 136 of them as of December 31st, have already been sentenced by the court. These youths come from all regions and have received a variety of dispositions from probation to secure custody. Youth justice committees are being developed in a number of communities. It is anticipated that those committees will be confirmed and funding allocated to them by April. An assessment program will be developed and implemented during the coming fiscal year. Amendments to the ordinance have been introduced at the current session of the Assembly which is now in second reading at this stage.

Under corrections, planning is under way to develop fine option programs in all regions. Programs are currently being developed in Inuvik and Fort Smith. The Baffin Correctional Centre will be open by October, 1985. The delay there, by the way, is due to a utilidor connection in Frobisher Bay that has to be done. Work has commenced in the development of community residential corrections programs. These will be introduced initially in the Inuvik Region. Pilot projects in victim/offender reconciliation will be introduced in a number of communities.

Under alcohol and drugs, Mr. Chairman, the alcohol and drug curriculum for kindergarten to grade 12 is being piloted in schools across the Territories. The curriculum will be ready for complete implementation during the coming school year. The department is moving toward a greater integration of federal and territorial programs in an attempt to provide more consistent service delivery to all residents of the Northwest Territories. With the review of the ADCC by the Legislative Assembly it is anticipated that there would be significant changes in both its function and its structure. The department fully supports any change which results in greater local autonomy in the provision of alcohol and drug programs, better evaluation and ongoing improvement of local programs and assumption of responsibility by communities affected by alcohol and drug abuse. It is important that the total resources available including both funding and personnel, whether they be territorial or federal, are used to improve the effectiveness of alcohol and drug services.

Mr. Chairman, under the aged and handicapped, the senior citizens facility in Fort Rae will open in the fall. A group home for profoundly handicapped children in Frobisher Bay will be open by August. An additional group home for moderately handicapped children in Rankin Inlet is scheduled for opening in the winter. In co-operation with the Department of Health an assessment of all elderly and handicapped residents in the Territories is to be conducted. This will provide data for the development of a comprehensive program plan and will affect planning for all future facilities. Emphasis will be maintained on the home care program designed to maintain people in their home as long as possible.

Under financial assistance, senior citizens supplementary benefit was increased by \$10 per month effective February 1, 1985. In social assistance rates I have gained approval from the Executive Council to effect increases in this area and after further consultation with the Executive Council I will be making announcements on what those changes will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: I am not sure if you partially answered my question in your opening remarks, but maybe we could have a little bit more detail on the \$314,000 priority funding. I understood in the discussions we had in December there was some talk of lumping that whole sum together and using it to educate other departments. You were going on about it and I am sure you can explain it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, of the \$314,000, \$100,000 has been designated for youth initiatives, \$149,000 for alcohol and drug, \$65,000 for community development. A further \$200,000 is still subject to final approval for the programs by the Executive Council.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Maybe you could explain those programs in a little more detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Youth Initiatives

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of the youth initiatives, the Executive Council has given me approval for Social Services to definitely maintain the lead role in this area. I have approval to involve the youth of the Northwest Territories in a major way, with the recommendations that should come out through the Year of the Youth, for long-term youth programs and long-term benefits. The major role that our department will play in the area of youth is the same as the federal Minister does. She is an advocate in government for youth to make sure that all the other departments, when they are implementing programs or when they are making funds available -- for example, to make that clear, when the Minister responsible for Employment and Immigration, the Hon. Flora MacDonald, has make-work projects, job creation projects in

communities, the Minister of Youth is an advocate to make sure that a goodly chunk of those funds are set aside for youth employment programs such as Young Canada Works. The role that youth is going to play, what we have decided -- and I await some help from the honourable Speaker of this House before I go back to the Executive Council -- what I want to do is set up a forum which will involve the youth of the Northwest Territories in recommending to us as a government what the programs for youth should be in the future, what we as a government can do with our existing funds and resources in order to help youth.

Council Of Youth

One of the main points made by the Minister when she explained her programs to Parliament was that youth of the country should be involved in these recommendations. So it is my plan and I hope to involve Members of the Legislative Assembly with this. I want to have a council of youth to make plans and set the agenda. The idea is for it to be their agenda, not our agenda for the different programs to celebrate the Year of the Youth in the Northwest Territories. Part of those plans in other jurisdictions are for example to have a youth parliament meet and make recommendations to government. That is something I would like to do here in the Northwest Territories, once I have further consultation with the Speaker of this House and with the Executive Council on financing. The whole idea would be to have half a dozen, maybe eight youths, form a working council that would make sure that all the regions and ethnic groups of youth in the Territories are represented. They would come to me with a budget and a proposal of what to do with this funding. In the fall of the year, hopefully, I would like to see a major forum of some sort, involving this Assembly and the Members of this Assembly, where they could address priorities and programs for youth as they see them. I want to re-emphasize to all Members that I have told the people in my department that my feelings in this matter are that we are not going to take the money that we have set aside for youth in the Year of the Youth and make up a bunch of programs and tell them how to fit into them. I want to get a small council of youth together to advise me how to spend the money and what the priorities are. I hope that by the June session I can have something in place and I would make the undertaking right now that I will consult with Members of this Assembly on nominations of people to this area.

One area related to youth, Mr. Chairman, of interest to Members of this Assembly is the appointment of a nephew from Pangnirtung of Ipeelee Kilabuk, a former Member of this Assembly, to the National Council on Youth, by the Hon. Andree Champagne. He has already been involved in meetings with the National Council on Youth. Mr. Kilabuk's nephew is David Kilabuk and he was a former president of the Ukkivik residence in Frobisher Bay. He was awarded an opportunity to go to the Pearson international college which he declined. He was also accepted at Memorial University but he decided he wanted to work for a couple of years. His present job is a tutor in the Pangnirtung school. He will be a key person in the Northwest Territories in this youth council. He has represented the Northwest Territories in several sporting organizations as well. He has been a scholar at school. I hope to get names from other Members of this House to form this central core, council of youth. When that happens I will take proposals to the Legislative Assembly, to the Speaker as to what his role will be, as to what caucus feels their role as an Assembly should be, in some sort of a forum which I hope to have in the fall of this year so that youth in the Northwest Territories may identify to us what they see the problems are and what they see the solutions are. So, in the area of youth programs maybe we should stay with that one and then go on to them one at a time to be orderly, Mr. Chairman.

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

Community-Based Youth Groups

MR. BALLANTYNE: The concept is obviously a good one. In reality, I guess it will depend on how you choose the youth from a certain area and who they really represent. For any number of reasons they might be recommended by an MLA or by the mayor or by the powers that be and those that are chosen might not accurately reflect the needs and wishes of youth in general. I wonder perhaps if the idea is at this point a little bit too grandiose. Maybe there could be some sort of incentive provided at a community level. We have heard that time and time again in this Assembly, to give support for community-based youth groups to be formed and established. I use the example in one of my communities in my constituency in Rainbow Valley. There have been a lot of problems with youth in Rainbow Valley. A number of them have got together and set up an organization and they are going to try to get the youth in Rainbow Valley involved in different sporting and cultural activities. I think many times just the fact that they are involved keeps them out of trouble and gives some meaning, in essence, to what they are doing.

Is there any way with a program like this that you can see a way to encourage that sort of grass roots youth organization because obviously every community is different? In some communities kids will want to do one thing and in another community they will want to do something very, very different and fine, we can leave it to them, but just the very fact that we encourage them to get together to try to come up with some ideas, I think could be helpful. Do you see any way that this fund of money or another fund of money could provide that sort of encouragement to youth groups?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The example the Member makes is a good one but the amount of funds that we have will not allow us to fund the organization of youth in every community this year. That might be something that the council of youth recommends to us, as a part of our government, that we have such groups in place in each community. But what I put to the Member is that if we start off with a territorial council of youth, from that, if they feel that having regional councils and then community councils is the way to go, that is a recommendation we might consider. But I am not going to tell the youth that we are going to go and form a little committee for you in each community and that is going to solve all your problems. You can each write me letters.

What I want to do is to use the Members' help to find people. There are some very talented people amongst youth, not just going to school, but working. Remember the age group they are choosing for the year of the youth is 16 and over to 25, and so that makes high school students, university students and people working within our society right now and some of those who are seeking jobs in our society right now qualify under that.

Function Of Council

What I would like to see is a council to advise me initially on a way that is going to get them together to make recommendations to us as an ongoing thing. What I see this council doing also at the same time, is making youth in all the regions in the communities aware through some sort of public relations program that there are funds available in other departments of this government and in federal departments that if properly applied for, local groups could be funded. So what I look at this initial council doing is setting up a public relations program across the Territories that will cause youth to become involved and to become involved in the way that they decide in their region or in their communities. So I appreciate what the Member is saying and I also appreciate the differences in each region and each community. I will tell him that I have proposals on my desk from different organizations, to form regional organizations but unfortunately what they are already asking me for is more money than I have in my budget.

I look at this Year of the Youth as a year when the government, and I guess the people in the world, because it is United Nations sponsored, are supposed to stand up and take stock of what our relationship is, as a government, with our youth and what kind of programs we are delivering to them. And we will go from there. But I emphasize, Mr. Chairman, that in the Year of the Youth it is our plan to involve the youth in making recommendations to this government as to what we can do for youth. They are the ones that are out there who are unemployed and they are the ones who have quit school for some reason and have nothing to do in their communities. That is who we want to hear from. We want to hear from the successful ones who went to university. We want to hear from the ones who got frustrated and quit school and now are in the community and want jobs; some of them are very intelligent too, but the resource has never been tapped. I look forward to any suggestions Members have on this matter because I have not put a final paper before the Executive on the formation of this initial council. I seek your advice and debate on that or anybody who would like to write me letters or meet with me about it with some ideas. But I emphasize that I will not put something in place that prevents the youth of the NWT from setting up their own structure this year to get out to the regions and communities. I want it to be their structure and their program and the only condition I am going to put to them is that they have to formulate some way of getting their recommendations to us as a government. And I hope it involves the Legislative Assembly Members directly in some sort of a forum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Again, anything at all that raises the awareness of the problems of youth, to people in the Territories, I would have to support. Quite frankly I had hoped that we as a territory, with probably the most youthful population in Canada, in the Year of the Youth could be

somewhat of a leader in Canada. We could come up with something more innovative than a youth parliament type of concept. I had hoped that there would be something maybe more substantial than a youth parliament. And I guess the problem of something like that is it tends to become a one-shot deal. Unless the kids in each community have really asked for that sort of a format the next year these things just tend to fall apart because they are not based on the expressed desires of youth from all over the NWT. It might work and it might be the beginning. I see what you are saying is that you would like to use that as a jumping-off point of what youth might be able to accomplish or achieve. What I am saying is maybe more realistically it should have been more of an end point whereby these community-based groups would be given some time and some opportunity to expand, to develop their own priorities and at some point there would be a move from the community level to "Well, let's get together to see what we can share." I am not against your initiative. I am saying I am maybe not as optimistic as you are that it is going to have any long-lasting benefits. But I hope that the Minister will be open to other ideas which might come up this year and I would like to see a program developed besides the one that the Minister has talked about, that really we could be very proud of. We could use it as an example to southern jurisdictions. We have a very, very youthful population. We have major problems with our youth, finding them jobs, alcohol and drugs, all the problems we have talked about. These are some real things that we are trying to come to grips with. What I see in this initiative is something which is fairly standard, the sort of thing one would expect in Ontario or British Columbia. I do not see anything very northern or very innovative out of this particular initiative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the Members of this Assembly, all of us are aware of the problems of the youth in the Northwest Territories and how serious they are. A good statistic is that of the 16 to 25 year olds who are incarcerated in our system up here, about 50 per cent of them are just for break and enters, and break and enters for pop, cigarettes, minor stuff, alcohol. These are not large, heavy duty thefts, these are just kids that are bored with nothing to do. It is a big problem in the Territories. I learned about it first-hand as a Member of the special committee on education and as a Minister of Social Services, especially with corrections. I have been very frustrated by what I see. I think there is practically a whole lost generation out there.

Importance Of Interfacing With Assembly

The fact that what we decide this year does not get lost is the very reason I suggested interfacing the youth with the Legislative Assembly. My idea is not to have a little youth parliament where each MLA picks a person, they come here and they debate a bunch of youth topics and go home. If they decide they want to do that as part of the process, I may be convinced to do that. But what I am suggesting is that when I said I am involving the Legislative Assembly I meant that in some sort of forum they will come up with resolutions and they will come up with ideas that I want them to present to this government through this Legislative Assembly, and then they will not be forgotten. If we, in our fall session, invite their executive or the leaders that they choose to pick in the manner that they choose to pick, into this House as witnesses on a youth debate, then it will be before this Assembly. The Assembly will put it on this government's agenda and that is why I emphasized an interface with the Legislative Assembly. I do not intend to have a little youth parliament where they meet and all go home and it is all forgotten about later. I want them to interface directly with MLAs and hopefully the Legislative Assembly will deal with the report and resolutions and make recommendations right in this Assembly to our government to develop long-term programs in future years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: If the department and you, as the Minister responsible for Youth, are going to play a co-ordinating role, I think there is more involved in the topic of youth than just the departments of this government and the Legislative Assembly. I can see the possibility of this government encouraging native organizations to get involved, saying, "Hey, let's all get together, this is something we all agree with!" The municipalities, hamlets, band councils, regional governments. I think if we are going to do anything that has any sort of impact it is not enough that the departments of the government and the Legislative Assembly only are involved. I think if we are to show that we really are serious about this, I would like to see involved all these other groups and organizations who constantly tell us the problems they are having with youth. What is

the department or government doing in trying to get some sort of a co-ordinated approach in the Year of the Youth with all the groups and interest groups and political organizations and municipal organizations involved in the Territories? I see that as a possible important role of this government.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: I think I have had all the advice from the honourable Member for Yellowknife North that I need. I understand what he is saying and I hope we can meet those concerns. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum.

Canada Assistance Plan

MR. McCALLUM: I have just a general question of the Minister. Yesterday, or maybe it was last week a note was passed around that there was to be a meeting with some federal government officials concerning the Canada Assistance Plan and which asked that Members contact him in order to meet with them. I have just a general question. In light of a federal budget in May that will obviously deal with programs that will come under this particular agreement and the controversy over the universality of certain programs in which this government takes part, could the Minister indicate to me what these discussions will deal with? Has he had prior notice of possible cut-backs in relation to the programs of the territorial government that come under the Canada Assistance Plan? Where does the government stand in relation to this whole aspect of the universality of social programs or social assistance, if you like? I recognize that when he was at the standing committee on finance he indicated that he was looking at the whole program of social assistance in general, looking at the set-up, the rate structure, etc., because he feels that there appears to be a demand for greater social assistance amongst people of the NWT. I just wonder if the Minister could comment on this whole aspect of the Canada Assistance Plan and the business of how this government will be able to react to any kind of change in direction from the federal level with social assistance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. First let me make specific reference to the letter I sent around about a possible dinner with the three gentlemen on this task force that are coming. I have that as a discussion item on the agenda tomorrow morning at caucus. If it is not on the agenda I am going to add it because with the late sitting of the House, Members may not want to have such a dinner. I am willing to discuss that in the morning. The task force that is referred to is one that the new Prime Minister gave the responsibility to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Erik Nielsen, to head up and this was to review all programs of the government. The CAP program was one of the programs. Many of these programs are funded by the Canada Assistance Program, where 50 per cent of the funds come from the federal government and they are doing a review on this. In general the discussions that have taken place with federal and provincial officials, as sort of side discussions during any Social Services Ministers meetings that have been held lately, have been that basically the programs are good and they want to keep them in place.

Make-Work Projects In Communities

There are some areas of concern and I share this concern; I would like to see the CAP funds becoming more flexible. In the NWT we have a lot of people who are employable but there is no work in their communities and the former Minister of Health and Welfare Canada, the Hon. Monique Begin, was adamant that you could not use CAP funds for make-work programs for example. A lot of people believe that being on social assistance has long-term detrimental effects to a person's own self-worth, etc. When they are continually on social assistance it is degrading and then eventually, where it is inherited through a family, a lot of times people think that is all there is -- social assistance. So creative make-work projects in communities are something that a lot of people in the NWT might want to become involved in instead of being on social assistance. If we could use some CAP funding the person would make more money in a make-work project in a community and maybe have some self-worth. You will never be in a position where you can force people to work instead of getting welfare in this type of situation, but certainly in a lot of communities such a program I think would be successful and be well-received by the residents who would rather work and do something useful in the community. For example, a community clean-up could be funded and CAP

funds could be used to share the cost of that, whereas right now that is not possible. So that is an example of an area of review that this government would be interested in talking to the task force about.

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

MR. McCALLUM: I have a direct question of the Minister, Mr. Chairman, because the Minister referred to it in his opening remarks and it deals with young offenders. I think he indicated -- I forget the time frame -- but there were 156 instances of young offenders. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to me how many of those were given sentences to secure facilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the Members should be aware that right now the Young Offenders Act applies only to 13, 14, and 15 year olds. In another week it will also include 16 and 17 year olds. So there is a very small number in that age group and the answer is four.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, one other thing. I made an undertaking during the committee of the whole in the spring session and also at caucus last week that Dr. Ross Wheeler would be available. Last time, as Members are aware, he sat around for three days waiting for his turn so we made the agreement that when I started off my budget, we would set a specific time for Dr. Wheeler. We have been in contact with his office and 5:00 p.m. tomorrow in the committee of the whole would be an advantageous time for him. That would give us two hours because the House is sitting until 7:00 p.m. So if Members are agreed, we will make arrangements for Dr. Wheeler to be here at 5:00 p.m. tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is it agreed by the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. I would like to thank Mr. Moody, Mr. Dunbar and Mr. Minister. All rise now and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. 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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 7-85(1) and wishes to report progress, with two motions being adopted. And further, Mr. Speaker, that Bill 3-85(1), Bill 9-85(1), Bill 10-85(1), Bill 1-85(1), Bill 4-85(1) are recommended for further consideration in the committee of the whole.

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: 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.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a caucus meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM 18: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 26th, 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: Bills 7-85(1), 3-85(1), 9-85(1), 10-85(1), 1-85(1), 4-85(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Third Reading of Bills
18. Assent to Bills
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March the 26th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

Available from the
Publications Clerk, Department of Information,
Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.
\$1.00 per day; \$30.00 for 1st session, \$20.00 for 2nd and 3rd session; or \$50.00 per year
Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories