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RANKIN INLET, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1985

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 12th. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 2: MEMBERS' REPLIES

Mr. Curley's Reply

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about the Aivilik area. I guess I will say, "Welcome to Rankin", although you have probably heard it before. People have probably found out what is happening in Rankin Inlet and the Keewatin area. I guess you have made some friends in the Rankin area and you have been recognized as the government -- also in Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet. Too bad we could not have visited one part of my constituency, Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of things to discuss about the Nunavut division. It has been a big item lately. Also there have been a lot of meetings regarding constitutional forums -- we have been working really hard toward this. I want you to know that they are not going to stop working toward this until it is settled. We have not heard nice things about the government lately, in the NWT or Canada, since the communities are so far apart and the Ministers are far away from the settlements. All the communities in the NWT will be working toward this and we have to be aware of this. In the past the Executive Council did not travel that much in the communities but this present Executive Council has been going around communities more than in the past. I know for sure that we have been recognized as an Executive Council. We do not just sit in our offices, we go to the communities. We will go and meet with people who ask us to meet with them. We will be working harder to get closer relationships with the communities. Also the future Executive Council will be doing a better job.

Education Concerns In Keewatin

In the Keewatin Region, I used to give Dennis Patterson a hard time. I used to ask for more funding from his department but since I have become an MLA I have not seen a cent of funding toward the school. We almost got enough funding. I am very thankful that Dennis approved some funding toward this high school project. There is two million dollars that has not been approved toward this high school. I will be still talking to Dennis about this. Maybe it should be completed by 1989 or even set up for five years. I do not think the NWT government can give any funding in one block that could be put toward high schools.

I just want to tell Dennis that there are a lot of communities that are really anxious to see this high school built. There have not been so many students who wanted to go to Fort Smith, even if they wanted to keep on going to school, even to become a teacher or a business administration officer. There are beginning to be more people interested in getting into these courses -- also welders -- and they cannot live in Fort Smith. That is not just because they do not like it. The only reason they do not want to go there is that they cannot get used to living in that kind of environment. I know that there are more people from that region who like going to school there. We have to work toward getting a high school in this area because there are a lot of unemployed people here who should get jobs. If there was a high school here or a college, we would not be getting those drop-outs among people who wanted to have further education. They would be getting jobs. I just want my colleague to know that we would like to see this set up as soon as possible. I feel there should be high schools in this area, and also Yellowknife would say that they would like to see the high school set up in their community. There are a few students who are going to school in Yellowknife even though they were told to go to the high school in Frobisher Bay. Maybe this coming fall there will be fewer students going to Yellowknife, only those people who have been going to school there up to now. We would like to see this high school set up as soon as possible. I want you to be aware that we will be working toward this high school.

Recreation Facilities

I would like to give my regards to my colleague, Nick Sibbeston. We give him a hard time too. Just this past winter, Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake wanted to get a recreational centre even though they did not have any plans in the five year plan. There is a recreation multipurpose hall with an arena here in Rankin Inlet. We have started raising funds toward this. I guess some people saw our recreation hall up to now and we are doing this because it is old and it has to be replaced. Also, residents of Rankin Inlet are really working toward this and they are raising their own funding, so much now, for this multipurpose hall. They are helping each other to organize this, to set it up in the community. The smaller communities cannot do this because there are only a few people living in the community. It is easier to raise money in Rankin Inlet. There are a lot of people living here now, and they could work harder to get their own funding, and also it will be a great help if those hockey players would have things to do in the wintertime.

Economic Development

We have been working toward a fishing plant around Rankin Inlet. Fisheries and Oceans are trying to put up a fishing plant in Chesterfield Inlet, and they will be transporting the fish from Chesterfield to Rankin and then to Churchill. We will be putting up this fishing plant this summer. Tom Butters and the other officials know that we have to put up more fishing plants in the Territories. We would like to start putting more commercial fishing into the NWT. I am sure it will not be easy to start commercial fishing, to start a fishing plant in the beginning.

The residents of Rankin Inlet and the Members of the Legislative Assembly were informed about the concerns across the Territories. Rankin Inlet sure has a shortage of lots for housing. There has not been any land use planning done in Rankin Inlet. I would like to thank Nick Sibbeston for his presentation. His employees have made him aware that this is one of the priorities in Rankin Inlet, because they have to find some funding to be used to make lots for housing.

We had a meeting with the Native Women's Association here in Rankin Inlet. We were dealing with the businesses that they would like to start. When I was touring the Baffin Region I was also meeting with the Native Women's Association in the Baffin and they had the same concerns. We will make sure that they get funding. They keep informing us that the only way they can keep the businesses going is by making money with the business. (Translation ends)

I would like to say a few words in English so that those who are unilingual can at least understand what I am saying. I think right from the beginning I should indicate in the record that, when you read transcripts of the Hansard, my remarks or any other Member's remarks that are being interpreted, normally do not come out the same as you have stated, so I would suggest some day, Mr. Speaker, that one way to resolve that would likely be that the editor should really translate from the tapes and take time to translate them rather than it being translated consecutively because when you do it consecutively there is a whole lot of words that are normally missed out because some of us, particularly myself, tend to speak quite rapidly. It is not the fault of the interpreters, I want to make that clear. I think the interpreters are doing a super job and I am very impressed with what they are doing. They can do things that I cannot do. I am just suggesting that one way might be that the debates should be handled by translating the tapes. That is just a suggestion I would like to make.

Local Native Constable Needed In Rankin Inlet

There was one matter that I think is important for Members to know and I have communicated with my colleague, the Minister of Justice and Public Services. Rankin Inlet is facing tremendous pressure and also a tremendous influx of new people who come and go here. It is becoming a busy centre for the region. As a result, as I communicated to my colleagues some time ago, I really feel that a place like Rankin Inlet should have a local native constable. We used to have one long ago when Rankin Inlet was growing and developing but I think today we still need that because not only the people who speak English tend to get into trouble with the law, but there are people who do get into trouble and therefore I think the communication aspect is very important. I would again strongly like to seek support for that because Rankin Inlet does need a special constable to deal with a number of problems that it is facing today. There are many, many examples of problems that we face. I think we are also aware of the problems developing with respect to drugs and other hard core stuff that is coming in. So as a result, that must be seriously considered by my colleagues and I know that my colleagues are aware of that problem. So it is an urgent need as far as I am concerned and I would strongly like to see that we deal with that situation before too long and before things develop into any further difficulty.

I would like to point out to the Members that as far as my role as a Minister is concerned -- I would like to make this comment -- if I have been absent or have not travelled to as many communities as I would like to, to my colleagues' ridings, it is not because I have been trying to evade that issue. I am committed to visiting the communities as I said before, all of them prior to my being -- I do not know what the word was you used this morning, Mike. I would like to be able to have an opportunity to see every settlement before my term as a Minister expires. I hear there was a remark or something about it. I thought it was a confidential meeting we had yesterday at the caucus meeting.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I suppose the guy is paranoid. Anyway, from now on, since I have completed Baffin Island, I will now be committed to travelling to the Western Arctic throughout the fall and next year if I am there. First of all the Member from -- I will not say where, but John T'Seleie here has the right of first refusal for my number of trips in the Western Arctic.

---Laughter

He made an invitation during the session and I have accepted it so I will be travelling to that region before long.

So, Mr. Speaker, a few short remarks -- I know that you are busy and I do appreciate the time that Members of the Assembly have taken to visit various groups in town. I know the issues that we and the communities are presenting to you, the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, as well as the local hamlet and regional council, are not new to anybody. I think they are probably similar in many parts of the Territories. But I think it is good to see the capability and the leadership that is in place today and I can assure you that the Keewatin will continue to be well represented by our elected leaders in the hamlets, territorial and even federal government, because we do have a member of the federal government from this region, from Eskimo Point. So, I think the Keewatin is in good hands and when we eventually fade away I think you will be impressed. There will be a lot of energy that will come out from people like Lorne over there, who has been observing the session for the last three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 2, Members' replies. Mrs. Lawrence.

Mrs. Lawrence's Reply

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like first to thank the community of Rankin Inlet, the mayor and the hamlet councillors for their hospitality during our visit. Also thanks to Irene and Alex Illasiak who opened up their home for me and have made my stay very pleasant. I would also like to thank the mayors of Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet for making my first trip to their communities so enjoyable. I really felt at home in Repulse Bay at the feast, digging into the pot for caribou tongue.

---Applause

My visit to St. Theresa's home in Chesterfield Inlet brought back many memories for me, when I worked in a hospital just like that. I was very impressed with the two new complexes opened during our visits. I was pleased to be present at these official openings. After seeing these beautiful buildings I now have high hopes that the same kind of facilities can be built in my constituency of Tu Nedhe.

---Applause

I sympathize with the frustration of the people of Rankin Inlet who could not reach their fishing places because the road had been washed out. We have similar problems in Fort Resolution where the road used by local people to reach their fall and spring hunting and trapping areas was washed out this spring. I appreciate the Hon. Gordon Wray's quick response by sending in one of his officials to look into the problem with the road.

In the area of Health and Social Services, one of my biggest concerns is with drug and alcohol abuse. It used to be different. We are always reminding ourselves and others what it used to be like without alcohol. I recently helped to organize a dry dance in Yellowknife. People told us we would not have a good response but, as it turned out, the response was very good and everybody had a lot of fun. While I have been here I have enjoyed seeing a lot of families out with their children having a good time together. I think this proves that people can live very happily without bars.

Care Of The Elderly In Communities

Another concern I have is providing good housing for our elders. I suggested that we consider building small individual units, even a one room cabin, in every community where our elders can enjoy their last days in their own communities. In senior citizens homes, the old people have to follow rules and regulations and may even be asked to leave if they do not do what they are told. We need small community nursing homes instead of sending elders to a hospital in another community. With nursing home care, elders could spend their last days more comfortably, close to home and families where people understand their culture. One of the elders from my constituency was sent to the hospital in Hay River. She could not speak English and she told me that they put her under these big falls every morning, and it was so cold that she could not warm up for the rest of the day.

Programs For Youth

I hoped that we could have a chance to deal with the plans and programs too, for the International Year of the Youth at this session. I am a little bit disappointed that the government has not developed any good programs for our youth this year. Education is an important concern for our youth, since our youth are our future. Education policy states that the student in Akaitcho Hall with discipline problems can be sent home for the rest of the term, and the Department of Education will not be responsible for their room and board. This policy does not do justice to students, especially from the small communities, who fall behind in their studies very quickly. If they are forced to wait for the rest of the term, they will be that much further behind. In many of these cases, the student ends up spending the next term in the correctional centre instead, where it will cost the government more than \$12 a day to keep them. We need a policy where the student receives that \$12 a day, and if he wishes to stay in school, then he finds his own room and board. This would be a big help to single parents trying to keep their children in school. I have heard that the grade 10 preparation program may be phased out in Sir John Franklin School once the students now enrolled have completed the program. I think that this would be too bad because this program gives students from the small communities a good start.

Expo '86 will be a good opportunity for the communities of the North to display the high quality of their crafts to the rest of the world. I hope that the arts and crafts co-ordinator from Expo '86 will be able to visit as many communities as possible to see what is available. It is important to have as many communities as we can participate. I will be contacting the co-ordinator to ensure that communities in my constituency can benefit from Expo '86 if they want to.

I have serious concerns about the effects the government business incentive policy is having on the purchasing power of schools in my constituency. In one school it had cut their purchasing power by 20 per cent. The northern retailers may not really gain very much from this policy as a result. Southern publishers nearly always offer a 20 per cent discount to schools on the purchase

of textbooks. The retailer usually has to mark up books by 35 per cent to make a profit. Even with the 20 per cent mark-up on southern prices allowed under the business incentive policy, a retailer cannot make much money on the textbook and, depending on the order, our retailer may even lose money. This could have a negative effect on the resources available in our school, and I suggest that the Executive Members consider implementing this policy.

Affirmative Action Policy

I would also like to remind the Members of the Executive Council that we have an office of native employment and affirmative action policy in place. They should keep this in mind when considering candidates for senior level positions in government. I have projected a couple of names of native northerners for consideration and have been told that they are not qualified. I have difficulty accepting this, because I have seen non-natives put in senior positions in departments where they have no experience, and they are given a chance to learn from us. Why cannot native northerners have that same opportunity? I am not talking about tokenism but of qualified native people interested in more responsible positions. I for one, do not believe in putting native people in positions for the sake of putting them in. I know that there are not a lot of people available, but with the affirmative action policy in place, I hope to see an improvement in the statistics on native employment in all departments. I have high hopes that affirmative action will result in more training for native northerners in senior positions in all departments, and especially Health. You can rest assured, I will question the Executive Members on the statistics to make sure that action is being taken in this area.

Use Of Aboriginal Languages

Another concern of mine is action on the use of aboriginal languages. We need to see more results, and it worries me that the government is moving so slowly. I am also disappointed that we have not had Dene translators at this session. Again, I am forced to speak English, unable to speak my own language. I hope to see aboriginal language treated as an official language in the Northwest Territories, in the same way French will be treated.

---Applause

Yesterday we heard concerns from Yellowknife Members about the Dene and Metis requesting a land freeze. The city of Yellowknife is probably experiencing what our aboriginal ancestors felt when the land was taken from them for the city. We now have to buy our own land back. Despite some frustrations, I want to thank the Executive Members who have responded to my request and the issues that I have raised.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituency, I would like to extend condolences to the family of Al Bourque. His tragic death is a great loss and a setback for my constituency where he had accomplished so much. He will be greatly missed. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Item 2, Members' replies. Mr. Richard.

Mr. Richard's Reply

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give a very brief reply. I have been plagued with a cold since arriving or before arriving in Rankin Inlet. I have tried very hard not to let that hinder my enjoyment of the hospitality that has been accorded to us here.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think you have been successful.

---Laughter

MR. RICHARD: I did want to take this opportunity to add my personal thanks to the people of this community who have provided the warm hospitality that we have enjoyed these past few weeks. I have had the opportunity to visit this region in the past and I have always enjoyed my stay here but the friendliness and hospitality that has been accorded to us has been outstanding. From the mayor and hamlet council of Rankin Inlet to the mayors and hamlet councils of the communities of Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet, the Keewatin Regional Council, the Keewatin Inuit Association, the Keewatin

Chamber of Commerce -- all of these people have been just tremendous to us and the opportunity that we have had to speak with all of these community leaders and members of the community. I therefore want to say to the people of Keewatin, Mr. Speaker, qujannamiik.

In saying thank you, Mr. Speaker -- I think it should be mentioned -- I would like to give my thanks to the regional director, Mr. Tanner, and staff for the work they have done to make our stay here very comfortable and in addition, our Clerk of the Assembly, Mr. Hamilton, and his staff, the interpreters, the Hansard staff, for the excellent services they have provided in our temporary but very beautiful facilities.

I too, Mr. Speaker, had the opportunity to visit St. Theresa's hospital in Chesterfield Inlet and I had for weeks prior to our arrival, been looking forward to that. I never had the opportunity before to visit Chesterfield Inlet and I had heard many, many times of the hospital facility there and I was quite impressed when I had the opportunity on Sunday to go there. I had also looked forward, as I indicated, to the excellent fishing at Meladine River, but that will have to wait for another day.

These are some of the benefits that we cannot measure in dollars when our Legislature travels and sits as an Assembly in communities outside of Yellowknife. The people, here particularly in the Keewatin, are not shy to take the opportunity to lobby with us and I have been very impressed with the articulate nature in which the concerns of these communities have been brought to us. I will later, Mr. Speaker, be seeking information about the costs of our sitting outside of our regular facility, simply because constituents have sought that information and of course they are entitled to that information. But I wanted to say that there are these benefits that we enjoy from this particular travel that cannot be measured in dollars -- the fact that we see first-hand the facilities or the lack of facilities in this region, the fact that we can speak first-hand to the people in these communities and learn of their concerns on a personal basis.

Educational Concerns Of Constituents

I do want to mention a few of the concerns of the constituents of Yellowknife South. Again, at the risk of repetition, I want to say that the education of our young people is very, very important to the people in Yellowknife South. Many of these concerns have been brought to the attention of the Minister of Education, the Hon. Dennis Patterson, and I do appreciate the attention which Mr. Patterson brings to these concerns. I particularly want to thank the Minister for the additional classrooms that are being provided in this coming school year to alleviate the serious overcrowding in the schools in my riding and in Yellowknife, particularly the portable classrooms that will be provided in Frame Lake South and at the St. Patrick's school. I can see, Mr. Speaker, in speaking to many people these last few weeks that education is a serious concern of the people of this region and it simply confirms that we do have common concerns throughout the NWT.

The issue of the transfer of jurisdiction of the territorial high school, the Sir John Franklin school, is currently a matter of much concern. There are a group of parents in Yellowknife who are very vocal on this issue and the Minister will not be surprised to hear from them again and again, I have no doubt. I am pleased again to have the Minister indicate to us this week that hopefully we will have a decision on this issue in the very near future. Those people who continually raise that issue, simply want more say in the running of that high school.

At the risk of disagreeing with my friend, Mrs. Lawrence, I do know that the Minister very recently has given assurances that the GTP program will be continued. And I, for one, Mr. Speaker, believe that no matter how many schools we build in the communities we will always have young people originating from the communities being educated in Yellowknife. I appreciate that when the Minister and his colleagues on the Executive Council consider whether that high school should be turned over to a local board of education, there will, and there must be, provision for input in the running of that school by the parents of the children who come from the communities. And I say, Mr. Speaker, that I have no difficulty whatsoever with that. But I say better that input, than that that school be run out of the department by the departmental officials.

Housing Shortage, Yellowknife

Other issues, Mr. Speaker, that currently concern the citizens of Yellowknife include the recent call for a land freeze in the city. I look forward to an early decision by the Minister of Local Government. The promptness of a decision is vital to alleviate the uncertainty among developers

who we must rely on to alleviate the serious shortage of housing in our city. Housing, of course, is and continues to be a serious problem in the city of Yellowknife. The recommendations that we have seen this session from the special committee on housing will be welcomed in Yellowknife South. As I did not initially, when we addressed that report, Mr. Speaker, provide my own general comments, I do wish to take this opportunity to compliment the Members of that special committee for the work that they have now concluded. In that, Mr. Speaker, I include the co-chairmen, the Members whether alternate or otherwise, and...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: ...the staff of that committee. I trust, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister responsible, Mr. Wray, and his colleagues in the Executive Council will move early on a number of those recommendations.

The lack of public housing in Yellowknife -- I should not say the lack -- the shortage of units of public housing continues to be a problem, the number of units compared to the need. There is a long waiting list and there are people and families on the long waiting list who are in desperate situations waiting for accommodation. I have, Mr. Speaker, in fairness spoken to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and his corporation officials and I do appreciate that they are taking steps and attempting to provide some additional public housing units in Yellowknife by entering into negotiations with private developers for a mixture of public and private housing units. The private sector who we look to to provide housing have had difficulty in recent years in that there is a shortage in the private sector for accommodation as well. People, Mr. Speaker, in the past few years have left the beautiful city of Yellowknife many times because they have not had a place to live. There are unfortunate communities throughout this country that lose citizens because those citizens cannot find work. In our city we lose a lot of people because they lack a place to live. Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, with some of the developments that are under way in the private sector this summer, that situation will improve.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Social Services and his colleagues on the Executive Council for providing some financial assistance to the volunteer group in Yellowknife who have taken on the task of building a facility for senior citizens. With respect to the new hospital, we have urged that Minister, Mr. McLaughlin, to do what he can to have that project go to tender as soon as possible and I am sure that he and his colleagues will indeed do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Matna.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Could I have an indication of how many more Members have replies for today? A show of hands, please. So this then would conclude replies. We will recess for 10 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

I will call the House to order, please. Item 2, Member's replies. Mr. Paniloo.

Mr. Paniloo's Reply

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time in my reply I would like to talk about a concern of my constituency. First of all I would like to thank all the Ministers because there has been a lot of development in my community since I have been elected. However, all the requests from my constituency have not been dealt with due to lack of funding. I have a concern from the Pangnirtung residents who get a lot of tourists in the summertime and the tourists would like to get some assistance from the Inuit people within the community. However, when these welcoming committees would like to come up with tourist attractions, they cannot come up with them due to lack of funding. At the present time, during the progress of this session, I would like to get some sort of funding for these tourist welcoming groups and to help the younger people as well. They have also requested funding through Economic Development, however they have not been given funding. I would like to see some funding for tourism.

Broughton Island

Also in Broughton Island, the school is not in good condition and they require a new school. There are different communities with very nice school facilities but the Broughton Island school is inadequate. The hamlet council there is working very well and they are able to operate with their

own budget. At the present time using their own budget they are making a dock facility. They are not getting any form of funding assistance from the government. When they finish this dock facility I would like to see the government return the money that they used to build the docking facility as soon as I find out how much it will cost.

Also one of the communities in my constituency does not even have a community hall. The plan to get a community hall was not put into capital planning. That is one of my major concerns. I have seen very good recreation facilities in the Keewatin Region and I would like to see my constituency get good community halls too. At the present time these are my major concerns.

Also I would like to say that I have been supporting the ladies groups fully when they are being formed. If we could allocate some funding for them, it would be very good for them. I think that they would continue to operate as soon as they get their facilities. Also in the Keewatin Region, I would like to see them supported since they have asked me for support. I was really happy that they requested support and I am happy to support them. These are my major concerns and I am stating them now during my Member's reply. I think we have a lot of work to do so I will just conclude my remarks for now. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. Item 2, Members' replies. That appears to conclude Members' replies for today. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On Policy On Secondary Education

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Governments of Alberta and the Northwest Territories share with our people an enthusiasm about the future. One aspect of that future is the education of our young people. A good education system can always be made better and we cannot afford to settle for anything less than our best.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: We need a high school.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Since their inception, secondary schools in the NWT have used Alberta programs, and in recent years we have made some adaptations to these programs to meet local needs. When a comprehensive evaluation and review of Alberta secondary programs was announced by the Alberta Minister of Education, the Hon. David King, in February of 1984, I instructed my officials to conduct a review of our programs with special emphasis on the areas in which improvement to meet local needs could be achieved. On the basis of that survey, recommendations were made to Alberta Education, both as to proposed content of courses and new courses, as well as the process to realize those objectives.

As I mentioned before in this House, Mr. McCallum represented the Northwest Territories on an advisory committee appointed by the Alberta Minister, and my officials represented the department on an officials level committee.

Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling a policy statement today, which is a joint document derived as a result of close co-operation between my colleague in Alberta and myself. This policy statement is also being released in the Alberta Legislative Assembly today. It describes new goals and new priorities on the basis of a clear statement of direction. The Northwest Territories will follow the requirements set out in this policy statement, for senior core and complementary programs, as well as the requirements for graduation at the grade 12 level.

We agree that it is also desirable that additional courses, local content and special requirements developed for the NWT should be accepted by Alberta for credit. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that a reciprocal agreement between our ministries will be developed to ensure that the Northwest Territories can introduce further statements of policy and additional courses to meet the unique needs of NWT students and the wishes of the people of the Northwest Territories. This agreement will ensure that these additional requirements will be approved by Alberta and incorporated into their administration of accreditation and certification.

Further action for curriculum development at the secondary level, beginning this fall, especially work in language arts, social studies, aboriginal studies in languages and alternative programs will involve continued co-operative efforts of Alberta and Northwest Territories officials. So, I am pleased today, to present to Members of this Legislature this policy statement on secondary school programs for your study and comment. It will be tabled shortly.

Also, Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to make a short statement on the grade 10 preparation program. Recently I have been alarmed by rumours that the grade 10 preparation program will be phased out in Sir John Franklin High School. I have received letters and telexes from various quarters protesting this action. I wish to make it clear to this House that this program is not being phased out.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

--Applause

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: What is happening, is that my department is moving as quickly as possible to establish grade 10 programs, including grade 10 preparation programs, in communities which have sufficient numbers of students. It is hoped that this development will mean that the pressure on Sir John Franklin school and Akaitcho Hall will lessen, so that existing staff devoted to the grade 10 preparation program will have smaller classes to deal with. The Department of Education hopes that improved attendance, better staff and student evaluation, a grade seven remedial or transitional year proposed in the secondary education review, which will be tabled today, will all lead to higher standards and a better quality of education at the community level so that in the long run, this program will not be necessary. However, I would like to state again, there are no plans to cut back on the grade 10 preparation program at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Statement On Expenditure Of Aboriginal Languages Funding

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past months and within the last two sessions there have been continual requests as to how and when this government would be responding to the whole question of expenditure of the \$16 million as it applies to aboriginal languages. Now, I just might remind Members that there were circumstances that I believe people overlooked. While the agreement was in place there was an election which really hindered the implementation of that particular agreement since no actual commitment of Treasury Board to the particular finances was available. As such it became somewhat difficult to really assure my colleagues in this House and the general public of the NWT that there was a commitment on the part of the Government of Canada even though, as I indicated, the agreement had been in place, because there had to be a Treasury Board submission and approval by the federal government. Recently it has been indicated to me that the Minister, the Secretary of State, is concluding his review of the contribution agreement that would be signed with this particular government.

Upon receiving that information I have proceeded and sought and obtained from my Executive Council colleagues approval to expend money, or at least approval in principle to expend money, on particular projects that we believe require assistance immediately. Maybe I could point out some of these particular projects to Members in this House: the case of publication of Inuvialuktun grammars; Inuit children's television; Fort Franklin language project; Fort McPherson Gwich'in language project; Fort Providence Slavey language centre; Fort Simpson Slavey program; Lac la Martre language project; Baker Lake language project; Eskimo Point language project; Broughton Island Inuktitut literature project; Close Support Reader project; Gjoa Haven language project; Igloodik adult education language project; COPE curriculum development project; production of indigenous language development materials, that unfortunately were not concluded therefore there is a need to ensure that those types of research material are in fact produced and printed appropriately. There is also the Inuvialuktun program for adults. Those are the initial projects that require assistance immediately.

I must also say that the issue of a task force is one that I continue to support because of a decision to vary the manner in which that task force is to conduct itself. We will not be announcing at this particular time the members of the task force. What the suggestion is now is that those people that are involved in the Dene languages would deal only in Dene language areas. Those people that were dealing with Inuvialuit, in Inuktitut, would deal primarily with those areas

that are associated to those particular language sectors. Therefore, it has been our decision not to announce at this particular time, but within the next two weeks, the names of individuals who would be part of that task force. They will be able to conduct appropriate hearings if they choose. Our intention is to spend up to \$280,000 for that particular group to conduct its hearings.

It is our intention also, Mr. Speaker, to improve the services we offer to the general public as a government, services that we require for this Assembly, services we require for our courts and services we require just to provide information to the general public of the NWT. And with the assistance and support of the Minister responsible for Information, it is our intention to improve the language service area in government, including the improvement of the training facilities that we lack at the moment to provide the necessary facilities to train interpreters and those people that are involved in the translation side of that particular department. That would cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of up to \$1.5 million in order for us to accomplish that. That includes a recruitment of more Dene interpreters to include the improvement of services that we offer at the regional level as well.

I also want to say that in the case of language instructors, there has been a need to make available the appropriate native instructors in various communities to be hired to continue the education and teaching of languages in particular schools. I just want to indicate the communities that are being identified for the upcoming school year; Fort Resolution, Lac la Martre, Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Simpson, Fort Norman, Fort Good Hope and Aklavik. Those are the communities that have been identified and these particular programs will cost \$245,000 for the year. So the actual cost to date, as it applies to the expenditures, would be \$2.7 million of that particular money and it is all going to the improvement of aboriginal language services, the development research of all languages and, as well, the provision of the task force. So I just wanted to indicate to Members that with the support of my Executive Council colleagues, we are moving in this particular area and we will be prepared in the next two weeks to announce the members of the task force and the two working sections that are for that particular task force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Statement On Bill 9-85(2), Statute Law (Canadian Charter Of Rights And Freedoms) Amendment Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: As honourable Members are aware, section 15, the equality provision of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, triggered into effect on the 17th of April 1985. This session therefore is the first session after the equality provisions became effective.

Mr. Speaker, the government feels that it is important to move with this bill and to move with it at this time to remove the offending provisions out of our legislation. To do otherwise would be to expose our legislation to attack in the courts. In the spirit of compromise, I had offered to withdraw any provisions that the committee might find controversial. However, I understand that the standing committee on legislation has passed the following motion: "That the standing committee on legislation not consider the bill in detail at this meeting and recommend to the government that we do not proceed with this bill at this session but table or give it first reading in the House so the public would be made aware of this bill." In view of this motion, we are left with no alternative but to table the bill, so that it becomes a public document. We hope, Mr. Speaker, to advance it and any further amendments to our legislation at the fall session.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude Ministers' statements for today. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 49-85(2): Labour Funding In HAP Program

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Housing and it is with regard to a concern that has been expressed in my constituency as well as other constituencies. It is with regard to the HAP program. I believe that there were labour moneys

allocated, but a lot of the constituencies were unable to submit for labour funding. I would like to ask the Minister whether there is anything being done in this area with regard to assisting other people who did not get the labour money that is required to complete the HAP houses this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 49-85(2): Labour Funding In HAP Program

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The labour money that is provided to some HAP clients is money from CEIC. Unfortunately CEIC just did not have a big enough budget allocation for the North, therefore some people were approved and some people were not. The HAP program is set up in such a way that the client's share of the program is what we call sweat equity and the labour funding is an added bonus. Unfortunately the Housing Corporation does not have the funds available to provide a similar type of funding to the people that were perhaps left out. I have written to the Minister responsible for Employment and Immigration, the Hon. Flora MacDonald, and requested that she make more moneys available to the Territories through her department, but we have yet to hear back from her and I am not very hopeful on that source. By next year I hope to have a much better system in place, whereby maybe we could apply in block for a group of funds for housing, as opposed to trying to get every community or every client to apply by themselves, but no, there is nothing being contemplated from the Housing Corporation side of things for this year to come up with the labour money. Thank you.

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

Question 50-85(2): Policy On Visiting Terminally Ill Relatives

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. This is the same question I gave as a written question and it was replied to but perhaps it was not properly translated into English, so I will ask the same question again. When there is somebody sick, and if they are sent to Montreal and the relatives are sent there through Social Services. My question is, with these terminally ill people when they are sent back to their communities, I was wondering if they could pay for the immediate relatives from another community to go see the terminally ill person? If that is possible, I would like to find out what kind of policy there is and what kind of relationship there should be to the person who is sick. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 50-85(2): Policy On Visiting Terminally Ill Relatives

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the case of terminally ill patients, the Department of Social Services does supply for the transportation and accommodation of an immediate relative, and in some cases, more than one relative if it is felt by the doctor that that would be a good idea. In addition to that, if people are terminally ill for a long period of time, the doctor may request, and Social Services will pay for the travel and accommodation for an immediate relative to stay at the hospital site with the patient. The details of this can be made available to Mr. Erkloo so that his constituency can take advantage of it. On the note that Mr. Erkloo sent me, I have the regional superintendent of Social Services contacting the particular constituent that Mr. Erkloo mentioned in the note. She will be advised whether she is eligible to be able to have her medical transportation and accommodation paid for.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I understood the question also to ask if funds were available to visit a terminally ill patient in the Territories, in their own home. I understood that to be part of the question. Do you have a reply for that?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, if there is a terminally ill patient who is receiving some sort of medical treatment and the doctor feels that an immediate relative should be administering medicine to them, the relative will be taken to the hospital, if necessary, to be trained to help out with the medication. The transportation and accommodation during that training period is also covered. Even if the patient does not have to go to the doctor, but is terminally ill, our government will pay the transportation of an immediate relative to the community where the terminally ill patient lives. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Erkloo.

Supplementary To Question 50-85(2): Policy On Visiting Terminally Ill Relatives

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you for translating my question. My question was not regarding one person. (No translation available) Also, within my constituency they would like to get further clarification. When somebody dies the relatives are sent for the funeral because there seems to be often different government assistance to people. Would you be able to tell me as to what kind of policy there is as to how many relatives from different communities can go for the funeral? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if there is a limit to the number and to what extent the department defines an immediate relative. So, I will find this information out and relay it to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, then you are taking the question as notice and will personally contact Mr. Erkloo and give him the information. Thank you. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 51-85(2): Policy On Establishing Banks In Small Communities

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader or maybe to any other Minister. My question is with regard to the smaller communities which have no banks, even when the population goes up to 800. One of my constituents wanted to know if there is a policy indicating that the population has to have a limit in order to get a bank in the communities, if there must be a certain population and if there has to be certain businesses in the community. One of the communities wanted to know, so that they can start something, because sometimes co-ops and The Bay do not have enough cash to go around, for the community. I am not only talking about cash. So, I would like to get an answer if possible. Is it possible to start a bank or is there a policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 51-85(2): Policy On Establishing Banks In Small Communities

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the Member has identified a very serious problem in the communities, and that is the availability of cash. There is no optimum number the community would have to reach in terms of population to see a bank established. Banks that currently exist in the Northwest Territories are agents of private enterprise and operated on a profit and loss arrangement. In fact, I would believe that probably some of the banks currently in the Territories are operating in a loss situation and are being borne by other of their more affluent counterparts. So, it is still a private enterprise operation. However, the government is looking at the problem of cash in the communities in hope that we can assist, in some way, without having to establish another agency of government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 52-85(2): Creation Of New Government Region In Sahtu

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Local Government. Back in April of this past spring, the Shihta Regional Council held a regional meeting. One of the concerns that came up had to do with better government services to the Sahtu region. People were concerned that their interests were not being well-served by government. In the course of this discussion on better services to the Sahtu region, the delegates passed a motion requesting that I begin to lobby for the creation of a new region. I realize that the government would not reorganize its regions or would not create a region to serve only a small number of people. Also I recognize that something like this would take a great deal of discussion. I want to ask the Minister of Local Government if he would undertake to bring this matter up with his Executive Council colleagues within the very near future.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 52-85(2): Creation Of New Government Region In Sahtu

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I can certainly undertake as the Member wants, to bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Council. But I would suggest to the Member that he go one better and direct his question and remarks concerning this matter to the Government Leader. While I appreciate that the matter was raised with me when I was at the Shihta Regional Council, it involves a possible reorganization of the government administration in the Inuvik Region and that is a matter for the Government Leader. I would suggest to the Member that he pursue the matter and direct the matter to the Government Leader in this case. If he does not wish to do so publicly then I can bring the matter to their attention, and show the correspondence and the motions that were made, to the Executive Council. But I would say that he has an opportunity to perhaps be more effective in pursuing this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 53-85(2): Library Services In NWT

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Justice and Public Services and it has to do with libraries. There are actually three questions involved with libraries. One general question and two specific questions. The general question first. I would like to ask the Minister, has any consideration been given to allocating funds across the Territories to libraries whereby community councils will get some core level funding based on population? I will ask that question first, Mr. Speaker and if I could I will ask my subsequent questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 53-85(2): Library Services In NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to giving an answer I extend my appreciation to the Member for giving me notice of the question. Mr. Speaker, the awareness of library service has recently been increasing, evidenced by new requests for services currently on hand from Fort Franklin, Arctic Red River, Hay River Dene village, Fort Providence, Rae-Edzo, Fort Smith Dene band, Baker Lake, Clyde River, Holman, Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven, Snowdrift and Tungsten. With the current state of funding we are unable to extend service to additional communities until funding is available for staffing in the community, materials in both printed and non-printed format, and a community services librarian position to co-ordinate development in training. It is clearly accepted that libraries are most successful as local community institutions. A concerted effort is being now made to devolve library services to boards and committees in the community. This is being seriously hampered by the lack of a community services librarian to consult, instruct and follow up with local librarians. A community services librarian is needed also to continually collect information about locally-developed printed and non-printed material in native languages.

As well I just wish to indicate that the contributions for the 1985-86 year were \$133,000 in operations and maintenance and \$30,000 for capital. So as one can see the actual allocations were not sufficient to meet requirements or requests that have been submitted to date. I must say that we are in the process of looking at various options as to the manner in which we can fund organizations and libraries including the whole issue of core funding. I believe that one has to consider the potential costs to government particularly if it involves the recruitment of additional full-time staff in all those communities that might or would request libraries to be set up in their communities. But I must say to the Member that it is under review at the moment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 54-85(2): Yellowknife Library

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to hear the Minister's statements and I think we all can agree that library services are a very important adjunct of the education process. A more specific question. I brought this up before and the Minister is aware that the city of Yellowknife library has had some negotiations with the territorial government as to acquiring more autonomy. I wonder if the Minister could bring me up to date as to the state of those negotiations.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 54-85(2): Yellowknife Library

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I wish to express my appreciation to the Member for giving me notice. Just to indicate to the Member that the staff of the Department of Justice and Public Services have met with the staff of the public library, the city of Yellowknife and the federal government to consider the amalgamation of materials from all existing libraries into one library. I believe we presently have a contribution agreement with the city library, but we are developing a memorandum of understanding which would bring us to a conclusion on ensuring that discussions take place and the amalgamation does take place of all the materials that presently are in government libraries and public libraries. We would have one resource centre as opposed to having a number of resource centres, particularly since all the materials that are in those particular libraries can be of valuable assistance to students, to people like yourselves as Members of this Legislature and members of the general public doing research without the necessity of running around to a number of other libraries to seek information that could be readily available to them in one facility.

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 54-85(2): Yellowknife Library

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That concept is one that I pushed for for four years. There is one slight question of concern. One option for undertaking that concept is to construct a new facility and probably the only area where it is possible is the new downtown shopping centre in Yellowknife. I wonder if it is possible to speed up those discussions just so that if that option is viable that the opportunity is not lost.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 54-85(2): Yellowknife Library

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to indicate that we are trying to speed up the process so that we can come to a conclusion as to the direction we would go in resolving this particular issue. We already developed a memorandum of understanding that we made available and will be making available for discussion so that we can have a basis by which agreement can be reached very quickly.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Question 55-85(2): Land Freeze Request By Metis

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Aboriginal Rights. I understand that he is not in the House, but I am sure that my learned friend from Deh Cho Gah can perhaps deal with my question. As the Minister is aware there was a recent request made by the Metis for land to be set aside for Metis people. Also, a recent request was made that perhaps the government can consider a land freeze in light of the fact that part of the package for Dene and Metis land claims process will require land selection. Therefore, I wonder if the government would consider this whole matter of land selection and the call for a land freeze as part of the overall Dene/Metis land claims process, in which this government is involved along with the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 55-85(2): Land Freeze Request By Metis

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the Member asks such deep and profound questions. I have to think before I can give a reply. The question is essentially whether our government would consider land selection as a part of the Dene/Metis process, and on the things that have occurred, essentially the two letters that have been written to me and our government. The matter is raised of the selection of lands and land for the Metis people and perhaps a land freeze which the Member referred to, whether this could be considered as part of the Dene/Metis land claims process.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the best that I could do, is that these matters do impact the substance of the letters, that of setting aside lands for Metis people and the matter of perhaps some freeze on our selling of land to people. These are inextricably involved with the whole land claims process. So, I would have to say that, in some ways, the matter is involved with the whole land claims situation in the North. If the Member had been here yesterday, he would have realized that the government is considering and taking these letters that have been written to the government very seriously and we intend to reply to Mr. Richard. I would undertake to reply to you now in the next few weeks, as to what the government intends to do with respect to these matters.

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

Question 56-85(2): Section 10, Canada Oil And Gas Act

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader, and it is with regard to Bill C-48, the Canada Oil and Gas Act. In section 10 of this act there are five subsections which deal with the conditions, maybe, under which exploration activities or development could take place. One of the paragraphs in this section deals with equity participation by government and Canadians, including any aboriginal peoples of Canada who may be affected by the exploration agreement. I believe that this exercise has never been utilized by the federal Minister of Indian Affairs. I would like to ask the Leader of the House whether he would undertake to have the Minister consider that particular section, especially to the fact that it does impact on a lot of people.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 56-85(2): Section 10, Canada Oil And Gas Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the honourable Member that Bill C-48 provides for the federal Minister to consult with aboriginal groups in the development agreements for oil and gas. I certainly will bring, in conjunction with Mr. Curley and Ms Cournoyea, this matter to the attention of the appropriate federal Minister to ensure that full consultation occurs with the aboriginal people before any such development agreements are signed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Oral questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 57-85(2): Motion From Shihta Regional Council Regarding New Region

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. It is again with regard to the earlier question that I asked Mr. Sibbeston. I would like to ask the Government Leader if he would be open to considering the motion from the Shihta Regional Council. Would the Government Leader also be open to bringing this matter to the Executive Council, so that they can begin to study the matter and to see how the regions might be -- and particularly the Mackenzie communities, how government could be reorganized to serve those communities better?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 57-85(2): Motion From Shihta Regional Council Regarding New Region

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have any problem with the idea of reviewing the present regional set-ups in all regions, including the one as it applies to Inuvik. However, the Member was very wise to point out the issue of costs associated, not necessarily cost of establishing a new region in the Sahtu area, but the cost that might be associated in dismantling the regional centre in Inuvik, the cost to that particular community as well. I would believe that there are other areas that we would probably have to look at, but that would be part of the review. I will undertake to at least discuss the item with the Member and the Shihta Regional Council.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Question 58-85(2): Government Participation In Land Selection And Freeze

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to my honourable friend from Deh Cho Gah in regard to the whole question of Dene/Metis claims. My question is in regard to the recent request for a land freeze and land selection for the Metis people. My question basically

is whether this government is considering to deal with this issue as part of the Dene/Metis land claims process, or are we talking about a separate arrangement outside this process? If so, then this government has the duty, I think, to indicate to the Dene/Metis land claims secretariat, as to whether this government is going to continue to participate in regard to aboriginal rights in terms of land selection and land freeze for both parties, Dene and Metis.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 58-85(2): Government Participation In Land Selection And Freeze

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Member's determination, I guess, in getting a response from me. Members can appreciate that this is a very difficult matter, but perhaps I can give the Member the benefit of my initial views on the subject, recognizing that all this matter will have to go before the Executive Council in the near future. The Metis and Dene have raised fundamental questions, I consider, with respect to land tenure for Metis people and also a possible freeze or restraint of our divestment of lands that are presently held by the government. The general view I take is that the land claims process is a separate matter, and the request made by the Dene and Metis is a matter that our government perhaps can deal with separately from the whole land claims process.

My view is that in respect to land claims matters that is a matter between the Dene, Metis and the federal government and our government plays a secondary role. My view is that with respect to the requests that have been made, as a government, we maybe should try to respond and deal with the Dene and Metis as best as we can outside of the land claims process to try to meet their needs and requests. Life goes on and I suppose one should take the view that one need not wait until land claims are concluded for some of the aspirations of the Dene and Metis people. So as a government, I think we owe it to the people to do what we can for them in the present situation. If we can accommodate them in some of their requests then I think, as a government, we owe it to them to do so. In the end with respect to the finality, with respect to the big question of land for Dene and Metis, it really is a matter, I believe, for the land claims process. In the meantime I say, we will do what we can to assist them and we are only involved in a secondary way.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Supplementary To Question 58-85(2): Government Participation In Land Selection And Freeze

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I am rather surprised with the response that the Minister has given to my question. Really because I think when we are talking about aboriginal negotiations we have to consider the whole package. If there is going to be a separate arrangement being made by this government in regard to dealing with the whole question of aboriginal rights, then I feel that there may be some concerns being raised, in regard to the joint secretariat of the Dene/Metis land claims. I feel that perhaps I would like to rather put forth a question to the Minister that perhaps the matter could be accommodated through the land claims process, in light of the fact that I think there is a determination on the part of the Dene and Metis negotiators to conclude the whole question of aboriginal claims in very short time. Now, given that kind of mandate that will be considered by the joint assembly of the Metis and Dene people this coming summer, I do not see where the whole question of land selection for the Metis people has to be addressed. Within the next month or two I feel that the matter could be dealt with in the land claims process. I would like to ask the Minister, again, whether this government is going to deal with this issue prior to the conclusion of the land claims process. My question is, will this have an implication on this government's involvement in the Dene/Metis claims?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 58-85(2): Government Participation In Land Selection And Freeze

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I said in response to a question on the matter that the matter had been sent down to the department for their advice and recommendations to me and that eventually the Executive Council would be dealing with the whole matter. Today I am being drawn into attempting to give responses and Members may appreciate that this is a very difficult matter because our Executive has not had a chance to deal with it. Rather than say any more I would defer and ask that the Member would be satisfied with a response from the Government Leader in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To indicate to the honourable Member on the point he raised, as government policy we have not at this time addressed, as an Executive Council, that particular issue. However, it is one that has been requested by an organization, in those two particular instances, to be dealt with. I would suggest that the implications even to the Dene Nation and to the Dene people are much broader and much more complicated than the simplicity of a land freeze, because I believe that there are certain ventures that the Dene have become involved in and are prepared to get involved in, that may be affected by such a decision. So the reality is that the issue is a little more complicated. We have not made as a government any decisions as to what our position would be on the issue.

I believe that it is necessary and responsible on our part to deal with the issues that are raised with us, and as such we feel that the issue of the Metis question, which has been addressed to us, must be dealt with. It may be that the process and the information from the department suggests we have to consult with the municipal councils or we have to consult with the band councils or we have to consult with the regional councils for their input. I would suggest that it is neither something that is very simple nor that any answer at this particular time could satisfy the actual requests that have been made. I want to indicate to the Member that we will take our time in responding. Particularly if the reality is that the implications are very serious, not only to the government, but to the Dene and Metis themselves. They themselves must understand the implications of such decisions and the nature of how they could affect certain other decisions and directions that are being now given by individual communities and chief and band councils.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. I understand then that you are taking your question basically as notice and will reply when all of the necessary work has been accomplished. Mr. Wah-Shee, question period. I do not want an argument or debate to develop, if you have a question, Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate you trying to read my mind but I have a different question for a different Minister on a different topic.

--Laughter

I would like to relieve the Ministers in regard to that particular issue. I am sure it is very complicated as my learned friend has come to that conclusion.

Question 59-85(2): Membership In Northern Frontier Visitors Association

I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, in regard to the Northern Frontier Visitors Association. I understand that for communities or companies to get into tourist activities in a given tourist zone area, one has to be a member in order to apply to be involved in a tourist industry. I would like to ask the Minister whether my assumption is correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 59-85(2): Membership In Northern Frontier Visitors Association

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member's concern. I must say that the assumptions are not totally correct because my department supports any viable venture by any native groups or other groups that wish to get involved with tourist operations. What we normally seek is that they at least, have support from the various organizations or regional council if it affects the area. That is the number one criterion that I normally try to get across to those people who are developing a proposal for the tourist industry. As to memberships in the zone associations, normally I think, for the purpose of the marketing aspect, members are asked to be existing tourist operators who would benefit from the marketing aspect, as well as the promotional support for their businesses. It is not a condition that they already be members in order to be able to develop further the tourist venture that they perceive.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. In view of the hour this House will stand recessed for one hour for lunch.

--LUNCHEON RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes a quorum. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 60-85(2): Increased Funding For Legal Aid

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Justice and Public Services. I have received letters from my constituents relating to the justices of the peace. I have heard that the Justice and Public Services department may overrule justices of the peace decisions. The communities get assistance from the court workers who are affiliated with Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik. However, there is a need for more assistance in terms of court workers. This relates to justices of the peace as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) They would like more legal aid assistance in the communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 60-85(2): Increased Funding For Legal Aid

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: To indicate to the honourable Member that in the past budget we did increase the amount of money allocated to Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik. With regard to the ability of the Department of Justice to overturn decisions of justices of the peace, we cannot do that. The only manner by which a decision of a justice of the peace can be overturned by a higher court, is, an appeal must be made to a higher court and if an appeal is made then the higher court can overturn a decision of the justice of the peace.

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

Question 61-85(2): Translation Of Early Ordinances

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. We have translations of the bills made available to us when bills are to be passed in this House. However, we do not have copies of the old bills or ordinances that may have been passed long ago in the past. My constituents have had concerns that some of the ordinances that were passed or approved quite some time ago have not been translated. My constituents were wondering if it would be possible to have translations made available of ordinances that may have been passed in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 61-85(2): Translation Of Early Ordinances

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To indicate to the Member that we are working on publishing all legislation in the aboriginal languages including Inuktitut. However, there is a need to improve our ability to translate, particularly, legal phrases and legal words, so that people can understand them and read them properly. But that is part of the work that we will be doing as it applies to the development and enhancement of aboriginal languages.

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

Question 62-85(2): Taxation Of Northern Benefits

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance and it concerns the possible taxation of northern benefits. The recent federal budget did not contain any resolution of this matter and I understand that the federal government has undertaken to resolve it before the end of this calendar year. My question to the Minister is, what is the process in the next number of months by which northerners can provide input to the final decision on this matter which is a matter that continues to be of concern to all northerners? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 62-85(2): Taxation Of Northern Benefits

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for giving me notice of his question yesterday. I had an opportunity to speak to the federal Finance Minister some 10 days ago and he indicated that it is his intention to have the matter of northern allowances resolved by the end of the year. We have also been in touch with his staff and we understand that his staff is ready to come to the Territories in a consultative process and meet with many of those individuals and representative groups who had contributed in the past to this particular issue and wish to be involved in the future. Our government is ready to assist the Department of Finance people and it would be our expectation that it could occur in the next month and a half. I believe it requires now just the direction from the federal Minister to put that aspect of the program into operation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 63-85(2): Upgrading Of Fort Franklin Airport

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Local Government. Back in April of this year I met with the hamlet and band council of Fort Franklin and the Minister was there. At that meeting the people requested that something be done about some upgrading work on their airport. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he has been able to respond to that request.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 63-85(2): Upgrading Of Fort Franklin Airport

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, as a result of the issue raised by the community of Fort Franklin, as well as other communities in the North, I did go down to Ottawa a number of weeks ago to see Minister Don Mazankowski and Minister of State, Benoit Bouchard. On my trip I saw the federal people about where the federal government was with relation to the arctic airport facilities policy. The federal government indicates that they will be ready in the early fall with regard to policy or what they are going to be doing with respect to airports in the North. So that is the very latest information about the whole northern airports situation, specifically to Fort Franklin.

As a result of the meeting we had in Franklin, I was determined to assist the community because there existed an anomaly where CTC, the group that governs the licensing of air charters, had given the community of Fort Franklin the authority to operate a small charter company. In the meantime the Ministry of Transport on the other hand, who regulate airports, did not authorize the airport, did not feel that the airport there was of a standard sufficiently good that airplanes can operate out of there. So there was an anomaly. I am pleased to say that approximately two weeks ago, I met with representatives of Fort Franklin in Yellowknife, and as a result of our meeting the department has agreed to supply them with \$20,000 so that they can do the necessary work on the airstrip, to bring it up to a standard that will be satisfactory to MOT.

I am aware that subsequent to my meeting that the representatives of Franklin went to Edmonton and met with MOT officials there. I understand that their meeting was successful. So I expect and do believe that the problem that existed with respect to the Franklin airport has been resolved. I believe that the community will be able to operate their charter from the airport in Fort Franklin and the airport will be brought up to a standard that is satisfactory to MOT. So I believe we dealt with the issue, the problem in Fort Franklin. On the larger picture of airports in the North, we will be hearing from the federal government I understand, this fall.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 64-85(2): Proposed Move Of Arctic Co-operatives Limited

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. There is a rumour that Arctic Co-operatives Limited are going to move from the North to the city of Ottawa. Inasmuch as the GNWT, together with the federal government provides substantial funding to that organization, can the Minister indicate to the Assembly whether the government is aware of any such proposed move? Whether the government is in agreement with such a move? And if so, what is the possible justification for moving that federation from the North? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 64-85(2): Proposed Move Of Arctic Co-operatives Limited

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been informed only last week that Arctic Co-operatives Limited is, in fact, planning to move to Ottawa so that they can, I believe, operate with their joint partner, which is the Canadian Arctic Producers. So I have not had time to really study the implications of the whole thing. I also am aware that Arctic Co-operatives Limited have been going through a very difficult period in terms of financial situations during the last few years. I believe that is one of the factors and if they move I understand there will be a number of people that will be laid off. Mainly I think it has to do with the tremendous debt load that they carry. So I will be reviewing the whole matter and again I am not really prepared to make any substantial comments about it. I can only assume, though, that the only other reason that they are moving -- if I can find any one other justification -- I believe they have more friends down there than they do in places like Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: I understand, Mr. Minister, then you are taking the question as notice and will be replying to the honourable Member and the House at a later date. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Wah-Shee.

Question 65-85(2): Powers Of Northern Frontier Visitors Association

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, supplementary to the one I asked before lunch, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister whether he would be prepared to provide the numbers of dollars that were spent within the Northern Frontier tourist zone area. Would he give some indication as to whether first, the communities within my area, are required to be a member of that tourist zone association? Second, I wonder whether the Minister can indicate, when a person or a community puts forth an application for tourist activity, a proposal to your department, whether the Northern Frontier Visitors Association has to be involved in regard to whether that application should be considered or rejected by your department.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 65-85(2): Powers Of Northern Frontier Visitors Association

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will be pleased to table the financial activity report of the association. Perhaps by tomorrow I can table that short report. It is not the policy of my department that any tourist venture that is proposed by any community must have a prior approval of the zone association. But I can say to the honourable Member that it does help to have support from the zone association in order to expedite the proposal further. But it is not a condition. Anybody can appeal directly to me, as I am doing for Fort Liard. There is a tremendous difficulty in getting local support so I have been asked to review the proposal by local businessmen. I will study the concerns that the Member has, but at the moment I only wish to assure him that it is not conditional that any proponent must have prior support from these zone associations. I think by way of courtesy they normally are asked to make comments but they are not the ones that are administering the government policy. Therefore I would like to assure the Member that once I receive a proposal or I am aware of it, I normally instruct my officials to expedite it as quickly as possible so that communities or regions can benefit from tourism activities. Thank you.

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

Question 66-85(2): Wages Of Hamlet Workers

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Local Government. I just want to make this clear to him. He is probably going to be clear as he hears my question. The hamlet workers' wages and benefits are not close to those of the federal government and some territorial government employees. My question would be, would there be any possible hope in the future so that their benefits and wages could be a little closer to those of the GNWT and other employees?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 66-85(2): Wages Of Hamlet Workers

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, what the Member is asking is in regard to a matter that really is the concern of the hamlet council. As the Member knows our government provides formula-based funding to all of the hamlets in the North, based on the size of the community, the number of buildings, equipment, length of roads, the length of culverts and so forth. This is the basis on which each of the communities gets its funding. Now, once that has been done it is up to the hamlet councils to determine in its own way how it expends its money; the number of staff it has, the benefits and so forth. So, I appreciate the Member's concern but really this is a matter that is up to the hamlet councils.

With respect to a concern that had been prevalent throughout the North a number of years ago, my department has done a study of the hamlet councils in the Baffin Region, to determine how the employees stood with respect to pay and benefits as compared to the territorial government. In the case of Baffin, we have found that the benefits and pay are very comparable to GNWT employees. That is one area that we know for sure what the situation is.

As for the Kitikmeot area, I am not aware that a study has been done to compare hamlet employee benefits with that of government. But in the interests of finding this out, I would undertake to the Member that I will do a study of the benefits and pay of the hamlet employees in the Kitikmeot East area, to determine how they stand relative to the GNWT.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware too, that Gjoa Haven hamlet in the Member's constituency is a community that is presently going through a process where the Public Service Alliance of Canada is attempting to unionize the hamlet employees. So I am sure that the union, in attempting to organize the employees there, is attempting to get more wages and benefits for the employees. They have asked me whether or not there would be more funding available to the hamlet. I have said, "No, the hamlet gets a certain amount of money and just because the union organizes the employees in that community, they should not naturally expect the amount of money that goes to them to be increased." So I will do my best to ascertain the situation in the Kitikmeot East area and will respond to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Supplementary To Question 66-85(2): Wages Of Hamlet Workers

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the question, but I will add a little different wording to it. The reply he gave to my question, I am satisfied with. The only thing is that -- well, as he knows and I am also aware -- in my community the employees are trying to become unionized. Now, the hamlet and the employees, when they are negotiating for something, there is a line in between. The hamlet council itself and the secretary, the ones that look after the funding, may be aware of what is available. But, on the other side, there always seems to be a misunderstanding. It could take the full communication of the hamlet and myself, who comes to the Assembly, to try and reach full understanding, so that the other side and both sides understand. That seems to be failing. So, my question will be, would he be able to send one of his staff to Gjoa Haven, particularly, because I have never heard of any other MLAs who seem to talk about unions in their constituencies?

Furthermore, to add to that, I have heard that the hamlet said that the only way that they could satisfy some of their employees, if they become union, is to let some of the employees go. Regardless of that, from the information that was given to the employees, I think one side is going to get hurt. Before that happens, though the council tries to make them understand and I try to bring word back to those people, now we need someone from the Minister's office, the Local Government Minister's office to truly be present there to explain to those employees and the hamlet the whole situation. Would he be willing to do that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 66-85(2): Wages Of Hamlet Workers

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I can do better than sending an employee. I would be pleased myself, to go up to Gjoa Haven in the next two weeks, and I undertake to do that.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do we have any short questions? Mr. Richard.

Question 67-85(2): Warning Labels On Liquor Bottles

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Government Services. Last year, a number of organizations requested the government to consider putting labels on liquor bottles that are available for sale in the Northwest Territories; labels that would give a warning about the health risks to pregnant women through the consumption of alcohol. A label referring to the fetal alcohol syndrome. The Minister indicated to the Assembly in March, that the government would investigate the feasibility of such a project. Can the Minister provide us with any more definite response today? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 67-85(2): Warning Labels On Liquor Bottles

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, once again I thank the honourable Member for notice of this question yesterday, and he asked the same question, I think the second last or last day of the winter session. At that time, I said I would be in contact with the federal Minister, but I had not yet received a reply. I will read part of the Minister's reply which I received on April 4th, and it indicates the direction that this government is proceeding. Now, the requirement or the suggestion that labels on liquor bottles be printed with a warning relates to the situation that occurs in the case of tobacco. I will just read this paragraph from Mr. Epp's letter which relates to the general approach. He says, "With regard to the analogy drawn to tobacco, there are important differences. There is no federal legislation similar to the Food and Drugs Act regulating tobacco. The warning label on cigarette packages and ads is one component of a voluntary industry agreement. When the department investigated the regulatory option regarding alcohol hazard labelling, it was drawn to our attention that many alcoholic beverages are imported. In view of this, a mandatory warning imposed by the Canadian market might well be seen as a violation of the general agreement on tariffs and trade." He goes on to mention that the situation that they have looked at in Ontario, is having the message printed on the bag that the bottles are slid into. So, that is the approach we are taking, is to make that communication through that method. I would expect that exposure, through that method, would probably be greater than just having something printed on the bottle.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 68-85(2): Regional Council Consultation On Regional Government Appointments

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education, and it is with regard to a concern expressed by the Deh Cho Regional Council. It is with regard to these appointments of superintendents for education. I believe the government has a policy now, to consult with regional or tribal councils when appointments are made. I also believe that in the Baffin Region, the regional council there is directly involved in all senior government appointments. I would like to ask the Minister why the Deh Cho Regional Council were not consulted when a new superintendent was appointed for the Fort Smith Region?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 68-85(2): Regional Council Consultation On Regional Government Appointments

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought the controversy was over the appointment of area superintendents recently, rather than the superintendent. But, if that is what the Member is referring to, I can assure the honourable Member that in fact, the speaker of the Deh Cho Regional Council was consulted about those new assignments, and a letter has recently gone to the regional council explaining that the speaker was involved in those decisions, and had been consulted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get your speakers mixed up now. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Gargan.

Question 69-85(2): Lighting For Fort Providence Airstrip

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Local Government. I believe the Minister wrote a letter on March 6th with regard to the lighting of the airport in Fort Providence. I wrote back to the Minister on March 26th expressing some concern over having the lighting above ground and the cost factors involved. I believe that doing it right the first time would alleviate a lot of added costs during the winter months and rainy season. I would like to ask the Minister whether he has considered burying the cables for the lighting at the Fort Providence airstrip.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I will take that question as notice and reply directly to the Member as soon as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Item 5, written questions. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 70-85(2): Costs Of Out-Of-Town Sessions And Ceremonial Functions

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is addressed to the Government Leader. A number of constituents have inquired as to the additional costs to taxpayers of having the Legislative Assembly sit at Rankin Inlet, these inquiries being made both at public meetings and in private conversations with MLAs. Inquiries have also been made as to other large expenditures by the Legislative Assembly in recent years for ceremonial purposes. As it is important that members of the public have full knowledge of the cost of various activities of this Assembly, I wish to ask the following questions regarding specific expenditures:

- 1) What were the total costs, with a detailed breakdown, of holding the current session of the Legislative Assembly in Rankin Inlet, as compared to the total costs of holding the session in the regular location?
- 2) What were the total costs, with a detailed breakdown, of holding the second session of this Assembly in Fort Smith, as compared to the total costs of holding this session in the regular location?
- 3) What were the total costs, and detailed breakdown, of the ceremonies surrounding the official opening of the new Legislative Assembly facilities in February, 1985?
- 4) What were the total costs, and detailed breakdown, of the Legislative ball in February, 1984?

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further written questions? Item 6, returns. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 41-85(2): Number Of Women In Senior Management Positions

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to oral Question 41-85(2), asked by Mr. Ballantyne on June 11, 1985, with regard to women in management positions in the Government of the NWT. There are presently 19 women in senior management positions in the territorial government. Mr. Speaker, I have with me the list of names and positions that I would be prepared to table at the appropriate time, just to indicate to the honourable Members, that of the 19 women, seven happen to be reporting to me or through departments that are presently associated with me.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Just coincidence.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any further returns? Mr. Curley.

Return To Question 10-85(2): Norman Wells Pipeline Employment

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to written Question 10-85(2), asked by Mr. T'Seleie on June 6, 1985. Norman Wells pipeline employment. There were 67 additional permanent jobs created as a result of the Norman Wells pipeline project. The following is a breakdown by company: Esso Resources Canada, 38; Interprovincial Pipe Lines, 29. I understand the companies

do not gather statistical data based on ethnic background; therefore I think your guess is as good as mine. They do gather information on their southern and northern employees in accordance with their socio-economic agreements. Esso now has 154 permanent positions in Norman Wells. It has maintained 45 per cent northern content during construction and reports more than 60 per cent northern content of its permanent work force. IPL reported 11 temporary southern employees transferred from its southern operations to the North. It has filled 15 positions with northerners and is currently staffing the remaining three positions from the North. It is the intention of IPL to return the southern employees to its southern operation as soon as the northern employees are trained to assume full responsibility. It will then staff the open positions in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 14-85(2): Testing For PCB Levels In Rae Area

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 14-85(2), asked by Mr. Gargan on June 7, 1985, concerning environmental damage at Rayrock Mine. There has been considerable effort undertaken to examine the environmental damage which has resulted from mining operations at both Rayrock and at Port Radium. One study has been conducted by Health and Welfare Canada, one by a researcher from the University of Toronto and a third by an independent consulting firm is continuing. A study being conducted for the Science Institute by an epidemiologist from the University of British Columbia will involve a review of all death certificates from the Rae area from 1970 to 1984, with special reference to deaths from cancer and deaths of individuals potentially subject to radio-nuclide exposure during the period of operation of, particularly, Rayrock Mine.

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

Return To Question 43-85(2): Request For Day Park At Vee Lake

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: I have another return to oral Question 43-85(2), asked by Mr. Ballantyne on June 11, 1985. Throughout the NWT, there are many sites such as the one at Vee Lake -- or is it wee lake? -- where boat launches and parking facilities exist. Often such facilities are used as starting points for travel by boat to camping and cottage areas, as the Member knows. The Vee Lake parking lot is the launching point for a number of people who have cottages on Walsh Lake, for example. To equip and service such areas through the territorial parks system would require capital allotments in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 per site. In addition, seasonal parks officers would be required to make regular patrols to inspect the site and enforce regulations. At present my department is studying the precedent that would be set by placing a Vee Lake site in the five year capital plan. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 25-85(2): Funding For Full-Time Psychiatrist, Keewatin

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 25-85(2), asked by Mr. MacQuarrie on June 11th, concerning psychiatric services. I have followed up on the question regarding increased psychiatric services by Dr. Rodgers to the Keewatin Region. My department has spoken to officials of Health and Welfare Canada, as well as the head of the northern medical unit at the University of Manitoba. This unit provides specialty services including psychiatric services to the Keewatin.

Health and Welfare Canada was not aware of a desire by Dr. Rodgers or the northern medical unit to increase services to the Keewatin. Although Health and Welfare Canada indicated it would be unlikely they could increase the contract with the northern medical unit, they are willing to place a full-time medical health co-ordinator in the region. The position will have to go out to competition so no start-up date is available at this time. It is our feeling that having an individual stationed in the region to co-ordinate services and work with local resources is much more desirable than a visiting service. Visiting mental health services will continue to be necessary as a part of a comprehensive service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Are there any further returns? Item 7, petitions. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 7: PETITIONS

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Petition 4-85(2), which is from Rankin Inlet requesting the establishment of an adequate day care facility in the hamlet of Rankin Inlet. This particular petition contains 65 signatures. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Are there any further petitions? Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 8: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of Standing Committee On Finance

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, June 7th, I advised this Assembly that the standing committee on finance would be tabling two reports with respect to its consideration of the supplementary appropriation bills before this House. I hesitate to do this as chairman of the standing committee because of the concerns of Mr. Curley and Mr. Patterson. I tried to find an alternate Member to give this report, but unfortunately we do not have one. With your sympathy we will go ahead...

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Butters.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Butters. Perhaps next time. At the appropriate time I will table the Report on Consideration of Bill 10-85(2), Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 1984-85 and the Report on Consideration of Bill 11-85(2), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 1985-86. We intend to deal with the issues raised in the reports as specific departmental appropriations are considered in the committee of the whole. I really want to apologize to Mr. Sibbeston because in the budget session I know he really wants me to read these reports word by word. I am only going to table at this time. Translation of the reports will be forthcoming as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 15-85(2), Report on Consideration of Bill 10-85(2), 1984-85 Supplementary Appropriation No. 4.

I would like to table Tabled Document 16-85(2), Report on Consideration of Bill 11-85(2) which is the 1985-86 Supplementary Appropriation No. 1. Thank you.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 17-85(2), Women in Management Positions in the GNWT. Mr. Speaker, just for a correction, there are eight women that report to me either directly or through departments that are my responsibility.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 18-85(2), entitled "Secondary Education in Alberta". Thank you.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the interests of accuracy I am tabling Tabled Document 19-85(2), two graphs in lieu of the graphs on pages 96 and 97 of the Final Report of the Special Committee on Housing...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. GORDON WRAY: ...showing the total allocation of dollars for 1984 and 1985. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 6-85(2): Special Committee On Economic And Social Development

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, June 14th, I will move the following motion: Whereas the residents have not had the opportunity to adequately express their views of economic and social development in the NWT since the Berger Inquiry; And whereas, this government has committed itself to providing full participation to northern residents in the development...

HON. TUM BUTTERS: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order being called. You are correct, Mr. Butters, under normal circumstances it is just the "Now therefore, I move" that is accepted. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At least I tried. Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that in accordance with Rule 87(1), a special committee of this Assembly be established to be named the special committee on economic and social development; and further, that, notwithstanding Rule 87(2), the special committee on economic and social development consist of three Members from the East and three Members from the West; and further, that the special committee be mandated to review all forms of economic development in the NWT in relation to the needs and wishes of the NWT communities; and further that the committee report to this House with recommendations for future economic and social development in the NWT at the fall session of the Legislative Assembly in 1986. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Motion 2-85(2), Sexual Abuse of Children. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 2-85(2): Sexual Abuse Of Children

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the incidence of sexual abuse and sexual crimes against children is increasing at an alarming rate in the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that the Government of the Northwest Territories introduce an awareness program within the education system and use other appropriate media to alert and educate children and parents as to the dangers of sexual abuse and to teach children how to avoid potentially dangerous situations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. Proceed, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It saddens me and disturbs me to have to rise today to introduce this motion on the sexual abuse of children. In the NWT where children are highly valued and parents have not had to worry about this problem, it is disturbing to note the increase in the frequency of reported incidents of sexual abuse of children. Abusers of children are not always strangers. Recent studies of the problem indicated that abusers are often known to the child and may include acquaintances of the family, relatives and most disturbing sometimes even parents. Our children are all too vulnerable. The rationale for me presenting this motion is that I feel there is a very important need for our children to know and to understand the difference between normal affectionate physical contact and contact that is not appropriate.

Not all incidents are reported because children may be afraid that no one will believe them or they may be confused or even guilty about what has occurred. Victims are often threatened by the abusers not to tell, especially when the abuse is ongoing. I think alarm about this phenomenon has been raised in many communities. I know there is a concern in Baker Lake in this region. I hope that Mr. Wray will mention it. There is a shocking rape of a young nine year old girl in Hay River in the last two weeks, and in my constituency in Yellowknife, I have had many phone calls from constituents about a creep who is hanging around Sissons school. I emphasize that word, because I have no sympathy with these people.

I feel that too much consideration is given to the criminal and none to the victim and their families. It is very difficult to comprehend the horror, the trauma and the pain suffered by children in these situations. Many people talk about the rights of the sexual deviator; who ever talks about the rights of victims? People talk about the right of deviants to be rehabilitated; who rehabilitates the children? Who gives comfort to the family? Nobody. All too often these sexual deviants are back on the street in a very short time to harass and hurt other children. I believe that one way to handle this problem is that there should be longer jail sentences for first time offenders.

Over the years, my attitude has changed. I think that any sympathy that I once had toward any rights for sexual deviants is now gone. I really hate to say that, I hate to say that I am at the point now where I say perpetrators of repeated violent sex crimes against children should be punished by capital punishment or by castration. I think that we have come to that point. I think that we have to face that and not give these individuals a chance to ever again harm our children. I think that protection of our children is the responsibility of all of us. The government here has an important role to play in ensuring that our education systems and our total government information process, gives our children the information and the confidence they need so that they could protect themselves. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Secunder, Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the secunder of the motion, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a short comment. I believe we have to protect the children from such abuse, and if we can teach the children at a young age to be made aware of strangers that might harm them, and if we can teach them in school, at home and make the parents aware as well. It is also very important to make the public aware. I was alarmed to hear that there was someone hanging around schools in Yellowknife, trying to get the children's attention with candy. We hear of news like this on TV and on radio, but it is coming into our area and it really worries me with all our young children going to school. I am hoping that some steps will be taken toward this kind of action. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say that I am confident that the government will, and my department particularly, will look favourably on this motion. We have recently established an improved health curriculum which looks at those issues and encourages young people to develop skills to cope with those kinds of pressures in a complex and rapidly changing world. But I think that there is more that we can do, and I think that there are innovative ways in which we can get the message across to our young people.

In that connection, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to mention an idea that I saw recently discussed in a newspaper article in the Winnipeg Free Press, commending Marvel Comics, particularly a recent special edition of Spiderman comics, in which Spiderman told a young victim of sexual abuse, "It is not your fault if it happens to you." And, in fact, Spiderman revealed that his own childhood contained an episode of sexual abuse. The Marvel Comic organization has printed extra copies of this special comic for distribution by schools and service organizations. That is the kind of approach that we should be looking at in our schools as well, to get the message across to young people that they need not be afraid of coming forward and complaining.

I think in some parts of the Northwest Territories, where cases of sexual abuse appear to be on the rise, people are thinking that there are more incidents occurring. But, rather than more incidents occurring, I think that what is happening is our young people are starting to realize that they do not have to put up with that kind of behaviour, that their bodies are their own and that they have as much right as anyone else to be treated with respect and to have their privacy respected. I would be pleased to seriously look into new ways of getting this important message across to our youth, should the motion be approved by this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 2-85(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. The mover has the right to close the debate. Question. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Let the records indicate that the vote was unanimous. Motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: appearance of the Canada Post witnesses; appearance of Tungavik Federation witness; Final Report of the Special Committee on Housing; Bill 6-85(2), Bill 10-85(2), Bill 11-85(2), Bill 1-85(2), Bill 4-85(2), Bill 5-85(2), 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 APPEARANCE OF TUNGAVIK FEDERATION OF NUNAVUT WITNESS; APPEARANCE OF CANADA POST WITNESSES; FINAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. I will try extremely hard to be impartial. The committee will now come to order. I would like to ask Mr. Butters, what is the wish of the government at this time?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Might I ask unanimous consent of the House to amend slightly the order of appearance of witnesses. Donat Milortok of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut is here, and I wonder if he might be able to make his presentation at this moment, and the post office to follow him. I have talked to Mr. Aiken of the post office and he would agree to that change.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Appearance Of Tungavik Federation Of Nunavut Witness

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. I would like to now, at this time, ask Mr. Milortok, chairman of the Tungavik Federation to appear before the committee. Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. MILORTOK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to make this a short presentation. I would like to thank the House for allowing me to make this presentation to you. But first the Tungavik Federation would like to introduce our delegates. They are affiliated with ITC from various other organizations, which also includes the Baffin, Keewatin and Central Arctic Inuit Associations -- the members consist of those. We also have representation from the regional councils and we also have one seat for the Inuit Cultural Institute as well as the women's association for a total of 14 delegates. I have a presentation which was photocopied and which will be passed on to each one of you. Since they are being photocopied you will be able to read for yourselves so I will just summarize what is in the content.

The Tungavik Federation of Nunavut is hoping to get support from you. The Nunavut Constitutional Forum is a group that we support totally as a result of the April 14th plebiscite, and we hope to carry on and continue your support for this. We would like to see a better working relationship in dealing with division and the boundary, to work toward the settlement of land claims to achieve our political aims which we have been working on in the past and up until now. As I mentioned to you, my address is being passed around to you, you will be able to read it for yourselves but I will give you a summary and you will be able to ask questions. Feel free to contact us by letter.

At the present time the land claims negotiations are at a standstill. The new government is the main stumbling block. We have not been able to meet with the Minister of Indian Affairs yet but we hope to meet with him in July and we hope then that the process of negotiations can continue again. I want to update you on this. I mentioned that you will have copies of our address. I think the report that has been passed around is quite clear and understandable because we want to reach our objective in terms of land claims and our political aspirations. This is something that we are pushing very hard for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you for taking the time to appear before this committee. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the next agenda item is the post office witnesses. Maybe I can introduce them when they are coming into the chamber?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Butters, we will take a 15 minute coffee break and then perhaps the witnesses can appear before the committee.

---SHORT RECESS

I would like to call the committee to order. Does the committee agree that we invite witnesses from Canada Post representatives? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Appearance Of Canada Post Witnesses

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I would like to ask the representatives of Canada Post to come and appear before the committee. Thank you. For the record, I would like to ask the representatives of Canada Post to introduce themselves and their positions with Canada Post, please.

MR. AIKEN: John Aiken, the vice-president of field operations. Beside me is Gord Patterson who is the area manager for the west side of the NWT, that takes Hudson's Bay west. The chap at the end is Mike Young who is my executive assistant.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Butters, did you want to make a short comment before I ask for comments from Canada Post?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Members are aware, the gentlemen before us are responding to an invitation of this House in keeping with a motion that was put and approved in the winter session. I would just like to point out that over the past several years the Department of Government Services has responded to many complaints about postal services which have been brought to the department's attention by elected representatives, government officials and the business community. In some cases improvements have been effected through negotiations with regional representatives of Canada Post and problems that were resolved quickly needed only to be directed to the correct Canada Post official. Many other concerns remain unresolved and, as the North develops, the need for adequate services becomes acute. And I am sure the need will be demonstrated as a result of questions that Members bring to the attention of this House this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Butters. At this time I would like to ask Mr. Aiken if you would like to make a presentation to the committee?

Comments From Vice-President, Field Operations, Canada Post

MR. AIKEN: I just plan to make a few brief comments and turn over the specific questions to Gord Patterson, who is pretty familiar with this area.

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, I was asked by Michael Warren to meet with you at the NWT Assembly to respond to the questions in Hansard and also to outline Canada Post planned improvements for the postal service in the NWT. Your concerns in regard to a postal service to isolated communities is understandable. I might add that it is similar to those of other provinces across Canada that have similar type communities. Canada Post tries to provide a reasonable postal service to all communities in the North. However, in some cases it is not feasible to provide full accounting post offices nor is it economically feasible to charter air transportation to service the communities concerned.

As a number of the Members have pointed out, we do arrange alternate services to some of these communities in the northern areas. In the areas of rental allowance and salaries and hours that are required to operate, these are negotiated for the revenue in semi-staffed post offices and their representatives are the Canadian Postmasters Association. We do provide guidelines as to when communities will receive the full range of postal service, and we are flexible within reason. We do try to provide a sufficient postal service for all Canadians and the people in the North are no exception. We have addressed the issues raised and I will ask my colleague, Gord Patterson, area manager, NWT, to outline what is in the handout and to respond to specific questions from the honourable Members. Thank you for your kind attention.

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

Outline Of Presentation By Canada Post Witness

MR. G. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, what I would like to do first of all is very briefly explain our organization within the NWT. I am, as you know, based in Edmonton and reporting to me are three zone or regional postmasters. One is in Inuvik, one is in Hay River and one is in Yellowknife. Yellowknife is the regional or zone office that is responsible for the Keewatin. The postmaster in Frobisher performs a similar type of function and reports to the Quebec division. He does not report to me. The zone or regional postmaster's responsibilities include hiring, selection of staff, training; recommendations pertaining to mail routing and service are something that is expected from them. They monitor the level of service given to us by the air lines and other carriers. As Mr. Aiken has mentioned, I would like a chance to go through what is in the handout in front of you.

The first three pages are there as a general information item and indicate where the 54 post offices in the North are located. The two pages behind the map are merely a list of these locations. The fourth page that is headed "Northwest Territories Test" is the partial or early results of a mail sampling that was done from selected NWT locations listed on the left, to major southern centres listed across the top. From some of the comments that I have received and from a letter or the results of a survey that was done by the Government Services individual here in Rankin, it would appear that some of our numbers are fairly close. Your results indicated much the same thing on outgoing mail, from a Keewatin standpoint. The next three pages following that are entitled "Service to the North" and deal with logistical or transportation related items.

Criteria For Establishment Of New Post Office

One area that I would like to spend just a second on is the next page which is entitled "Establishment of New Post Office Sites". Now Canada Post has criteria that are applied nationwide as far as the steps or requirements to get a post office established. They are listed out there for your information but basically involve a requirement for a regularly scheduled means of transportation in and out of the community. There is a requirement for a minimum number of residences and also a requirement that suitable facilities be available to establish a post office.

In the last three years we have established three new post office sites in the NWT. They are: Lupin in 1982; Paulatuk in 1983; and Lac la Martre in 1984. At the present time we are considering Rae Lakes. It appears that it does meet all requirements. About all that is remaining before a decision can be made on Rae Lakes, will be for the zone postmaster from Yellowknife to go in and

talk with local officials. Now, there have been numerous requests for post offices over the years at Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake and Jean Marie River. They have a very small population base and no regularly scheduled means of transportation in and out of the community. For this reason we have taken the stand that they do not meet our criteria nor are they anywhere close to it. We are prepared to be somewhat flexible as far as the criteria are concerned but these are a long way from meeting the criteria. When a community becomes close to being large enough to attain post office status, we will bear the costs of shipping the mail in and out of the community, even though it is not an official post office. We have done that in the past with Paulatuk and with Lac la Martre. The remaining pages in the handout deal with items that were raised in your Hansard at, I believe, the winter session. Mr. Chairman, I do not know if you want me to go through these point by point and respond, or...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I do not think that it will be necessary to go through the whole data you have. However, I think if you want to summarize it, then you can go ahead on that.

MR. G. PATTERSON: Okay, I think in all cases, by the time I had seen the Hansard or was in fact aware that the items had been discussed on the floor, the problems that were mentioned were already resolved. They are the types of problem that seem to occur on an ongoing basis, and that we deal with on an ongoing basis. From my point of view, I believe that action has been taken on all of the points, or most of the points.

Plans For Upgrading And Improvements

Mr. Aiken has mentioned that we have plans for upgrading and improvements within the NWT in the fairly near future, and I would like to mention a few of those. One is that Fort Smith will be relocating into new premises in the reasonably foreseeable future. Yellowknife, as many of you are aware, is presently operating out of a 30 year old building that was put up to serve a population of some 2500 people. There are now approximately 10,000 people in Yellowknife, and we still have the same amount of operational space. We have a problem in Yellowknife and we recognize that. I am not in a position to say an awful lot about the where and the when, as far as the Yellowknife facility goes, but I can tell you that it is number one from a national priorities list from Canada Post perspective. So, something will be occurring in Yellowknife in the near future.

In Coppermine, we will be installing lock boxes this year. Now, Baker Lake and Eskimo Point both have fairly large populations and presently are in what we call the "revenue category" or the smallest category of post office. Surveys that have been taken indicate that Baker Lake is eligible for upgrading and will be upgraded this year. What that means to Baker Lake is fairly significant, I think, in that it means that there will be more hours of employment at the post office, therefore there should be a better level of service to the residents of Baker Lake, and also that Canada Post assumes responsibility for a greater portion of the actual costs of operating, rent, etc. Now, Eskimo Point appears that it is in the same category, but we will be taking a survey of the incoming mail volumes to determine what the actual workload is. We have a formula that is applied nationwide, to determine what the correct classification or ranking of a post office should be. But it would appear that Eskimo Point is also in that category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. At this time I would like to ask the Members of the committee whether they have any comments or questions that they wish to direct to the Canada Post representatives. Mr. Sibbeston.

Training And Employment Of Native People

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise to the post office officials the matter of training of native people for the post offices. Referring specifically to Fort Simpson, I had approached postal authorities a couple of years ago with the view to training local people in Fort Simpson for the office there, but nothing has been done to date. Promises were made that a training program would be instituted but there is no evidence of that as yet.

In Fort Simpson, the post office, I think, has been in existence for I guess 40 or 50 years. I must say that it is amazing to me that the postal authorities have never done anything to train and hire Dene or Metis people there to this day, the 1980s. You know, when everybody else is doing something about it. The federal and territorial governments -- they have begun the process of training native people for jobs. For a simple thing like sorting mail, in Simpson we still do not

have native people doing that. We have white people from the South doing that job and it is a job that native people can do. I wonder if the officials would make it their business, make it their personal concern, to do something about it rather than just giving us a promise, which I expect will be done. I guess I am asking the officials to go beyond that. To make it a personal goal of theirs in the next few months, to make it a reality that in Simpson where the native people are in a majority, that somehow or another through concerted efforts on your part that native people could be trained and employed in the post office. Could that be something that we could expect from you officials?

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: In the past and in Fort Simpson specifically, because I do recall our conversations on that, we have tried. And I say "tried" because it was not successful to do exactly what it is you are requesting. I am prepared to make a commitment on that particular point and have enlisted the support of our senior management group on that. But we will require assistance in terms of selecting a potential individual or individuals. If I could ask you, Mr. Sibbeston, to assist us in selecting an appropriate and suitable individual, we would certainly do something on that point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Sibbeston.

Mail Service To Small Communities

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, good. That is good news. The other matter is transportation and providing a mail service to the small communities. You state very clearly here that to the communities of Trout Lake, Nahanni and Jean Marie River, you are not able to provide any services, I am sure mainly because there are no sched planes that go into those communities. It is a concern that is raised at every big meeting that I go to in these communities and even though the communities are very small for the most part, with 75 or so people, these people really have hopes that they could be given a minimum amount of service. I imagine there are hundreds of letters that have probably gone on to your people through myself, through the MP and through the chief and through the government. I am disappointed that you do not have any plans to do something about it.

At the moment the post office really depends on the good wishes of the government or the charter companies that go in there to bring the bags of mail in. I think all people are asking is that the postal authorities would charter even on a once a month basis. You know, I cannot believe that the Canada Post is so cheap, so poor, that they cannot afford one charter a month to these small communities. This is all people are asking; in the event that nobody hauls it in on a regular basis or people forget, that Canada Post will make arrangements to have mail brought to these small communities. I would really encourage the postal authorities to rethink their position and see if somehow or another they could find it in their budget and means, I guess, to provide a very minimal amount of mail service to these small communities.

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

MR. AIKEN: Mr. Chairman, in response to the honourable Member. We are well aware of the problems and as I indicated to you on the small communities, there are hundreds in Canada. It is not just germane to the NWT. The problem is if we start -- we have a budget -- it is indicated to us as a corporation that we have to meet the bottom line similar to what I heard in discussions today on the restriction on moneys coming into the NWT. We do the best we can with the limited amount of money that is made available to us. We are concerned and certainly we are looking into it. When moneys do become available, we would be definitely going along toward that goal of providing some type of service to the small communities. But as I said, it is not just small isolated areas. It is right across the whole of Canada we have to deal with. So if we were to provide funds once a month, we would have to provide the same service to all the communities. And that is the dilemma we are in, and it is the cost factor.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Patterson, did you want to elaborate a little further on that?

MR. G. PATTERSON: I would just like to add that we keep ongoing statistics and monitor how frequently the mail does get into the non-post office points. In the case of Nahanni Butte, the frequency averages every four days. Trout Lake averages every three days and Jean Marie River has averaged every two days over the past couple of months. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Pedersen.

Inadequate Facilities, Coppermine

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak on Coppermine. I appreciate very much that the post office has been upgraded from non-accounting to semi-staff. I notice your other comments on it. I would like to acquaint the Members with it and just pass some pictures along. You can just pass them from one to the other.

That is the post office in Coppermine. It is a 512 building. Some are familiar with that designation. It is 16 feet by 32 feet long, 512 square foot building. It was built in 1959 as a teacher's residence. It has since been moved to other locations within the community, three times, and each time it has been moved it has been bent considerably out of shape. The condition of the building, as you gentlemen well know, is poor at best and the size is totally inadequate.

The comments you mentioned about Yellowknife would certainly apply to Coppermine too. The building is 26 years old. It was never built to serve anyone as a post office. The solution to alleviate congestion with installation of boxes will really not help anything because there is no space for the boxes. Very, very recently the Hon. Tom Butters and myself went through the building inspecting it and I know he would agree with me that it is a special problem. You can wish to install as much as you want, there is nowhere to put it.

A very recent development in Coppermine, which I do not know if you have been made aware of yet, is the availability of alternate commercial space available for short or long-term lease. These facilities are in the same area, in fact they are right across the street from the current post office. They are under construction at the present time and I have been authorized by the hamlet council of Coppermine to inform you that the interior can be set up to any tenant's specifications. I would urge you and if you could give me a commitment, that you would be good enough to make the contact, through the hamlet council of Coppermine, for a consideration of leasing space for a post office in Coppermine rather than wasting money on the existing building which is totally inadequate.

You mentioned that it is a Canada Post Corporation building -- so it is, it was given to you as a surplus condemned building some years ago. I know, I was there, I was one of the ones that gave it to you. Could I have a commitment from you that you would make contact, through the hamlet council, to find out the possibility of a leasing arrangement for more adequate space?

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: As far as the matter of installation of the lock boxes goes, that will definitely help to relieve congestion caused by a number of people standing and waiting for general delivery service. So in that regard it will help. And I do make the commitment that we will contact the individuals you mentioned.

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

Sanikiluaq Mail Delayed In Great Whale River

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment to make on the topic of Sanikiluaq. In Sanikiluaq we have had a problem for quite a number of years with the post office. Great Whale River is a transient stop for the mail going to Sanikiluaq. We have been discussing this for a long time. It came up at the hamlet council meetings and at the co-op meetings. As of now we have a small post office run by the co-op. As it was stated, there are three flights a week from Great Whale to Sanikiluaq to deliver the mail. Even though there are three flights some of the mail to Sanikiluaq takes a number of days or weeks. For example, Yellowknife is quite a distance from Sanikiluaq but the stamps that are used show that sometimes the mail takes four days to get to Great Whale from Yellowknife but it takes at least two weeks to get from Great Whale to Sanikiluaq, even longer. There is a scheduled plane going to Great Whale River and Sanikiluaq delivering mail but the communities that are further from Great Whale get their mail a lot sooner than Sanikiluaq. I would like to know the reason it takes so long; it is not understandable. They get their mail in Great Whale right away but it takes a long time to get our mail.

It is not just the fault of the airplane schedule. Austin Airways used to have their schedule going through there and afterwards the Air Inuit. The hamlet council met with them to carry the mail to Sanikiluaq. They have agreed to that. They just say they do not have any mail to take because the Great Whale River post office is not taking care of their job. This has been a problem that has come up. Perhaps they are lacking employees. Mainly first class mail is one of the greatest concerns. They are not even watching closely the amount of money they have to pay for the weight. Some of these documents that have to reach the community by a certain date are late and this is one of the problems and the people are not happy with it.

The children's family allowance from Ottawa -- people have to keep asking the post office in Great Whale when the family allowance is going to arrive. This is why I think it is very unsettling and not very good to hear. It is impossible for me to do anything about it. The Canada Post people can perhaps meet with the hamlet council in Sanikiluaq. I would be in favour of that. For example, in 1980 or 1982, we had a meeting with the Hudson's Bay managers in Sanikiluaq and ever since we had the meeting, we have accomplished a lot with the problems that arose. Perhaps if someone from Canada Post wants to meet with the hamlet council it would clear up a lot of problems.

One other thing is we never get c.o.d.'s to Sanikiluaq. The c.o.d. goes to Great Whale only, and even when they have to make c.o.d., it takes a long time. Even if the items arrive they just sit in Great Whale and they end up going back down south where they were ordered from, without anyone informing the people who ordered for c.o.d. I think that Canada Post should go to Sanikiluaq and look into this matter as soon as possible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Do you wish to respond?

MR. G. PATTERSON: I would like to apologize to the honourable Member, because I am not going to be able to give a specific answer right at this time. I am not aware of the situation that he described. The information that I have in front of me indicates that Great Whale River is served out of Val d'Or, Quebec, five times per week and that -- he is quite correct, Air Inuit serves his community on Mondays and Thursdays. There should be no valid reason for the type of delays that he has talked about. What we will make a commitment to do, is to, as he requested, have a Canada Post representative meet with the hamlet council and probably co-ordinate the meeting through himself, if he is agreeable to that.

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if I were to sit here and explain to you or give you any more information about some of the problems that we have been experiencing in Sanikiluaq, it would not make any sense and we probably will not accomplish anything. So, I will follow it up in writing and look forward to meeting one of your representatives. Thank you.

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: When our representative does visit the honourable Member's community, we will also be checking the problems that he has indicated may exist in Great Whale River. We are not aware of the problems at this time, but we will check that aspect of it as well while we are there.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of comments to make and then some specific questions. I will not get into the problems with the transportation of mail and the delays because a lot of those factors are outside of the Canada Post Corporation's control -- weather, plane schedules, availability of space, etc. However, I would like to touch on a number of issues, more general but I think probably just as important.

Staff Training And Salaries

I have a little list here, and the first thing that I had on the top of my list, and I was listening to Mr. Sibbeston's comments, was no training for staff. I have to disagree with Mr. Sibbeston that surely just sorting mail is not that hard. I think that if Mr. Sibbeston was to spend a week in the post office in Fort Simpson, he would find that there is quite a lot more to the job than just sorting mail. Some of those post offices are very complex in nature and are

dealing with very large sums of money. In my home community of Baker Lake, the revenue of the post office is close to half a million dollars a year, and there in fact is quite a comprehensive amount of training required to run a post office.

I will agree with him on the fact though, that Canada Post has done an abysmal job of training people. There is no training available, or at least a very limited form of training available. The reasoning for this is that in a lot of communities, it is companies or agencies which are running the post office on behalf of Canada Post Corporation and Canada Post Corporation leaves it up to those agencies to find the staff. However, those agencies themselves do not have the capabilities in many respects of training their staff.

The second point that I would like to make is that, generally speaking, the level of money paid to somebody working in a post office is extremely low compared to salaries in the North. In a community like Baker Lake or Eskimo Point, which are the seventh and eighth largest communities in the Northwest Territories, the postal worker there, the person in charge of this half a million dollars a year, is lucky if he can get six dollars an hour or maybe \$6.10 an hour. It should be pointed out to Canada Post officials that we pay labourers in the Northwest Territories, seven, eight and nine dollars an hour. You are not going to get competent people working for that kind of money, and that is just the hard fact of life in the Northwest Territories.

Facilities And Payment Disgraceful And Inadequate

Third, and probably most important of all -- I notice the photographs being passed around from Coppermine, and I must admit to being quite jealous actually, because Coppermine has a beautiful facility compared to what I have seen in most other communities. Most other communities operate out of buildings which came from the housing associations or from the hamlets. They are matchboxes which are 20 and 30 years old. The post office in Baker Lake is a room 10 feet by 12 feet, with an eight foot porch on the outside. If you go to Coral Harbour, Repulse, any of the communities in this region, even in Rankin Inlet -- they have rented a room in the bottom of a house here -- Canada Post has never built post offices in the Eastern Arctic with the exception of Frobisher Bay that I know of. The facilities are disgraceful. They are usually buildings that we, as a government, have written off and we were proceeding to put to the dump, and the communities have acquired those buildings simply because they had no other facilities. Canada Post itself has paid very little money for those buildings. In many cases, housing associations, hamlet councils and this government subsidize Canada Post by paying for the fuel and by paying for the electricity and paying for the maintenance of the buildings. This I know well because for four years in Baker Lake in my former occupation as a businessman, I managed and ran the post office in Baker Lake.

I have run four post offices over the last 10 years in my capacity with The Bay and in private business. So I know of what I speak. When we took the post office over in Baker Lake, Mr. Chairman, the post office offered us the grand sum of \$33.04 every two weeks for rental of the space of the post office. I am sorry, it was \$33.04 a month -- out of this \$33, Sigyamiut Limited, which is a private company, had to pay upwards of \$400 a month for fuel alone; they had to pay \$140 for electricity; they also had to provide the facilities; they had to maintain them; and they got the grand sum of \$400 a year for managing the post office. This scenario is repeated time and time and time again in every community.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. GORDON WRAY: I am just getting a little bit sick and tired of Canada Post saying "We are trying, we are trying", and they are not trying. Canada Post is making a lot of money in the Northwest Territories. Out of this region alone, Canada Post will take two or three million dollars a year in revenue, and they put nothing back. They do not, in most cases, provide storage space for mail. Mail is dumped in whatever convenient location happens to be available. It could be the back of a truck, it could be in a porch, it could be in an air terminal building, but I know in the communities around here, mail will sit outside sometimes for two and three days, because there is just nowhere else to put it. Around Christmas time, you will find that in a community the size of Baker Lake or Coppermine or Cambridge Bay, your mail loads start to be 50, 60 or 70 bags every plane, and yet a lot of that mail which is Christmas presents has to sit outside or in the back of trucks at 50 below because there are no warehousing facilities available. The reason that they are not available is because Canada Post will not pay warehousing space for the mail. In Baker Lake, the company that ran the post office, had to take the mail and put it into its retail store and leave it lying in the aisles of its retail store, because it was the only place it had space for it.

As for the issue of stamps, if you can believe this, the Keewatin post offices have to order their stamps from Vancouver on a rotational basis once a month. Most of our communities are continually running out of stamps. Why we have to go to Vancouver -- I sometimes think that Canada Post maybe does not understand its own system too well. They say that they give you one specific day a month when your order is processed and you can only order on that day and if your order gets there after that day, then it sits a whole month before it is processed. The problem is, if you are sitting in Baker Lake, you do not know whether it is going to take two weeks or four weeks for your letter to get to Vancouver. So you just send it whenever you have to. In Baker Lake last Christmas, there were no stamps. The stamps had been ordered for three and one half weeks and had not come in. As for the levels of allowances at the post office -- here is a half million dollar post office which is allowed to have in its inventory, \$2000 worth of stamps, and \$2000 is nothing, it goes in one week.

Complex Transportation Network

Regarding transportation in this region for post offices, at one time the post offices in this region were serviced out of Thompson, now even though it is in Manitoba, the fact is that mail in this region goes to Churchill and from that point south, so that if post offices wanted to communicate with the regional post office or the zone postmaster, the mail went naturally. Now it is in Yellowknife and when the post offices have to send their mail out, it goes to Churchill, then it goes to Winnipeg, then it goes to Edmonton, then it goes back up to Yellowknife and then it comes back around the same way. If I want to send a letter to Rankin Inlet from Baker Lake, my letter goes from Baker Lake to Churchill and from Churchill back up to Rankin Inlet. If I want to send a letter to Yellowknife, and because the seat of government is in Yellowknife there is a lot of correspondence which flows from this region to Yellowknife, the mail goes to Churchill, then to Winnipeg, then to Edmonton, then to Yellowknife. Even though there is direct plane service out of Rankin Inlet from Yellowknife twice a week or three times a week, you cannot get your mail there because it has to go through Churchill.

This government has had to institute a system of mail bags on Calm Air and throughout the other regions, simply to get government mail into the communities in order to keep the government working because if we were to utilize the regular postal service, it would take sometimes up to a month to get letters into the communities because of the system, the transportation network that they have laid out.

I realize that these are all criticisms but they are criticisms that are valid and have to be addressed in the NWT. The NWT is no longer this isolated area sitting somewhere North of the Great Lakes that they can forget about because people are not going to complain. Canada Post is a corporation; it is making a lot of money off Northwest Territories residents and I think that it is time that Canada Post started to return in kind the types of services that the communities have been providing to them for years on a subsidized basis. They have got to start acting like a corporation. Why should the housing associations and hamlet councils have to subsidize another private business? Why should private business have to subsidize another private business? It is not the private companies' responsibility to pay for fuel and electricity for post offices. In four years as a postmaster, Mr. Chairman, I could not even get a phone into the post office because they would not pay for a phone to be installed. They have treated us abysmally.

Provision Of Banking Services

I guess my first question, Mr. Chairman, is to ask something which is not widely known but which I have heard and I would like to find out about because this subject was brought up this morning -- I think the Minister of Finance addressed it -- as to the continual problems that we have with the shortage of cash in the communities and the lack of banking facilities. It is my understanding that as part of its mandate, the Canada Post Corporation is mandated or has the mandate to perform banking services in isolated communities where no commercial institutions are available. That is my first question to the witness. Is that in fact part of their mandate? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Before I ask Mr. Aiken to reply to your first question after having heard your sad tale, I would like to remind the Members of the committee that I have taken your names down but I have them listed in a certain order. So if you could be a little patient and if the people who are wanting to ask questions would be more to the point, then I am sure that everybody will get their turn. Mr. Aiken.

MR. AIKEN: Hon. Gordon Wray, I accept your comments on what you were talking to the other honourable Member about, but I would have to respond to your criticism before I answer your first question. The system that you are actually concerned about, is what I indicated to you earlier in my first opening comments. Revenue post offices and semi-staff post offices are controlled by labour negotiations only. All the rates of pay and the rental allowances are negotiated by the CPA, which is the Canadian Postmasters Association. So they in turn are the ones who are representing these particular post offices across Canada. It is no different in the Northwest Territories than it is in Newfoundland. So we sit down at the table and that is where it happens. So those rates are negotiated by their representatives.

Policy To Lease Facilities In Small Communities

In the sense of what you were saying on revenue post offices and semi-staff post offices, that is the same way it has been for over 100 years, in the sense of leasing a portion of a business, similar to what you were speaking of, in the small communities right across Canada. It is not germane to the NWT. Sub-post offices are the same thing as in drug stores in urban areas. So it is not something that we do, build post offices. The community has to be of a certain size where we would build a permanent particular fixture in it and that is really what our policy has been for the while. In answer to your question, there was no mandate provided to Canada Post when we became a crown corporation, to provide banking services to isolated communities or communities where there is no banking. At that time, the government asked us if we could look into it and see whether it is feasible or not. It is still being looked into by our financial experts and there is no answer or response back yet.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two comments, I do not know who these CPAs are but nobody over here has ever heard of them and if they have been representing us, I am glad we finally found out who represents us. Secondly, in terms of leasing, I agree that they lease facilities. All I am asking is that they lease decent facilities for a change or at least ensure that the facilities that are being leased are adequate to meet the needs of a particular community. You cannot take a community of 1200 people and expect it to be serviced out of a 10 by 12 foot room; it just does not work. That is all I am asking, when they lease that they lease decent facilities and ones that are secure and have storage capacity and ones that have capacity for people to remain inside. Thank you.

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

Operating Deficit In NWT

MR. AIKEN: To respond to the honourable Member. We certainly do not disagree that there are inadequate facilities in some areas. I left one other part of my response out, I have a problem of where you are getting your mathematics particularly on revenue. We only particularly judge revenue on postage sales and that is basically where our revenue is derived from, so that the figures that we have do not correspond to what you are indicating out of Baker Lake. Secondly, we are running at a deficit in the NWT on revenue, the revenue generated compared to actual costs of service to the NWT. The large deficits are caused basically on the fourth class mail that you have been referring to in that area. We are subsidizing that to a great degree.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have several comments to make. First of all I would like to comment on the training part. I was disappointed to hear that there is no such funding. I would just assume that with the growing population of the NWT that there would be some kind of training made available and I have to agree that there is not always that many native people working in the post office. I remember applying for a job and I was turned down. Maybe it was a good thing, otherwise I probably would be still sorting mail in Yellowknife instead of sitting here and asking questions.

Inadequate Facilities In Snowdrift

My first concern is Snowdrift in my constituency of Tu Nede, and also Fort Reliance. I have several things to send into Reliance and the post office could not give me any sort of direction as to how it should get to Reliance. So I lost all contact with Fort Reliance. We are having a lot

of problems in Snowdrift with the mail. For one thing there are absolutely no facilities and if the Canada Post reaction to a request for a post office is that the community has to be serviced by regular sched carriers, we do have scheds twice a week into Snowdrift. If the weather is really bad, then they do not go in but we have always had a very good regular sched service into Snowdrift. There are over 300 people there so I think we should be able to get some sort of post office in there. As for suitable facilities that are available, I would assume that would be the responsibility of Canada Post to see to it that there are such facilities. Right now there are absolutely no facilities. When the mail bag comes in, it is thrown on the table by the door and if the individual is not there at the time to pick up the mail then that is just too bad. I think that kind of service has to be improved. If we are going to have service we should have a little bit of an improvement. For the last 10 years that I have been going into Snowdrift this has gone on. It is getting to the point where the mail is all mixed up and they are having problems with the elders' cheques as well as their family allowance cheques. I would really like someone to see if something could be done about even the facilities. You know, they should not have to use just any building and throw the bag on the table and hope somebody sorts it out. I think that is a very poor service for a community of that size. There is always a reliable individual that could handle the post office. It is just that there is no place for her to work out of and she is unable to work there. So I would just like to know how soon can we get someone to look into the situation.

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: I am under the impression Snowdrift is a post office point and that there is a salaried individual in Snowdrift. I will have the zone postmaster from Yellowknife go in as you requested and look into the situation in Snowdrift. I was not aware of the particular problem that you mentioned regarding the mail being accessible to everyone and that type of thing. We will look into it.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another concern and that is since Yellowknife is just about 100 miles away from Snowdrift, a lot of elders are coming into Yellowknife looking for their pension cheques. If they cannot find it in Snowdrift, hopefully it will be in Yellowknife. Many times they have problems even getting their cheques to them, even through Yellowknife. So maybe when someone comes into Snowdrift we could look into that as well.

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: Agreed.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the witnesses being present. We are all aware of the vastness of the NWT and I am sure that you are doing the best that you can. As was mentioned, we are all Canadians. We requested your presence here today because we wanted to express our problems to you directly.

I come from the High Arctic as far as constituencies are concerned, the highest point on the map. I am from Resolute Bay and my constituents are up in the High Arctic. The problems with scheduled flights to most of my communities is not a major problem. But one of the communities has expressed to me some problems in regard to scheduled flights. I have three main points concerning my communities; Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. I will try to clarify to you what the problems are in these communities. What I have here is a statement in regard to Resolute Bay. I think this statement is not correct or you misunderstood. Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay are not 30 miles apart. They are 300 miles apart.

Relocation Of Post Office, Resolute Bay

The Canada Post in Resolute Bay is at the airport. The people of Resolute Bay have requested to transfer the facilities to the community for these reasons. The people in the community during the fall and winter do not have transportation to pick up their mail, when the post office facilities are at the airport. Those people at the airport all have vehicles and have access to go anywhere. So there was a request to transfer the facilities from the airport into the community. The post office there can be moved quite easily. This is the concern from Resolute Bay.

Misdirection Of Mail To Arctic Bay

I will now talk about Arctic Bay. There was a letter written to a superior outlining the problems being experienced in Arctic Bay. I was given a copy of that and unfortunately I left it in my community. If you do not have a copy of that I will be glad to send you a copy of it. It outlined that there is a lot of mail that is not for the community that comes into the community. I think it is because the problem arises maybe in Frobisher Bay when they see something written with "Arctic", they automatically assume it is for Arctic Bay. There are many places in the NWT that begin with "Arctic". Arctic Red River for example. There is much mail that is directed to us that we have to send out again. As a result the actual mail that was supposed to go to them is delayed somewhere else in another community. Once the mail is delivered to the wrong community they do not just forget them and get rid of them. It has to be returned to the person that sent it away in the first place. I would like someone to look into this problem of Arctic Bay residents receiving their mail late.

C.O.D. Services, Grise Fiord

Another problem I will be talking about will be from Grise Fiord. I think this will be my last topic. Moses Appaqaq talked about the c.o.d. parcels taking quite a long time to get to the communities. They also have the same kind of problem in Grise Fiord. I received a letter from the Grise Fiord council. They wrote to me concerning the problem of receiving mail. I will be able to give you a copy after I talk about it. I believe people who order c.o.d., order because they want a certain item and they cannot receive it until it is paid for. The place that they have to pay for it is in another community. They have to make the payment to another community outside of Grise Fiord. The transportation is only by air. The length of time for the c.o.d. is another problem. The c.o.d. has to be posted in Resolute Bay before it is paid for. If the person who is ordering this sends the money away to pay for his c.o.d. he would have to wait at least another two weeks before he gets his order, perhaps even longer than two weeks because sometimes the weather is not that great up in the High Arctic. The waiting period for payment of the c.o.d. should be increased. It is too short a time. Maybe it is okay for the communities that are closer together but I think the set-up has to be different from one community to another. This was the problem of the people of Grise Fiord.

Regarding just ordinary mail, sometimes there is not enough storage space for the mail in Grise Fiord. You will see in the letter it says that there is not enough storage space and somebody could easily get into other people's personal mail. I believe they are breaking the law when they read somebody else's mail. For those communities that do not have a proper post office that is what they go through most of the time. That is what they are faced with.

I am not going to go on too much further. I believe your answers and I believe that you are losing some money in the NWT. You are not making too much money from the NWT. I have not seen any of your superiors going to our communities. I have never come across a person, too, who would meet with our communities. Perhaps if we were to work more closely together the problems would be solved a lot sooner and things would run better in the future. We welcome anybody any time to our communities. We would like all our problems to be solved in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: I have to apologize to the honourable Member because I do lack the specific information I would need to respond to the points he has raised. As I mentioned previously that portion of the NWT is administered out of the Quebec region. We will have to talk to the authorities within the Quebec region. What I would ask the honourable Member is if he could give us about five minutes after this meeting has adjourned today so that we can get more specific information and make whatever commitments he requires. So if we could have a few minutes following this session with the honourable Member we could get the detailed information we need.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): It is just about time for a coffee break anyway so maybe you two will have an opportunity to discuss this further. I would like to say that the batting order so far is Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Erklou, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Curley, Mr. Butters, Mr. T'Seleie and then back to Mr. Wray unless Mr. Ballantyne wants to go, in which case he will have priority. I would also like to indicate that there will be a short meeting of the standing committee on finance during the coffee break in the caucus room. We will break for coffee for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will now come to order. Mr. MacQuarrie is next.

MR. MacQUARRIE: My question is very brief. The gentlemen anticipated what one of the concerns would be and my main concern has been with the existing facility in Yellowknife. It is a charming place in many ways, quaint and a nice place to hang out and to meet people.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Right on.

MR. MacQUARRIE: But it really is inadequate for the volume of mail that comes through, for the size of the staff and for the number of customers that have to be served there. You did mention it was built to serve about 2500 people and the population may be 10,000. There is good reason to believe that it is significantly higher than 10,000 and I do not just use the city's estimates which they may inflate for whatever reasons. It is just clear that there is a housing shortage for a long time. We have statistics from our bureau of statistics showing, in an apartment survey, that for all of 1984 the vacancy rate was zero for accommodation during that whole year. It is quite probable that there may be 11,500 people living in Yellowknife.

Priority Of New Facilities For Yellowknife

I just wanted a little clarification on what you said. Two things. First, you said that it is a number one priority from the national perspective. Could you clarify that for me? Is there sort of a block priority system and does that mean that there are a number of places that fit into a number one priority category or did you mean number one in the nation? The second thing is you said that you cannot say right now where and when, and I respect that, but can you tell the people of Yellowknife when a decision is likely to be made on those things and when we can anticipate hearing from you that it will be in this location at this time? Thank you.

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

MR. AIKEN: Just to clarify to the honourable Member, it is the number one priority on our list for Canada -- to get it completed. The other answer is one that I would not want to state, to pin it right down, but probably before the end of this year. I am not actually into the purchasing of property or land for leasing. I have another department that looks after that. But I would state probably before the end of this year. But it is the number one priority and we prioritize 10 major projects per year of what has to be done across Canada and that became the top one because it has been on the list for the last three years.

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

Damaged Condition Of Parcels

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, sir, to the witnesses. I had correspondence from organizations within my own constituency, in Fort Smith, as well as with a community that is actually in Alberta but which has close ties with Fort Smith and I am speaking of Fort Chipewyan. They say that they receive a large number of their parcels in a dilapidated, broken condition. They are, to some degree, dissatisfied with the length of time that the mail takes to go from Chip to Smith, and I dare say that sometimes it may be transportation in the winter. I do not know whether it comes by plane into Smith, or whether it is sent back from Chip to Edmonton and back up to Smith for example. Again, they have a concern, it is not that far away. So, their concerns are basically the time that it takes for the transmittal of mail from Chip to Smith and points north or from other points within Alberta to Fort Chipewyan and the condition of the mail when it arrives in Fort Chip.

As you know, at the present time, south of Great Slave Lake and around Smith, Hay River, I think in Pine Point, certainly into Fort Chipewyan and down to Alberta, businesses are relying upon couriers. There is a courier service now that goes out from Smith to Hay River, picks up I think some in Pine Point and down into -- rather than use your particular system, because it is more efficient. Mind you, it is more costly. But in order to get business done, businessmen have been relying, for the last while, on courier services for important deliveries or transmittal, if you like, of mail. Contracts for example, a contractor is bidding for a contract tendered out of the bid depository in Edmonton. These businessmen would like to see some kind of change in that so that there could be a better system of getting involved. But, that is the kind of concerns that I am hearing from both Fort Smith and Fort Chipewyan. These, obviously, come from the settlement

council, the improvement district or hamlet in Fort Chip, and they come from not only the town of Fort Smith, but the business organizations, the chambers of commerce in both cases. So, those are the concerns that I want to raise with you, because those are the concerns both of these communities have in relation to the services you have now.

Location Of Post Office, Fort Smith

I could comment on the kind of arrangements that the federal DPW make, but it is not you who do it. Your federal DPW people pay a certain amount of money per square foot, or in today's world I guess, per square metre. But, when it was drawn up, it was under a square footage basis. Then the Government of the Northwest Territories, leases the top floor for a courthouse at about a rate of four times what the federal DPW are paying to the owners of the building. So, you have the federal government making it both ways, getting cheap rent and they are charging cheap sub-rent. Again, that is maybe not the Canada Post who are doing it but obviously you have good negotiators within the federal Department of Public Works. But leaving that aside, I am simply raising the question that, first the location of the building -- it has to go because you are going to have real problems in Smith. You are going to be there before the end of this summer, the building season. Secondly, the length of time that it takes to transmit mail back and forth from Chip into Smith in the Territories, where a lot of people have very close ties. A lot of people are of the same families. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: The honourable Member is quite correct in that we have experienced numerous problems with the building owner in Fort Smith. He is party to a lease with DPW and we occupy the space that DPW has leased. The statement on the private courier services surprises me to a degree because we offer priority post and our sales of priority post -- which is in effect a courier service that is able to compete head-on with the private ones in terms of service and normally be even better in terms of price -- our sales, in locations such as Hay River have gone up several hundred per cent over the last year to where they are really booming. So, it may be that there is enough there for everyone, but I think that Canada Post shares the growing market in that area.

As for Fort Chipewyan, I appreciate you bringing the matter to my attention because Fort Chipewyan has been a relatively peaceful place as far as we have been concerned, in that the customers -- it never generated much in the way of complaints. We did have one postmaster there for a period of 17 years, and he has recently relocated. Whether or not that has anything to do with the service problem, I do not know, but we will definitely investigate the matter, and we will get back to the honourable Member.

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

Promotion Or Transfer Of Personnel

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one further question of the witnesses and that deals just with that last topic that you raised. That is the promotion, if you like, or the transferring of personnel or postmasters or postmistresses within the Territories. I have been in Smith for a number of years and I think that we have had three that I know of in Smith, including the present postmaster. We had a postmistress before that in the mid 60's. But, it seems to me that the present postmaster is nearing retirement age -- I could be wrong, but it seems to me that he is. I guess my question is, do you promote from within territorial ranks or would you bring people in from the South? Is it an open competition? Or when you are transferring or promoting people to take on the responsibility of being a postmaster or a postmistress, I guess in today's words, a postperson, do you do it within the confines of the Territories or because you are a federal body, then is it done throughout the country?

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: We have an agreement with the employees of Canada Post, with the various bargaining units, that the job opportunities or promotional opportunities -- and as Fort Smith is a fairly large community, it would be a promotion for a good many people -- to give them first opportunity at any job openings. It is usually on a divisional basis. The division, in this case, would be Alberta and the Northwest Territories. So, any individual applying for the position would firstly have to be an employee of Canada Post and secondly, a resident of Alberta or the Northwest

Territories. As for the first part of your question or comment there, as to whether the postmaster was apt to be retiring in the near future, Mr. Grier, the postmaster, I believe, is in his early 60's, so it is pretty well at his option when he chooses to retire. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three questions. What are the present arrangements right now for mail services to Snare Lake? My other question is with regard to priority mail. I do not know how effective it is, but I believe a number of times I was late on paying payments down south and I had to pay a penalty of interest. I just wanted to know how effective priority mail is when you mail from Yellowknife, for example. My third question is that I believe there are quite a number of stamps issued right now that do reflect a lot of the Inuit culture, and I just want to know if there is ever going to be a stamp issued that reflects the Dene culture. Thank you.

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

Effectiveness Of Priority Post

MR. G. PATTERSON: The honourable Member's first question was dealing with, if I understand it correctly, Snare Lake, but specifically the effectiveness of our priority post service from Yellowknife to the South. If, by the South we are talking about Edmonton or Calgary, we are normally in a position, if it is mailed early enough in the day, to give next day service, next day delivery, to either one of those centres. Yellowknife will very shortly be receiving another service, which is called intel-post and that provides service to another centre in a short time, a matter of hours. It is electronic transmission of the messages or a facsimile transmission.

Oh, I did not address the Snare Lake point. I will do that. The information that I have is that Snare Lake receives what is called a courtesy bag service out of Yellowknife, and normally receives service once per week. As far as the stamp that would reflect the Dene culture, I am frankly not in a position to answer that question. Perhaps Mr. Aiken can.

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

Stamps Reflecting Dene Culture

MR. AIKEN: The honourable Member. If you wish to have recognition for the various aboriginal groups, etc., through the NWT, etc., you have to make that through your particular representation to the federal government and they in turn turn it over to us with a request. And it goes through that particular type of committee. Do it through your representative. We have 17 stamps per year that we issue -- or 14. I am not quite sure of the number. From that they are judged on the merit, the anniversary or recognition and this type of thing and they go through those committees. The committee decides which stamps are going to be issued in that particular year and there is representation from a number of the citizens at large, etc., who would make the decision.

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

MR. GARGAN: Just who is the representative for this area?

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

MR. AIKEN: I could not answer that question. I am sorry.

MR. G. PATTERSON: We are referring to the federal MP.

MR. AIKEN: The federal MP. I am sorry, I do not know his name.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I believe it is Mr. Suluk for the eastern part of the Territories and Mr. Nickerson for the western portion of the Territories. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, finally. I would like to keep my remarks very brief because I believe my colleague from Kivallivik, the Baker Lake representative did it very well. My concerns are very similar so I do not think I need to repeat them.

Authority And Commitment Of Witnesses

First of all before I go on I would like to certainly welcome you to Rankin Inlet. It is not uncivilized as you probably noticed and people are anxious to see that you do come up more often, every year if possible. We are lucky we finally got somebody around here in this forgotten land. We have many of our taxpayers up here who are generous to the federal government and we are honourable Canadians. So I would like simply to ask you what kind of guidelines your corporation has respecting post offices. I do not really believe you guys are really committed to inspect local post offices in the Territories. I know within my job as the Minister of Economic Development I am committed to try and see as many communities as I can, invited or not, at least, once. So I would urge you to try and develop a system, a regular provision. I know that you are impressing us with the fact that, Mr. John Aiken, you are responsible for 8500 communities in Canada. I do not think that that figure is there so that we can accept the fact that you have so many communities in southern Canada that, you know, we are only going to have to accept the crumbs from the southern fats -- extreme down south. So, I appreciate you being here but before I go on I would like to ask you, did your president give you any authority while here -- when you say you commit yourself to certain things that you will actually in fact carry them out, or whether or not you are here just to listen to the MLAs complaints and eventually see that the concerns of the Members of the Assembly fade away as the dust is blown away. So, I would like to know that part because I am always interested to see how much authority your immediate boss has given you. So that is one thing.

Rankin Inlet Concerns

I will not be asking too many questions. I would simply like to ask the question of you particularly with Rankin Inlet, because many communities that I represent, Chesterfield, Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour -- and Rankin Inlet is my fourth community -- are pretty much the same as the small communities that Mr. Wray mentioned in his response -- are they subsidizing the corporation in terms of O and M expenses? I want to ask you with respect to Rankin Inlet whether or not you have visited the post office. If you have, are you satisfied with it? Because many of us are certainly not because there is a limited amount of space. The post office boxes are limited and the doorway is dangerous too because my box sits right next to the door and during the winter when a number of people come in, I could not even open my box for a few minutes at a time because it is right at the doorway and the door happens to open inwards. So I think I should also note that that could probably be a bit hazardous in case of an emergency because the space is so limited. I am asking you whether or not you would eventually take a good look at it and recommend something better in the future.

In the NWT because capital funds are so limited, we normally have a plan at least within a five year plan to try and correct some of the real deficiencies in terms of capital projects. I think many of your problems are similar to ours -- the fact that funds are limited -- but I am wondering whether or not Canada Post has any plans to upgrade certain post offices throughout the North, or whether or not you are treating them on the political basis. The more MPs or whatever make the most noise, that you respond to them. We do not do that here. We are very generous to our friends in Yellowknife and so on. So I would like you to respond to these two main questions that I have. Thank you.

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

MR. AIKEN: I would like to respond to the honourable Member, if we were not interested certainly I would not be here. Mr. Warren would not have sent a vice-president to represent Canada Post. We could have sent Gord Patterson just to say he is responsible for the area. Certainly we are concerned and commitments that Gord has made will be lived up to. In the sense of our commitment to all, you say that you are not parochial but I am hearing parochialism here. We represent the whole of Canada and on the same problems you mention the fact is people in the South have just as many complaints that we are not providing service down there, just as you have up here. So it is universal what we have to do. The universal reality of it is because the shareholder which is the government, the previous government and this government, is expecting Canada Post to live up to a particular agreement we made on a five year plan which you were speaking to. We have to meet self-sufficiency by 1986-87. So we had a five year plan and part of that plan is representation, as we call it, for all of Canada and how much money we spend on each one of the particular areas.

As I pointed out to the honourable Member from Yellowknife, Yellowknife is a top priority. Fort Smith is another one that we talked about. And there are other areas where we look at upgrading the facilities.

The second part of your question, certainly I do not believe the particular safety problem that you mentioned should be still there. It can be easily rectified. We will have to speak to the owners of the building to do something with that door. If we expand the facilities or find additional facilities within Rankin Inlet, we would have to look at what you asked for as a distribution office, which we are studying right now. Instead of the mail going to Churchill it would come through Rankin Inlet for the other six communities in the Keewatin. So that is being looked at at the present time.

In so far as coming here once a year or so, I would be very pleased to. We had very good hospitality from the group that we were with last night. We certainly enjoyed the company of all the citizens of Rankin Inlet and the NWT. I will ask Gord to see how often we visit the offices. I know we have a schedule where we are to visit all offices throughout Canada on a scheduled basis.

The 8500 offices that you stated there are basically all the communities across Canada in urban and rural areas. The complaints are no different than we hear elsewhere and that I have to corral across Canada; the complaints or the accolades and we do not get many of those. But the fact is, on what is happening in the service aspect, the facilities aspect, the transportation aspect -- what I am really saying is that we hear you. We are concerned but again on a five year plan in the budget, we have to operate within the limits we have available to us. And certainly we do not ignore citizens in the North nor do we ignore them in the South. So Gord, could you answer the second part?

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

Visits To Communities By Officials

MR. G. PATTERSON: I thank you for your welcome to Rankin. I was here a little over a year ago and I do plan to continue making it at least an annual event. I visit pretty well all of the major offices within my area and that is a portion of Alberta and the NWT, at least once a year. As far as how often the settlements are visited, and it would normally be by the zone postmaster from Yellowknife, it is an absolute minimum of once a year. I stress that is a minimum, because whenever there is a change of postmasters, a problem or some other need, he also visits the office. I would be more than happy to share the dates with you, if required. As I have mentioned previously, Rankin Inlet has been placed in the top 10 on our facilities priority list. But I stress that is for the division, not nationally. So within Alberta and within the NWT it is in the top 10 on our priority list.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to reiterate to the witnesses that I represent the constituency of Foxe Basin, three communities; Hall Beach, Pond Inlet and Igloolik. These communities have smaller facilities that they have problems with also. I think the smaller communities seem to experience more difficulty. Because of the size of the community, they cannot get properly qualified post office workers because the pay is too small. The postmasters are not taught the ins and outs of the operation of the post office. The head office is in Frobisher Bay for the Baffin Region. I wonder if maybe you could come to the communities and try to grasp the problems and try to rectify some of them.

One of the problems that we experience is that the smaller communities do not have a service of money orders. They order by c.o.d. because they cannot make out a money order, so therefore they have to pay more money. Sometimes when people order by c.o.d., the parcel arrives in Frobisher Bay and those people that live in my constituency do not have the money so that parcel is sent back. The services are very slow. For example, in Pond Inlet it is quite apparent that the air service's top priorities are passengers and freight.

Rental Rates

In some of the smaller communities, the post office facilities are in hamlet buildings. For example, in Lake Harbour they are using hamlet office buildings and they are paying \$100 a month to rent that space. That is not enough to pay for the utilities. The mail that arrives is picked up by hamlet vehicles. I therefore would like to ask if at least that rental assistance could be increased from \$100. I would like to know whether the postmaster from Frobisher Bay has the authority to do that or does the authority come from you?

There have been frequent requests to provide money order services and because of the size of the community, I understand, it has not been provided. I wonder if there is some way that that service could become available to them. Thank you.

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: Thank you. Once again I find that I am in the position of having to apologize because I do not have the in-depth knowledge of the region that is served out of Quebec. I will have to advise the honourable Member that we will have the appropriate personnel from the Quebec division communicate with him in the very near future, to deal with his specific problems. On the rental increases in the smaller offices, as we have discussed previously, there is very little flexibility on that point. Thank you.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) I wonder if you can explain why there is no room for flexibility. I do not believe that the hamlet should bear the burden of paying for rent and extra expenses for the postal services when utilities, electricity and oil and gas, for example if the rent for the post office in Hall Beach was \$150.00 a month I do not believe that the hamlet should pay \$50 out of their pocket. If you could explain to me why this is so. Thank you.

MR. AIKEN: Unfortunately you are tied to a labour contract, as I explained to you earlier, and they have representation through negotiations across the table. If they have not presented the case well for what the northern communities want, and that aspect of it, then there is not much more that we can do because we would have to apply it to the whole system. So what I will suggest is I will be taking back, to the representatives of Canadian Postmasters Association, the particular problems that have been outlined by a number of the honourable Members here and have them visit those communities to ascertain what the problems are; what the costs are on the factors of what the honourable Members are bringing up, to prorate or separate the expenses that are occurring in the various hamlets and the co-ops or whatever they may be. But that is the only answer I can give. It is across a negotiating table. All the rates, pay, etc., are done with the CPA. So, I have been caught in a conundrum here, I just cannot make commitments on the part of the crown corporation, Canada Post, without going through negotiations with the representatives of the CPA. That is it.

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

Governmental Concerns

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Aiken and his colleagues are a very popular act. I was going to provide a summary of some governmental concerns but I will put it in writing and send it to Mr. Warren, attention Mr. Aiken. However, I would just like to ask four questions. I do not expect answers but they are questions which concern the government. (1) When will Canada Post lift the moratorium on conducting surveys which would result in elevating the status of some of our post office facilities? (2) What is Canada Post's justification for continuing the practice of shipping northern mail by truck/air combinations? (3) The GNWT has brought the unfair parcel rate policy in the NWT to the attention of the Canada Post. When may we expect an affirmative change in this matter? (4) There have been problems in communicating our concerns to two senior officials of Canada Post. What steps can be taken to improve this situation? Two other questions. When will Canada Post adjust discriminatory parcel rates for the NWT to coincide with the June 24th increase? And when may we expect the appointment of an NWT resident to the Canada Post board of directors? Those questions may be answered at another time, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I assume that is agreeable with Mr. Aiken.

MR. AIKEN: Yes, it is. A number of the questions would have to be coming from the federal government. The appointment, the last question, is basically done through the government; through the chairman, the Hon. Mr. Beatty, who represents Canada Post in the cabinet. But the others, yes, we can respond back to the honourable Member in writing.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was hoping that we might run out of time because all the words I was going to say have already been mentioned. We are all living in the NWT and we all have post offices...

---Laughter

I think we have almost the same problems. At this time I do not want to point out all the major problems that my constituency is having because the other MLAs have already expressed them. There is no doubt I support what the other MLAs said. Since I am not living in their communities and since each community functions differently than the other communities in some ways sometimes, I cannot say I supported every last one of them.

The only thing I can think of is, why does it have to come this far, for the Legislative Assembly to ask Canada Post to hear these complaints? The only great thing I have in mind at this time -- and I do not think I am going to be seeking any answers -- the only thing I feel so badly about are these hamlets and co-ops and other businesses that are subsidizing Canada Post. In return Canada Post says they are subsidizing the communities for services. That I find very hard to believe. Why was that not attended to, because Canada Post has been operating for a long time? It is about time I guess they should recognize and find other means of giving better service or letting the communities handle the system a little better or the negotiations a little better.

Letter Referring To Problems

I have in front of me a letter that indicates four problems that were already mentioned. Small buildings and subsidizing. The figure is that the hamlet receives \$1211.86 per year for operating the post office. From their calculation of their power and fuel bill, one states that they have to pay \$6000 and the other \$7000. So that is a great loss for the hamlet. I believe the Canada Post at that community makes much more than \$7000, or approximately \$13,000 more. I cannot believe why they could issue stamps and handle c.o.d.'s and whatnot, if they are not making a cent out of those communities. So I guess the communities are the ones that are hurting more in dollar signs. Also it says here "The amount of time they wait for their mail" for paying for one little stamp -- the number of days they wait for their returned mail. They are saying it does not make sense. I agree with the fourth one here too. The lack of support from zone postmaster. When they recommended to the Canada Post for a proper post office, he always refers to southern Canada. Yes, the Canada Post is operating across Canada, I agree. As you mentioned, these problems are all across Canada. I always seem to believe that the NWT is not exactly like the southern towns and cities.

There was one time that something was mentioned to me that the people down south in small communities operate post offices in their homes. I have already mentioned this in my reply but I would like to bring it out again while the representatives of Canada Post are here. We, the people of the NWT, do not really have too much availability of purchasing our homes. There are a few that have their own homes but those few, if they do not wish to, will not be operating a post office in their home. It makes it harder when those people who are interested in operating their post offices already do not have enough room for their families.

So I guess the only question I would be asking is, when is the NWT problem going to be studied closely by Canada Post to try and do something so that the service would be more satisfactory to the NWT? I believe it has already been mentioned by one of the Members. So at this time I will not be asking for an answer. I am pretty sure the Canada Post representatives, like yourselves will come back and give a report or send a report, a document of some kind to the Assembly, and I will be expecting that, as a Member, and as a representative of one part of the NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Dennis Patterson.

HON. GORDON WRAY: What happened to your list, Mr. Chairman? What happened to your list?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The reason that I am allowing the honourable Member from Frobisher Bay to speak is that Mr. Gordon Wray has spoken already, that is why. Mr. Patterson.

No Inuktitut-Speaking Employees In Frobisher Bay

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to raise one concern with respect to my particular constituency which is Frobisher Bay. It is called Iqaluit, but it is the community of Frobisher Bay. I realize this is perhaps outside the direct authority of the witnesses here, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to simply draw a problem to your attention that has been a source of some concern for a long time in my constituency. The local post office is administered out of Montreal and unfortunately seems to consistently have an abundance of employees who speak French. But, even though my constituency has a majority of Inuit, many of whom only

speak Inuktitut, for some reason in the 10 years that I have been there, and I believe prior to my time, the local post office has been unable or unsuccessful in employing Inuit in the post office, notwithstanding the fact that our government employs about 50 per cent Inuit in that region. The local bank currently employs two Inuit. I would just like to simply take this opportunity to draw this problem to your attention and ask perhaps that the witnesses might use their good offices to encourage the authorities in the Quebec region to make efforts to employ persons who can speak the language of the majority of residents in that area. We are pleased that there are some who can speak French in the post office because there are Francophones in my constituency, some of whom are unilingual. But, it is always a source of embarrassment to me that the majority residents in our constituency are in effect, denied access to the employees and services of the post office in Frobisher Bay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Aiken or Mr. Patterson.

MR. G. PATTERSON: I agree with the honourable Member that it would be unfortunate, as in the case of Frobisher Bay, where a post office staff could not deal with some of the customers because of a language barrier. We do not keep any firm statistics on the number of various ethnic groups that are employed by Canada Post. From my experience within the Northwest Territories, it is well over 50 per cent. There certainly is no deliberate attempt to encourage French-speaking employees there versus those that speak the local languages. But, your concerns in this will also be passed on to the Quebec division because I do agree with you, that wherever possible we should have people that speak the local language employed in the offices.

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

Arctic Red River Problem Solved

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to indicate to the witnesses, through you, Mr. Chairman, that many of the issues as they apply to particular facilities also are prevalent in my particular constituency of the Mackenzie Delta of which Fort McPherson, Aklavik and Arctic Red River are communities. I just hope that at some time you might be able to write me a letter indicating your plans for those particular communities, so that I can make the communities aware of them as well. I believe that there have been a lot of complaints that have been, of course brought to your attention. I just want to indicate, Mr. Chairman, and the witnesses can express my appreciation to the postmaster in Inuvik, for addressing a concern in Arctic Red with regard to delivery. I am quite happy with the manner in which that situation was dealt with, just to add that particular note of appreciation. Thank you very much.

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

MR. G. PATTERSON: I would sincerely like to thank the honourable Member for the kind words. The zone postmaster in Inuvik is a most conscientious individual and he listens carefully to what people are telling him. So, consequently there are very few problems out of that area. I usually am in the Inuvik area two to three times a year and would be more than happy to sit down with you, or whatever group you wanted, in whichever settlement you choose. For Fort McPherson, I am usually in there once every year to a year and a half, and I would be quite happy to do this. I will contact you in advance of my next trip up there.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that I have vented my anger on the Canada Post officials for the first time in seven years, because I could not find anybody else to do it on, I will ask them specific questions. I will ask them all at once, Mr. Chairman, and then Mr. Patterson or the other gentleman can answer them.

Canada Post Work Survey In Keewatin

In the Keewatin Region, about two years ago a work survey -- a work survey is what Canada Post does to determine the level a post office should be at -- was done on the three major communities, Eskimo Point, Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake. The result of the work studies showed that Rankin Inlet, which was an existing semi-staff post office, should be upgraded from a grade two to a grade four post office. This was actually done. However, no additional staff were ever provided to the post office, even though the Canada Post recognized that it should be stepped up two grades. My first question would be, why?

Secondly, in Baker Lake and Eskimo Point, the work study showed that they should be moved from revenue offices to grade two semi-staff offices. Once again, nothing has ever been done. My second question again is, why?

Northern Region Office

My third question. I suppose Mr. Aiken will have to answer this one, but as usual, we in the North are caught with the federal government or Canada Post deciding that because the North is so big, we are going to deal with this out of Quebec, we are going to deal with this out of Edmonton, we are going to deal with this out of, sometimes, Manitoba, I do not know if another regional office is involved, but it gets pretty frustrating for 60 communities to attempt to deal with three regions when most of our problems are basically the same. Will Canada Post establish a northern region office to be located in the North, whose sole responsibility is looking after northern post offices? It does not have to be a big office, it is going to have to be a small office.

My next question is that in the print-out, I see that there are three classes of post offices. There is staff, semi-staff and revenue. Do there exist within Canada Post or federal DPW, criteria for facilities which say that an office, whether it is a semi-staff office or a staff office or a revenue office, has to meet certain standards? Are those criteria laid out anywhere? If they are, I would like them to be provided to this committee, Mr. Chairman.

Mandate For Providing Facilities

My fourth point and question is concerning Mr. Erkloo's comments on flexibility. I really think that Mr. Aiken has misunderstood. There are two very separate issues with regard to payments to post offices. One is to the employees, and we have been informed that somebody called the CPA looks after it. However, there is the other issue of the actual facility itself. Now these are post offices and I therefore assume that Canada Post is responsible for the cost of maintaining and operating these post offices and I fail to see why we can be told that there is no flexibility in this. Either Canada Post operates them or does not operate them. If they do not operate them then I guess what is going to have to start happening across the North, is the same thing as what is going to happen in Baker Lake in three weeks from now. The post office is closing. There will be no postal facilities available to communities, because this government is not mandated to provide facilities for Canada Post, neither are the municipalities and neither are the housing associations. I assume that Canada Post has that mandate to provide the facility. If they do not, then I would like them to tell us who does have the mandate for providing facilities and who is responsible for paying for them? So those are my questions, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. AIKEN: There seems to be a misunderstanding of what we are doing here in Canada Post and which we have been doing for the past 50 or 60 years. For the small size offices across the whole of Canada, including the NWT, the rental allowance that is provided is to rent a portion of a business or a house or whatever, and that is what they have been doing over the years. It is a contract. It is not providing a facility to a community of a size of up to about 3000 or 4000 people. We go into Yellowknife and provide a lease facility and to provide that type of thing, we pay the cost. But in the small revenue post offices, it has been a contract dealing with whoever becomes the postmaster or the agent for Canada Post. So when I say that I am flexible, the rental allowance for revenue post offices is negotiated at the table with the representatives of CPA. That is what it is. We do not provide facilities for revenue post offices in the whole of Canada. So what you are asking for us to do and I hear what you are saying, is that we change our policy. We put up a building and lease a facility and then pay the total cost. That would be tremendous, particularly dollars, on the taxpayer.

As one honourable Member said here earlier, we are still subsidized by the government up to the tune of \$200 to \$300 million per year, and it still comes out of the taxpayers' money, whatever we do in the whole of Canada. So it is not as if we are making a profit.

The other misconception I hear coming from here and I would like to straighten it out -- the only revenue we derive is through postage stamps. The c.o.d.'s that you collect at the particular offices, that money is remitted back to whoever the particular person is who sent out the merchandise. We make a small dollar on it and that is about it. It is still a loss to us, in a sense, because on all parcel post that we mail in Canada, we lose a dollar a parcel, every parcel that we deliver in the whole of Canada, not just to the NWT. So when you say that we are making money, we are not making dollars, we are losing money throughout the whole of Canada.

In the NWT and in other northern remote areas in Canada, it would cost us a higher rate to provide that service than it does in the southern parts of Canada. So I think you misunderstand, we do not provide facilities in revenue post offices, we never have. So I think you should clear that one up. It is a contract with whoever. The second part: revenue is only postage stamps and that commission that we make on money orders or c.o.d.'s. The other two parts I will ask Gord to respond back to you.

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

Additional Hours Available On Request

MR. G. PATTERSON: As to the staffing levels in Rankin Inlet, I believe the question was, why was there no increase in hours when the office was upgraded? The approach that we take with all offices, that would be the medium-sized offices such as Rankin Inlet, is that we like to retain a degree of flexibility. The postmistress here has been instructed, as have postmistresses and postmasters in similar-sized offices, that if she identifies a requirement on a given day for additional hours, to pick up the telephone and call her boss -- and in this case it would be the man in Yellowknife -- and he will authorize the extra hours. I have asked all the postmasters and that is across Alberta and the Territories, that have already raised this as a problem, to provide me with one instance where the zone postmaster has said no. And to date no one has been able to do that. So I have to believe that the hours are available upon reasonable request.

Upgrading In Baker Lake

In the case of Baker Lake and why the office was not upgraded immediately following the survey, I still had some questions in my mind as to whether or not that was indeed the correct classification level for the office and had wanted to have an additional survey conducted at the office under supervision. Now recently an agreement has been reached with the Canadian Postmasters Association at the headquarters level that no longer gives us the flexibility to call for an additional survey, as I had in mind for Baker Lake. Therefore Baker Lake will be upgraded and there is some retroactivity in the thing.

There are no plans at the present time to establish a northern area manager as such. There are some organizational plans which would see the zone postmasters or regional postmasters from Inuvik and Hay River reporting directly to the man in Yellowknife. So therefore the majority of postal problems, I would say sometime this year can be addressed through the local individual in Yellowknife, who will assume the additional responsibilities. Thank you.

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

Lease Arrangements

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a supplementary because I am even more confused now than I ever was before. I cannot understand Canada Post's statement that they have no flexibility when it comes to leasing space. Surely when they are leasing space from a private company or individual, it has to be leased on the basis of no cost to that individual. Are Canada Post telling us that they expect to lease space from a company or individual and have that person subsidize Canada Post to provide them space for free? No company that I know of which presently leases space to Canada Post, has ever negotiated or talked to anything called the CPA. They negotiate with federal DPW; that is who the negotiations take place with. The gentlemen are shaking their heads.

I negotiated with DPW the lease arrangement for Baker Lake. John Todd in Rankin Inlet negotiated the lease arrangement here with federal DPW. That is who negotiates these leases for the post office facilities. The contract comes from DPW in Winnipeg. So don't shake your heads, gentlemen. I know. That is why I am getting really confused because I am getting conflicting information. I have a feeling that what is happening is that the communities which are saying nothing, are being "you know what" and the communities who are making some noise are able to get better leases through federal DPW.

With regard to the comment of Mr. Aiken about the taxpayers subsidizing them, well the last time I looked, municipalities received their money from the territorial government and the territorial government receives its money from the taxpayer. So your taxpayer is subsidizing the post offices

anyway, because it is the municipalities and the housing associations who are providing the fuel and power for these offices. I cannot understand why Canada Post say that they will not compensate individuals, private businesses or hamlets for the use of fuel and power to operate a post office. That I just do not understand.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Aiken, would you like to respond to that?

MR. AIKEN: I will try, sir. All revenue and CPA post offices are under a labour contract. Number one, the rental allowances are in that labour contract. I do not know where you are getting the misconception from because that has been that way for the last 10 years. Now prior to that it could have been DPW negotiating leases. Maybe Gord could enlighten me, too, on what happens up here. But that is the rental allowances under the labour negotiating contract under CPA. It is a big book that thick, I will send you a copy. But that is what happens. Now I do not know where the misunderstanding is coming from, Mr. Wray, but I will check it out and make sure. Gord, can you clarify that better?

MR. G. PATTERSON: No, I really cannot.

MR. AIKEN: So we will have to meet with you afterwards. I think we had better meet with the honourable Member and clarify where he is coming from on that statement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I believe that might be a suitable arrangement. I have my little list here and that concludes the people who wanted to raise issues with Canada Post. If there are no further speakers I would like to ask the committee whether this matter is concluded. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): On behalf of the committee I would like to thank you gentlemen for appearing before our committee and addressing the concerns that were raised. We hope to see you more often in the NWT. Thank you very much for taking the time.

---Applause

Mr. Aiken.

MR. AIKEN: I would just like to respond and say we are very pleased to be here and have dialogue with the particular communities. I am aware that we do not get out often enough and that in future you will see more of Canada Post throughout the NWT and similarly through other communities that are in remote areas. Thanks very much for your attention.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee at this time? Do you wish to deal with the special committee on housing final report? Mr. Butters, do you have some ideas that you wish to suggest?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I think continue with the housing report until the end of time available to us.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Final Report Of The Special Committee On Housing

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Yesterday we left off at maintenance and repair programs, recommendation 28. I would like to remind the committee Members that as we go through these various recommendations it is only general comments that we are asking for. We are not asking for the committee to approve these recommendations that we have dealt with so far. It is basically only comments because in order to adopt these recommendations a motion is required before this committee. Recommendation 28. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I had asked a question of the Minister. He is not here. Perhaps we could proceed with the following questions and get back to that question when he returns.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Okay, we will come back to recommendation 28. Recommendation 29. Any comments? Recommendation 30. Recommendation 31. Mr. Ballantyne.

Rental Credits For Maintenance Work

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just a comment, Mr. Chairman. One of the major problems that we dealt with in the communities is that the basic level of maintenance in public housing was bad in many cases. Many people came to us and said that they are prepared to do some of the basic maintenance themselves because the housing association did not have the proper budget to do it for them, but they wanted some form of credit, whether that is a rental credit or what have you. So we think that we should encourage people to look after their own homes with some form of a rental credit. I think that you would find that the appearance and the upkeep of many of these public housing units would improve dramatically.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Recommendation 32, general comments? Recommendation 33. Recommendation 34, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Okay, I am going to make some comments on some of these. That is a very important one because the rural rehabilitation assistance program -- I know in my community and especially in many of the Dene communities, it has been impossible to get access to this particular program because there was no co-ordinator. We have had a situation where there has been money available, we have had a tremendous need in these communities to get that funding, but because there is no co-ordinator, it has been impossible to do that. I think that that is terrible and I think the Housing Corporation or this government should put some pressure on CMHC to either get a co-ordinator, or this government should take over the program themselves.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the honourable Member want to raise this issue with the Minister of Housing under recommendation 34? Mr. Curley, recommendation 34.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that recommendation is redundant because the number one recommendation has already taken care of that particular recommendation.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: (Inaudible comment)

MR. McCALLUM: That is a smart ass comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Recommendation 35. Mr. McCallum.

Programs For Senior Citizens

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, there were some comments made by Mr. Nerysoo about senior citizens housing programs which included comments that maybe we did not do enough in here regarding senior citizens housing. Under this particular section, we are talking about senior citizens repair programs, but I think that what we are trying to do here, is to get a better handle on just what is required to assist senior citizens, but there are senior citizens repair programs. That is, for people who own their own homes. Those senior citizens who live in public housing take their chances with repair with other programs. What we have asked in this recommendation 35, is that again the Minister of Health and Social Services gets together with other departments and does a kind of needs survey of the housing conditions of all NWT elders, the senior citizens, whether they are in public or private homes. In that way, we may get to know what is required here in numbers and what we can do to develop programs.

We are talking about in this area -- further to senior citizens repair programs and trying to enrich what is there now -- of trying to put everything together in one particular fund so that senior citizens do not have to keep applying to two or three different organizations or departments or what have you of either government. So, though we may not have done a great deal particular to the senior citizens, what we are trying to do is to increase the awareness of people that they do in fact require a great deal more attention. Not all, but a lot of senior citizens in their homes do require some attention. That is the gist of it and I just wanted to respond to the comments that Mr. Nerysoo had made previously in this regard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Recommendation 36. Recommendation 37. General comments? Recommendation 38. Mr. Ballantyne.

Upgrading Of Privately Owned Homes

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 38 is really a key recommendation. In many communities in the Northwest Territories, especially in the West, there are many privately owned homes that are not nearly at minimum safety or health standards and presently for assistance to them, I think there is one program that has very, very limited resources. What we are saying as a government is that there are those people who live in their own homes, and we as a government are encouraging home-ownership, so throughout the Northwest Territories, we should, at a very minimum bring privately owned homes up to some minimum basic health and safety standards. There is a reference here to Yellowknife. That does not include people in Yellowknife who have big fancy homes. There are people that live in shacks in Yellowknife. The city of Yellowknife is imposing some sewer and water standards now on a lot of people who cannot afford it. The same problem exists in many of the Dene communities. I know in the chairman's own community where people own their own homes, there are no programs to help them upgrade their homes to at least a basic health and safety standard. So I think if the Housing Corporation come to grips with this particular program or this particular idea, it is a major breakthrough in our whole attitude toward housing and home-ownership in the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Recommendation 39. The Minister of Housing is here so perhaps maybe we can go back to recommendation 28. Mr. Ballantyne, I believe you wanted to raise some concerns you have had in regard to recommendation 28.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I asked a question yesterday but if I can make a quick reference to the new chart. Yesterday under...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

Upgrading And Sale Of Northern Rental Units

MR. BALLANTYNE: I had four houses and these were actually built. During the night the Minister, I think, has bulldozed them because under the chart I have none now. Mr. Chairman, the question I asked the Minister yesterday was whether or not any thought has been given to a recommendation we made in the interim report and are making again, that there should be some sort of process whereby northern rental units can be upgraded and then sold to prospective clients at a nominal rate.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the Members because I just noticed that we have put 22 bedrooms in Mr. Ballantyne's constituency at no cost at all. I do not know how we did it but I am going to have to find out.

---Laughter

This was a question that the Member asked me last night. There have been no specific responses made because we have not yet come up with a policy. As you are aware there were a number of problems. The first line of attack that I have attempted is to try and convince CMHC to allow us to sell public housing. At the present time they do not do that and the problems occur inasmuch as that when we repair or rehab northern rental units to make them semi-livable, they then become public housing and we are not able to sell them. So the thought was, why do we not sell the northern rentals? The problem is people say "Why should we buy a northern rental which we are going to have to pay a lot of money to fix up, and it is an old and inefficient house, when we can get a new house for free?" So there has been some demand for northern rentals, and we have been able to provide people with them and assist them obtain federal loans to fix them up. We have not come to any major conclusion yet as to the best way to attack the problem. I am inclined, and I stated it in front of the special committee, I am inclined just to say to people, "It is yours for a dollar, take it and do with it what you want." But I realize, of course, that what is going to happen is that at some point in time and I suspect in the not too distant future after we do that, the same individual will be on our doorstep looking for money to fix it up because it is a bad house to live in.

So obviously if we were to go that route to sell them, we are going to have to think of some type of loan system that we could either loan to the client or else provide the housing associations with a budget to repair them before we sell them. I am not really sure yet on how we go about it.

It is something we are looking at, though, because it is to our advantage firstly, to get rid of the northern rentals out of our stock, and secondly, it also would assist our home-ownership aims greatly because there is a high number of northern rental houses in the North and it would help in that we could allocate home-ownership units to other places and to other people. But that is one of the recommendations of the interim report, and I will have, by the fall, a decision made on how we are going to tackle that one problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Now we are dealing with recommendation 40. Mr. McCallum.

GNWT Staff Housing Policy

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a comment on this particular part of the report, the five recommendations from 40 to 44, dealing with the Government of the Northwest Territories staff housing policy. I know that for some years there was a discrepancy in the standard of housing and the maintenance. I think the discrepancy has been brought together in the last few years. There is still the difficulty with the maintenance.

The other issue of course is that the government does not provide housing for all of its staff, especially in regard to local hire. The problem is not only with the Government of the Northwest Territories, but it may well be with federal government employees as well, in that public housing may be provided to federal employees. We noted as well in terms of this that there could be an opportunity here for economic development if certain things were to go ahead with these recommendations. The phasing-in of Government of the NWT initiated invitations to build accommodations could stimulate and would stimulate a private market. The other big thing, of course, is that those who need public housing would now be eligible to get the public housing. In some cases, because there is no other option than public housing, and because the housing authorities under the present system derive a great deal of their maintenance money from the rents that they collect, it is much better to have somebody in that public housing unit who has a guaranteed income, who pays a good size rent, rather than get somebody who is in there for a small amount or on welfare, where they only pay \$32. We do not believe that that is what public housing is for.

So these particular recommendations, Mr. Chairman, we believe will go a long way to settling that discrepancy, that everybody would get the same. And then finally we are asking the Executive Council to complete a review of its staff accommodation policy that was talked about at, I think, the November session or the fall session, and again during the budget session, of addressing and correcting the rates charged for leased accommodation and that employees living in staff accommodation be allocated houses more consistent with what they really are eligible for. So, just with those brief comments, Mr. Chairman, I just want to give an idea of what we were trying to do with these five recommendations. Thank you.

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

Danger Of Displacing Long-Term Residents

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is just one point that I wanted to make about this, and I think in principle I understand what the committee is recommending here. One thing that does concern me a little bit is that when I look at some of the government employees living in public housing in my constituency, I see that they are permanent residents of the community who are never going to leave the community. They were born there and whether they work for the government or not, they will continue to live in Iqaluit.

One concern that I have about moving everybody who works for the government out of public housing is that if they should no longer work for the government for whatever reason, then they have got a month to find new accommodation or perhaps a couple of months if the employer is a bit generous. Because when you work for the government your housing goes with your job. So I think that while the recommendation in principle is very good and I understand full well that there are I believe over 60 people in my constituency who work for the government who are living in public housing and should be either building their own houses, which I think would be ideal, or in some cases should be living in staff housing, I think it has to be handled rather carefully lest we find that we are displacing long-term residents and depriving them of housing. All too often I find that in my constituency, public housing, for whatever reason, is going to people who as we say sometimes have just gotten off the plane. I would hate to see basically transient people occupying public housing

when the permanent residents might be out on the street if they are not so fortunate as to keep their government job indefinitely. I just want to mention that point and leave it at that because I see the recommendation talks about a reasonable target. I am just saying it has to be implemented with caution. Thank you.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do share the same concerns Dennis has. I had one example that happened in my constituency. In Coral Harbour just because a person had joined the government, he was asked to leave the Housing Corporation rental unit. That was difficult because they had got used to the house and as well they really did not have long-term security and though they joined another job, there was no real security in the job. So that was the concern. I think we have to treat it with respect and I am sure my colleagues will consider that carefully before establishing a policy.

Motion To Report Progress, Carried

In view of that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we report progress because there is an opening right at 6:00 p.m. for a new hostel and all Members and Executive Members have been asked to take part. So I will move that we report progress at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): It is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall report progress.

MR. McCALLUM: Order. Was the motion to report progress in the committee of the whole and then bring the Speaker back in? Or are you simply recessing this committee of the whole? Are we going to come into regular orders of the day tomorrow?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We are reporting progress as usual and I am reporting progress to the Speaker as you have indicated.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF APPEARANCE OF TUNGAVIK FEDERATION OF NUNAVUT WITNESS;
APPEARANCE OF CANADA POST WITNESSES; FINAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Canada Post witnesses and the Tungavik Federation witness, and wishes to report these matters concluded. Your committee also considered the Final Report of the Special Committee on Housing and wishes to report progress.

Motion To Accept Report Of The Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have unanimous consent to recess this House until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning? I take the position that I will put the chairman back into the chair so that you can continue tomorrow's operation at the point you are leaving off today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a point of order I wanted to seek unanimous consent to return to tabling of documents. I did not table a document that I had committed myself to tabling today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

REVERT TO ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 20-85(2), An Act to Amend and Repeal Certain Acts Having Regard to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Now do I have unanimous consent to set the hours of sitting tomorrow starting at 9:30 a.m.?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? We will resolve into committee of the whole with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-85(2), INTERPRETATION ACT; BILL 4-85(2), LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACT; REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING; BILL 6-85(2), MENTAL HEALTH ACT; BILL 10-85(2), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 4, 1985-85; BILL 11-85(2), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 1, 1985-86; BILL 5-85(2), LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIRING ALLOWANCES ACT

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will come back to order. We will recess until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

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