



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 4th.

Item 2, Members' replies.

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

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 140-86(1): Clean-Up Of PCBs At DEWline Sites

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader and it is with regard to the DEWline sites in the Northwest Territories. I know last year there was some concern over the PCBs and I am just wondering whether there was ever any clean-up done at the DEWline sites regarding PCBs.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, with respect to that question I am generally aware that there has been some work this past summer concerning the replacement or removal of PCBs from a number of sites in the Arctic. I do not have all the details at my fingertips at the moment but I would be pleased to undertake to provide to the Member details of the work done thus far during the session in the form of a written letter to the Member, if that would be satisfactory.

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

Question 141-86(1): Priority For Use Of Former Nursing Station, Hall Beach

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health, the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin. I believe they are constructing a new hospital in Hall Beach and I believe the older hospital or nursing station will no longer be used once this new construction is completed. I know the housing association and education committee are seeking this building once it is not in use. I also know that some government department may want this building. I would like to know if the local organizations would be given priority once it is no longer used as the nursing station.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 141-86(1): Priority For Use Of Former Nursing Station, Hall Beach

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal nursing stations that are being replaced in various communities in the Northwest Territories with newer facilities are in most cases fairly soundly constructed and most often they are being replaced because they are no longer of adequate size. Our government is interested in acquiring those facilities to help out our government and local governments performing their programs.

So the procedure is that if any community groups wish to use the building, they should advise whichever territorial Minister is responsible for their program and they should also advise the Hon. Gordon Wray, Minister of Public Works, because it is the duty of the Department of Public Works to purchase those buildings when there is a local government or a territorial government need for those facilities. So if the Member wants to have a community group have that building made available to them, Mr. Speaker, they just have to direct their inquiry to whichever territorial Minister is responsible, and also let the Hon. Gordon Wray know that there is determination that the building is required by somebody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 142-86(1): Circumstances Re Minister's Early Knowledge Of Shareholders

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. Earlier the Minister had indicated that at one point he saw an extensive list of shareholders in Iligiittut Limited but that he could not remember precisely when he had seen it, although he indicated that it was some time ago, which caused the memory lapse, certainly in the first half or near the first half of 1985. Could I ask the Minister then if he can tell the House who it was that showed the list to him and whether it was in a formal or informal circumstance? What assurances were given at that time that that was indeed a list of shareholders rather than a list of prospective shareholders?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 142-86(1): Circumstances Re Minister's Early Knowledge Of Shareholders

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The list, as I remember correctly was part of a package of documents which had been prepared for the FMB so it was, if you want to call it, a formal list. As to the exact date there is no way I can tell when I first saw this list. FMB documents are prepared for our perusal and it was anywhere within a two week period when I happened to pick up my FMB books to read through the material that was provided to me. It was, however, in the latter part of July. That much I know because I know when the FMB meeting took place so it was in the latter part of July. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 142-86(1): Circumstances Re Minister's Early Knowledge Of Shareholders

MR. MacQUARRIE: Could I simply ask the Minister that when he saw it did he take it to be a list of shareholders or of prospective shareholders? He had said in the record that it was a list of shareholders. There is a difference to my mind.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 142-86(1): Circumstances Re Minister's Early Knowledge Of Shareholders

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I took it to be a list of shareholders. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 143-86(1): Leasing Contracts Subject To Regulations Under Act

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. It has been stated that there is no detailed policy governing leasing contracts in the NWT. But I would ask

the Minister of Justice whether nevertheless it is true that leasing done by our government is subject to the law as expressed in government contract regulations promulgated under the Financial Administration Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 143-86(1): Leasing Contracts Subject To Regulations Under Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, leasing done by this government is subject to those regulations.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 144-86(1): Funding For Equipment For Research On Ice

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. Yesterday I tabled a document on the Arctic research establishment in Pond Inlet. They are asking if some funding could be made available. The sum would be about \$190,000. Could this be made available to them? There are eight people from other communities who are training in Pond Inlet and they are going to have to have some equipment once they get back to their own community. I wonder if you can tell me if you are going to do anything about their request for funding? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The training that is under way in Pond Inlet at the moment is being sponsored by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. I have recently been approached by the Science Institute of the NWT, along with the Department of Economic Development, to see if we could indeed provide equipment to enable the trainees to continue ice monitoring work once the training is complete. I am not able to give an answer today on what will be done since we are working with the Department of Economic Development. So I will take the question as notice and try to give the Member a reply before the end of this session. Thank you.

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

The Chair would like to recognize in the gallery, Mr. Simon de Jong, the NDP Member for Regina East. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

Oral questions. Mr. McCallum.

Question 145-86(1): Proposed New Formula For Staffing Schools

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. I think back last week the Minister announced, in a reply to questions another Member and I had asked, about the pupil/teacher formula in schools to be put into place for this coming school year. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to me now whether in fact there is a new pupil/teacher formula for schools; whether there is a difference between elementary, junior high and senior high. Are administrative personnel included in the pupil/teacher ratio and are special needs teachers included in the ratio?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 99-86(1): Inclusion Of Administration In Student/Teacher Ratio; And To Question 145-86(1): Proposed New Formula For Staffing Schools

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I told the House earlier this session, Mr. Speaker, I am proposing a new staffing formula aimed at achieving equity in staffing levels in all schools in all parts of the Northwest Territories. The formula has yet to be approved by the Executive Council, so I am not prepared today to give details on it, although I expect to have it approved shortly and I will provide the House with the details once they are approved.

Mr. Speaker, I have prepared a return today on the matter of administration as a factor in the staffing formula which I could read now in reply to the Member's question, since I believe I had perhaps erred in response to the Member's question earlier about whether or not administration is included in the proposed formula. I replied on February 26th that administration had not been factored in because it is a consistent requirement in every school. I would like to clarify that response.

Administration is a consistent requirement in every school in the sense that regardless of the size or grade levels of a school, there is a need for someone to administer the school and to supervise staff and programs. The administrative requirement in each school, though, is not the same. A little one or two classroom school has much different requirements than does a large school. Similarly an elementary school has different requirements than does a high school.

The staffing formula I am proposing does take into consideration administration needs, in the same way as it does consider other special needs of each school, by ensuring the formula is as generous as is possible, so that the superintendent responsible can accommodate all requirements of a good school within the staff allocation. Administration costs for schools will not be above and beyond the formula. It will be included.

I would like to clarify another point in further answer to the Member. The purpose of the staffing formula is to ensure that existing teacher and classroom assistant positions are distributed equitably across the Territories. The formula will not suggest that what we have is ideal or that it meets every need but only ensures that every child in school has equal opportunity and equal access to resources available no matter where they might live. I am not proposing to add teacher or classroom assistant positions to our system at this time nor am I taking away teacher positions. The total numbers will remain the same. It would be wonderful if, ensuring equity of resources, we could raise everyone to the level of the wealthiest, but we all know that is not possible. Spreading the resources equally does mean that those who are presently overstaffed, relative to others, will lose some staff. Those who presently have the least will gain. In order to ease the pain for those who must take the greatest cuts I am prepared to consider a two year maximum for trimming back in the most extreme situations. At the same time, if we do that it will mean that those with fewer staff will have to wait for an equally long period. The goal is to make the most possible changes effective September, 1986.

I would like to, in further answer to the Member, assure him that special education needs will be considered on an individual basis, that is according to the individual program required by each student according to an individual education plan. Secondly, special programs such as kindergarten, which is a half-time program, and the community occupations program and the senior practical program will also be recognized in the new proposed formula. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. This appears to conclude oral questions for today. Yes, Mr. Sibbeston. Item 5, written questions. Are there any written questions for today? Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM 5: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 146-86(1): Iligiittut Ltd. Contract

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister responsible for Personnel. In the matter of the contract with Iligiittut Limited to provide leased accommodation in Rankin Inlet, I would appreciate documented answers to the following questions:

- 1) Who identified the need for staff accommodation in Rankin Inlet? Precisely when?
- 2) Who transmitted this need to the attention of the highest officials in the Department of Personnel? Precisely when?
- 3) Precisely when did the Department of Personnel receive confirmation from the FMB/Executive Council that the need was valid and that the department should proceed to satisfy it?
- 4) Precisely when did the Department of Personnel receive a specific proposal to address the need from Iligiittut Limited, or from individuals who would later form that company? Who was the person, or people, who submitted the proposal, and were they acting as individuals or as representatives of an already incorporated company? In what form was the submission presented?
- 5) How did those who made the proposal know what the government's needs were, if these needs had not been advertised?

- 6) What decisions and actions did the Department of Personnel then take in respect of the proposal? Was it discussed, or merely transmitted to the Department of Public Works? Were modifications suggested? If so, what were these and with what results?
- 7) Precisely when did the Department of Personnel recommend the initial proposal, or a modified proposal, to the FMB/Executive Council?
- 8) Precisely what justification did the Department of Personnel give to the FMB/Executive Council for setting aside the general provisions of the law with respect to contracts and instead, accepting this unsolicited proposal? And precisely what evidence did it produce to support its justification?
- 9) Did this project appear in the Keewatin's capital plan? If not, why not?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Written questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 147-86(1): Iligiittut Ltd. Proposal

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Finance in his capacity as chairman of the Financial Management Board. In the matter of the contract with Iligiittut Limited to provide leased accommodation in Rankin Inlet, I would appreciate documented answers to the following questions:

- 1) What department and which Minister first brought the Iligiittut proposal to the FMB/Executive Council? Precisely when? In what form was the proposal submitted?
- 2) What justification, and what evidence to support the justification, was presented by that Minister in order to persuade the FMB/Executive Council to set aside the general provisions of the law with respect to contracts and instead, to accept the unsolicited proposal?
- 3) What decisions and/or actions did the FMB/Executive Council then take in respect to the proposal? Was it thereupon accepted? Was it returned for further modification? If so, what modifications were required and with what result?
- 4) At the point at which the FMB/Executive Council accepted the proposal, with what arguments did it satisfy itself that it was "in the best interests of the Territories" to dispense with the general provisions of the law respecting contracts?
- 5) Precisely when did the FMB/Executive Council accept the proposal?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Written questions. That appears to conclude written questions for today. Item 6, returns. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 102-86(1): Need For Leased Accommodation, Rankin Inlet, Brought To Executive Council; Further Return To Question 131-86(1): Response To Question Re Leased Accommodation In Rankin; And Return To Question 133-86(1): Response To Question Re Minister's Awareness Of Iligiittut Ltd. Proposal

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I have returns to oral Question 102-86(1), asked on February 27th, oral Question 131-86(1) and oral Question 133-86(1), asked March 3rd. These answers are in respect to negotiations for staff accommodation in Rankin Inlet. In order to answer the questions raised by the Member for Yellowknife Centre and to fully inform all Members of the House with regard to the provision of staff accommodation in Rankin Inlet, a chronological review of the project is in order. For greater clarity, I have placed these events in point form.

- 1) April 22, 1985: Proposal for construction and rental of a 23 unit apartment complex was received by the Keewatin regional director from Sanajit (1980) Limited of Rankin Inlet, acting for a new company to be formed for this project.
- 2) April 25, 1985: Proposal transmitted to the Department of Public Works, with information provided by the regional director of the Keewatin to the effect that 35 government staff members were then occupying housing association units and that 11 additional employees were on the waiting list for accommodation.
- 3) April 30, 1985: Regional director of the Keewatin acknowledged receipt of proposal to president of Sanajit (1980) Limited and confirmed the housing requirement.
- 4) May 16, 1985: The proposal was referred by the Minister of Public Works and Housing, Mr. Gordon Wray, to the Commissioner as the Executive member responsible for Personnel, noting that it was Personnel's responsibility to establish need, and further that if negotiations were to be entered into, a reduction in the proposed rental rate should be sought and a review of lay-out plans carried out.

5) June 7, 1985: During the Legislative Assembly session in Rankin, at the request of five Keewatin residents who were in the process of forming a company and who had advanced the apartment proposal, the Commissioner, Mr. Parker, met with the group to learn further details of the project. One of the points advanced was that the proposal involved Keewatin residents from several communities and that this project would result in the establishment of a viable company with benefits, if they were successful, accruing to residents and not to an "outside" corporation. The Commissioner confirmed the urgent staff housing requirements and recommended that the base of participation in the company be as broad as reasonably possible. As well, he advised that hard negotiations would have to take place with regard to the rental rates and design.

6) July 19, 1985: Correspondence from the secretary treasurer of Iligiittut Limited, the company being incorporated, advising names of directors and nine shareholders.

7) August 1, 1985: The Executive Council decision to negotiate a lease arrangement with Iligiittut Limited of Rankin Inlet for provision of a 23 unit apartment complex. The project was referred to the Financial Management Board for detailed examination of funding considerations. Among the points considered by the Executive Council was the urgent need for staff housing units, and that through negotiations with the proponent, materials could be shipped by sealift to Rankin in 1985, that a business opportunity would be provided to Keewatin residents and that since this proposal would meet only part of the housing requirements, further needs could be met through negotiations with other proponents or through a proposal call.

8) August 15, 1985: The Financial Management Board gave approval in principle to enter into a lease agreement, subject to completion of satisfactory negotiations.

9) August 22, 1985: The president of Iligiittut was advised officially of acceptance of proposal under specific terms and conditions.

It is expected that this project will result in a provision of much-needed staff accommodation by a company whose shareholders are Inuit residents of the Keewatin. Business experience and knowledge of company operations will be gained by shareholders and directors of the company through this project. The cost per square foot to government will fall within the range of costs established for provision of rental accommodation in other centres, such as Cambridge Bay and Frobisher Bay.

I have been informed that the government has not received any other proposals for the provision of staff accommodation in Rankin Inlet. This project is in compliance with the government contract regulations under the Financial Administration Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Returns. Mr. McLaughlin.

Return To Question 110-86(1): Transfer Of Health And Welfare Canada Programs

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written Question 110-86(1), asked by Mr. Gargan on February 27, 1986. In reply to the question from the honourable Member for Deh Cho, on health transfer, the following information is provided:

- 1) All remaining health programs are being transferred as per the definition of health services in the draft agreement in principle attached.
- 2) Additional person years allocated to the transfer are: One person year, deputy minister level for one year, 1986-87;
- 3) The transfer has the written and verbal support of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and Inuit organizations of the Northwest Territories. Various other residents have voiced support but we hope to receive written support from the other organizations in the near future. This Legislative Assembly, in prior years, has passed resolutions calling for the transfer of health services as well.
- 4) There are no plans for any program elimination upon transfer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

Point Of Privilege

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to read in a headline in the News/North last Friday, that I had been accused of patronage by the honourable Member opposite. I believe that no such accusation has been made by the honourable Member. The article then proceeds to quote Mr. MacQuarrie as saying that a preference had been given by the government to a company in Rankin Inlet. This article has sensationalized the issues discussed in this House by equating the word "preference" with the word "patronage". They are not the same thing. "Preference" is defined in Webster's Dictionary, to mean "a power or opportunity of choosing". "Patronage" is defined in the same dictionary, to mean "the right to appoint to government jobs and control of political appointments."

The need for the development of local business experience and expertise has often been discussed in this House and in the public media and I believe that it has generally been agreed that this government must do everything possible to encourage local businesses to participate fully in the northern economy. When Ministers or the Executive of this government exercise a power or opportunity of choosing, they are doing the work which they were elected to do. Allegations of patronage carry with them negative connotations because of heavy media coverage of federal government appointments. No such issue arises here. In negotiating a leasing arrangement in Rankin Inlet, this government was not engaged in patronage. We have chosen to advance the development of local businesses by meeting a publicly recognized need for regional improvements in business opportunities.

The news report was misleading and, in my view, unfair, Mr. Speaker, as among other things, I as a Minister of this government do not have the sole authority to negotiate any lease whatsoever. Only the Executive Council has that prerogative. Such journalism benefits no one and I would therefore call on News/North to retract this misleading headline. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Your point of privilege has been noted. If you wish to carry the matter further, it will have to be done by way of motion to activate action against the motion. However, your point is a point of privilege and it is so noted in this House. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give the News/North a chance to correct the mistake before I proceed with any further action. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 126-86(1): Renovation Costs On Mr. Vic Irving's House

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, these are returns to two questions asked by Ms Nellie Cournoyea, Member for Nunakput. The first is in respect of Question 126-86(1) on February 28th, regarding the renovation costs on Mr. Irving's house: The Department of Public Works and Highways advises that some minor upgrading of the insulation was done on the Irving home at a cost of \$460.

Return To Question 109-86(1): Buy-Back Of Mr. Irving's House

The second is with respect to the buy-back of Mr. Irving's house: The Government of the Northwest Territories has purchased the Irving house at a cost \$180,393.80. The purchase price of the home was \$180,000 and the additional \$393.80 represents fees, disbursements, etc.

Funding to purchase the Irving home was approved by the FMB on February 10, 1986. The house was listed for sale with a local real estate firm at the time the decision was made to purchase it. Based upon its appraised value of \$168,000 and its cost of reproduction, estimated to be \$193,000, the Irvings had listed it at \$185,000. Several offers had been received from qualified prospective buyers ranging from \$168,000 to \$175,000 and it is the opinion of the listing realtor that these offers could and would have been negotiated significantly higher.

A recent check with the major real estate firms in Yellowknife indicates that the prices of average homes in Yellowknife have increased by 60 to 65 per cent from 1981 to 1986. Applying this rate of increase to the 1981 value of \$102,000 of the Irving house yields a 1986 value approaching \$170,000. Taking into account the fact that the Irving home is certainly better and larger than average, the Government of the Northwest Territories offer of \$180,000 is appropriate and consistent with the price the Irvings could expect to have received had they advanced counter offers to the prospective private purchasers their listing had attracted.

The Irvings purchased their home from the Government of the Northwest Territories for \$88,682.03. This price was calculated as follows: Appraised value of \$102,000. From this amount there was taken off \$7000 for improvements effected by the Irvings at their expense. There was also \$3000 taken off for the reduction of the lot size. A reduction of \$10,000, making the adjusted value of the house \$92,000. There was also taken off three per cent as credit for years of service as per the GNWT sale of staff housing policy, reducing this amount by a further \$2760. So the purchase price was \$89,240. There was a small adjustment for the annual property tax. So making the eventual price paid by the Irvings at the time, I believe in 1981, of \$88,682.03.

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

Return To Question 127-86(1): Territorial Government Houses

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, one final return to Question 127-86(1), asked by Ms Cournoyea on February 28th, regarding territorial government houses:

The Government of the Northwest Territories currently has one unit on the staff accommodation inventory which is leased from an employee. This is a three bedroom detached house in Edzo. The house is leased for a two year period from November 1, 1985.

Following is a list of employees from whom the GNWT has purchased homes: In 1982-83: Worley, Fort Simpson, \$65,000; McGregor, Fort Simpson, \$42,000; Gauthier, Fort Simpson, \$66,356.

In 1983-84: Shelton, Inuvik, \$95,000; Crossley, Yellowknife, \$41,259.

In 1984-85: Monaghan, Yellowknife, \$112,763; Tuckey, Fort Smith, \$34,200; Dube, Fort Smith, \$37,700; Barnie, Frobisher Bay, \$124,170.

In 1985-86: McKee, Fort Liard, \$60,300; Armstrong, Fort Simpson, \$63,000; Haggett, Yellowknife, \$64,008; Burrill, Fort Smith, \$92,000; Napier, Fort Smith, \$29,250; Irving, Yellowknife, \$180,393.80. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns. That appears to conclude returns for today.

Item 7, petitions. Are there any petitions for today?

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

I wish to advise the House that in accordance with section 23(4) of the Northwest Territories Act I have laid on the table Tabled Document 34-86(1), the Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly on Any Other Matter for the Year Ended March 31, 1985. Are there any other reports for tabling today? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 35-86(1): Tungavik Federation of Nunavut Response to Concerns Raised in the Assembly Respecting the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements Provisions of an Agreement in Principle, open letter to the people of the Northwest Territories, March 4, 1986. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table copies of three letters as a single tabled document, Tabled Document 36-86(1). It is with the permission of the author of two of them. A letter from Mr. Vincent W. Dixon, marketing manager, Arctic Star Distributors Limited to the Hon. Gordon Wray, March 11, 1985; from the Hon. Gordon Wray, April 15, 1985 to Mr. Vince Dixon; and the third one from Mr. Vince Dixon to the Hon. Gordon Wray dated May 1, 1985.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. This appears to conclude tabling of documents for today. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 16-86(1): Workers' Compensation Board Appointments

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Thursday, March 6, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly recommend the appointment of Michael Moore for a three year term as chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board; and further, that John Koyczan, Steve McAlpine, Charlie Evalik and Joanne Allison be recommended for appointment for terms of two years; and further, that Robert McLeod and Moseesie Koonoo be recommended for appointment of terms of one year; and further, that Dale Johnston be recommended for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board for a term of two years. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion today. Thank you.

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

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to proceed with the motion that I just gave notice of. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought to proceed with a motion on the Workers' Compensation Board. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. McLaughlin. You have unanimous consent.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 16-86(1): Workers' Compensation Board Appointments, Carried

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS certain vacancies have occurred on the NWT Workers' Compensation Board and it is desirable to fill these vacancies;

AND WHEREAS the Workers' Compensation Act requires that these vacancies be filled on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly recommend the appointment of Michael Moore for a three year term as chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board;

AND FURTHER, that John Koyczan, Steve McAlpine, Charlie Evalik and Joanne Allison be recommended for appointment for terms of two years;

AND FURTHER, that Robert McLeod and Moseesie Koonoo be recommended for appointment of terms of one year;

AND FURTHER, that Dale Johnston be recommended for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board for a term of two years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The seconder for that motion.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Pudluk.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. Do you wish to speak to it?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, very briefly, Mr. Speaker, thank you. There are many organizations in the NWT that wanted to have appointments made to the board. There are also many nominations from individuals and MLAs throughout the NWT, to make sure that all regions were represented, which is one of the things this Assembly wanted done on the board. I think that in making these nominations to the Assembly the objectives of having all regions represented and all the major interests amongst both the owners of companies and the workers of different areas of employment in the NWT have been met. I would also like to add, Mr. Speaker, especially since the gentleman is in the

House now, Mr. John MacLean, the former chairman of the board, even though he was in ill health for a time and was unable to continue as chairman, has agreed to stay on the board to give advice to the board. I am hoping he will continue for a period of time to give advice to the new board at its first couple of meetings. I would like, on behalf of the Assembly and the board members, to thank Mr. MacLean very much for the service he still is rendering to the board. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Pudluk, as seconder do you wish to speak to this motion?

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I am ready for the question.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Question has been called. Do you wish to summarize, Mr. McLaughlin?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: No, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Let the record indicate that the vote was unanimous.

---Carried

Item 12, motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1-86(1), Appropriation Act, 1986-87; Bill 2-86(1), Income Tax Act; and Bill 3-86(1), Institute of Chartered Accountants Act, with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-86(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1986-87

Workers' Compensation Board

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with the Workers' Compensation Board. Does the Minister wish to invite the witnesses before the committee?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the committee's permission to bring in Mr. Moore, the chairman of the board, and Mr. Roberts, executive director, as witnesses.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a concern that I would like to perhaps express at this time. It is with regard to people that are on compensation because of accidents that occur on the job. One of the problems that I have encountered with people from my constituency is that because Fort Providence does not have a doctor or a specialized doctor, most of the people that come from there, who are on compensation, have to go down to either Hay River or to Yellowknife for specialized treatment. In most cases these people encounter difficulty with the Workers' Compensation Board because they do not cover the transportation, nor their accommodations or meals, while they are in Yellowknife or Hay River for treatment. I just wanted to get some clarification on what is the government's policy or what is the Workers' Compensation Board policy affecting that particular issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure of the exact amounts but I believe the Workers' Compensation Board does provide for travel and accommodation. It is in the regulations. Maybe I will ask Mr. Roberts just to read the pertinent section.

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

MR. ROBERTS: Where workers are required to undergo medical treatment at a centre other than their home, the transportation costs are paid. If they use their own vehicle, they will get 16 cents a kilometre. And in addition to that, they will receive a subsistence allowance at the rate of \$60 per day to cover meals and accommodation.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I guess this is one area that -- I just wanted to refer to a gentleman, his name is John Silverthorn. When his case first came up, because the nurses in Fort Providence were reluctant to make appointments for him with the doctors here, he paid for his transportation up here and was not able to afford to stay here, so he went back to Providence. And every second day he was providing his transportation here to Yellowknife. When he approached the Workers' Compensation Board for assistance, they told him, because he was not working, to go and see Social Services for the help he needs for accommodation. John could not go that route either because he was getting compensation for not being at work and as long as that occurs, he was not going to get any type of social assistance. But I would like to think that the Workers' Compensation Board would make clients like that aware that there are such benefits and that they have the courtesy to let people know that that is a policy that they could utilize if there are no other avenues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, we will look into this particular case for the Member, but it sounds to me as if this particular person might have been receiving unemployment insurance benefits. Workers' compensation is to cover people who are injured on the job, and when an injury occurs, that injury is reported to the Workers' Compensation Board when it happens and then any follow-up medical treatment pertaining specifically to that injury is what is covered by the Workers' Compensation Board. So only if the medical treatment or requirements are specifically related to that injury, is the Workers' Compensation Board involved. And the people that are on workers' compensation merely have to approach the Yellowknife office in order to get that taken care of. But it only covers a person if he is under treatment for an injury recognized by the Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to set the record straight. This individual was on workers' compensation for an accident that he incurred while working in Baker Lake. So, he was on compensation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Investment Of WCB Funds In The North

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Richard quoted from a letter that the Minister sent to Members of the standing committee on finance, in response to the query about what could be done about investment of the funds in the North. The recommendation of the standing committee on finance was that we might have the board report to the Assembly on it. I wonder if the Minister would then table that letter in this committee to meet the request of the standing committee on finance.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can have that letter copied and tabled during committee as soon as possible.

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) I would like to ask the Minister -- the hunters do not know where to pay their insurance. And I myself do not know as to where they can pay for their insurance. Do they pay their insurance to the game officer or do they pay their insurance to the GNWT agent? Which one would be the appropriate person to receive their insurance fees? Thank you.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The game officers in the various regions and area offices apparently have been sent the information and when a person makes a payment, it is to be made directly to the Workers' Compensation Board. Apparently the necessary forms are also supposed to be available in the renewable resources offices but we will make doubly sure that the forms are in place and that the game officers in Mr. Pedersen's department are aware of the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments. There are no further general comments. Does the committee agree that the Workers' Compensation Board is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses for appearing before us.

Department Of Social Services

We will now deal with the Department of Social Services. It is on page 15.03 on your main estimates book. I would like to ask the Minister if he wishes to make opening remarks at this time.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During 1985-86, the department had a busy and challenging year. This was due to increases in investigations of sexual abuse cases; increased activity in dealing with spousal assault cases; a larger than anticipated number of young offenders were given larger than anticipated sentences in open or secure custody; there was continued overcrowding in the correctional centres, primarily due to the late occupation of the Baffin regional facility and renovations to Yellowknife Correctional Centre and the fact that we had to use existing correctional centres to hold young offenders on remand. There was a significant increase in social assistance expenditures, increased demand for alcohol and drug programs in the communities...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: The Department of Social Services main estimates reflect a total increase of four per cent from last year. New program initiatives include spousal assault, \$1,630,000 and one person year for a co-ordinator. Youth initiatives are \$200,000 and two person years to develop and deliver programs for youth.

In priority funding, to enhance training programs, there is \$350,000. We will contract training activities in the regions to assist staff to deal with social problems. In community development we have \$65,000 and information packages are currently being developed for community use in determining the extent to which they wish to become involved in delivering social services.

The department will be endeavouring to meet the increasing demand for services at the community level by funding the following new positions. In the Inuvik Region: a full-time regional community corrections worker; in Norman Wells, a full-time social worker. In the Kitikmeot Region: a part-time social worker for Holman Island; a part-time social worker for Pelly Bay; a full-time Cambridge Bay administrative officer. In the Keewatin: a part-time social worker for Coral Harbour. In the Baffin: a full-time social worker for Pangnirtung; in Hall Beach, a part-time social worker; and in Repulse Bay, a part-time social worker.

With those brief opening comments, Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to ask in my witnesses now. The acting deputy minister, Blair Dunbar and the finance officer, Dave Waddell, as well.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Community-Based Programs To Help Potential Young Offenders

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding our Young Offenders Act and our young people it seems that we are always extending Yellowknife and Hay River correctional centres and not too much emphasis is put on treatment for our young people. Unless we have a proper treatment centre to deal with our young people whose lives are confused for whatever reason, home break-up, abuse of drugs and alcohol, we will constantly be extending Yellowknife and Hay River correctional centres. When I say treatment centre, when I talk about treatment especially at the community level, we need professional people sometimes to deal with these people, our young people, and in many cases the feedback that I get is that we have to wait until they commit a crime -- although we recognize that there is a drinking problem, we have to wait until they commit a crime. Many times when they commit a crime it is too late. Usually they get killed or hurt somebody else or themselves and that does not seem to solve any problems, just waiting for the next one to happen. There must be something that could be done. If we could find professional people maybe we could set up something to deal with this especially at the community level.

Another thing that I find hard in our budget is that because we do not have proper treatment centres -- we do not necessarily have to call them treatment centres -- to deal with these young people we have to send a lot of them south at \$200 a day. That money could be used in the Territories for more meaningful treatment. The problem is not getting any better. It is getting worse. I really do not know what the answer is but all I know is that there is more extension to our correctional centres and not too much emphasis put on treatment. Mahsi cho.

One other question I have is under the objectives for the correctional service, to develop and implement community residential correction programs. What does this involve?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to the Member's initial general comment, I sympathize with everything the Member said and really thank her for basically the support our department needs for its programs. We are in a situation where we need better programs in Social Services to deal with young offenders and the program money is still being negotiated with the Solicitor General. We are hoping to have more community-based programs on the Young Offenders Act in the future.

On the matter of the Member mentioning that youth had to be sentenced or commit a crime before anything was done, we do still have the Child Welfare Act in place and under family and children's services, on the advice of parents, relatives or friends, our social workers still do apprehend children who seem to be in need of care. We do have programs with child care workers in the NWT to take care of the children which we apprehend on our own. For those who come to us under the Young Offenders Act we have available in place now a psychologist, a child care worker and a social worker which are a team just recently put into place which will help us not only with the family and children's services side of it but also with youth who are taken in under the Young Offenders Act as well. This will be an assessment team. When these youth are first sentenced or held in remand this will be the opportunity for the assessment team to deal with these children's problems. In addition, the correctional centre will have a psychologist on staff shortly. We have hired a person and we are just waiting for him to move up here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Community Residential Correction Programs

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. In answer to Mrs. Lawrence's final point there, in the area of community corrections we are approaching established groups in communities that have a good track record of running programs to purchase bed space for those who can serve a portion of their sentence under supervision in the home community. We hope soon to be offering the judges the opportunity to sentence children to a good program in their own community.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find it hard to accept what the Minister is saying. He makes it sound like it is very easy to deal with these young people. It is not that easy to deal with it. It is more complicated than he makes it sound because unless someone in an average family knows the system, they will not be able to use the system. Otherwise forget it, because the first thing they are going to tell you is that they cannot deal with your child because she or he has not committed a crime. Furthermore, you have to pay \$200 a day and none of us that are sitting here as regular MLAs make \$200 a day. Therefore, you are put in a spot and out of pure frustration you have to leave the system and let your child wander the streets to the point where they do not fit in anywhere and end up in the correctional centre. If you keep at them, threaten a little bit, you will get the service provided to you. Otherwise it is very, very complicated to have our young people get help.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I hope I did not make Members think it is a fairly uncomplicated problem. The Young Offenders Act has probably occupied 20 or 25 per cent of my time as a Minister in the various problems we have had with funding and facilities in the program. Also involved is Mr. Ballantyne with the Department of Justice, because his court and police system is involved with the charging and sentencing of young offenders.

The \$200 a day mentioned by the Member is our cost but in some cases parents volunteer to put their children into our facilities even though they have not been charged. When that occurs we charge parents on a per diem basis based on what they can pay, not the actual cost. So that people who have no source of income or are on social assistance would not be charged anything, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments. If there are no further general comments, does the committee agree we go into the budget detail?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Well, half of the committee is sleeping. That is the reason why I do not know what direction you people want. General comments. Mr. T'Seleie.

Services For The Aged

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I have concerns with Social Services in regard to the services to aged people. I am concerned that in my constituency the number of older people is increasing and I wonder if the Minister could indicate to me how he is going about addressing the problem of services to old people.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe most Members are aware that the Departments of Health and Social Services and also the federal department of Health and Welfare Canada are working together to do a survey of all the aged and handicapped people in the Northwest Territories. Once we get the results of that, they are going to be used to determine a plan for both our capital and O and M needs for the foreseeable future.

In addition to that, what we are attempting to do and the directions I have given the department and what appears to have come up from different elders regarding their own desires is that they wish to be on their own. They do not want to be institutionalized. They want to stay in their community with their families. So we are making great efforts to try to improve the home care programs that are delivered to senior citizens so that local people can be employed to help senior citizens if they are unable to do their housekeeping, the supply of wood and anything we can do in that area. The Dene band in Hay River, for example, upgraded housing units on the reserve in order that their people could have better homes because those people did not want to be institutionalized. Our department accommodated that by providing some home care services in the way of helping them cook some meals, do major house cleaning, and things that some elderly people are unable to do any more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Initiatives To Reduce Dependency On Social Assistance

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I have another question on the financial assistance services. One of the objectives in that part of the department, it says here, is to enhance initiatives which attempt to reduce dependency on social assistance. I wonder if the Minister could give me an example of what that objective means and if I could have an example, say in the past year, of how the department has been successful or unsuccessful with that objective.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In determining whether people are eligible for social assistance or not, all sources of income that the family has, including the family's ability, for example, in subsistence living communities to provide their own game by hunting and trapping -- which a lot of them do -- all of that is taken into consideration of what the needs are. We take advantage of knowing from CEIC whether people are receiving income from that means, or they could be receiving income from the Workers' Compensation Board. Then we determine, after we look at that income, what the person still needs in order to take care of his wife and dependants and then that determines how much money the person gets. We also take into consideration in the case of families where for example, the father is able to get out and hunt and trap and have a supply of game, then food allowances reflect that fact. If caribou have migrated closely to a community and all the people have been successful and have shared caribou with other families, that will affect whether people are eligible for social assistance as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, with all respect, I do not believe the Minister has answered Mr. T'Seleie's question. As I understood his question, he pointed to an objective of the department which is to enhance the initiatives which attempt to reduce dependency on social assistance. That is an objective for the coming year. Last year the department had, as an objective, to continue to develop and promote initiatives and to attempt to reduce dependency on social assistance. The Minister's response, Mr. Chairman, simply indicates some of the arithmetic that the department does to lower the payments to those on social assistance. The important thing is not to lower the payments because of some new arithmetical formula, but surely the important thing is to come up with initiatives, as the document says, which will reduce the dependency on the government social assistance program. I think, Mr. Chairman, it is a legitimate question to ask. What initiatives has the department introduced in the past year and what further initiatives are they going to take to ensure that citizens currently on social assistance, reduce or decrease their dependency on those social assistance payments?

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

Need Identified To Other Departments

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I misunderstood the question of the Member, I am sorry. The main role that the Department of Social Services can play in this area is to provide the information to the Renewable Resources department and to the Economic Development department, to advise them how many people there are on social assistance for reasons such as there are no jobs available to them or they would like to be out hunting and trapping but they do not have the money to purchase a new snowmobile or the resources that they need to get out there. In some cases we work with Renewable Resources to help with the outpost programs. As well there is a STEP program in Economic Development, which used to be in Social Services and was transferred there, because the government several years ago decided that all initiatives for job creation should be in Economic Development and that training should all be in Education. That was done about the same time.

So the department's resources -- we can work with CEIC in that new program, I believe it is called Canadian job strategy, to help identify people. I believe the new regulations proposed under the Canada assistance plan will permit people to take training and not lose their social assistance. In a lot of cases the people who went to an on-the-job training program would suffer if they did that because they would lose social assistance. The training programs did not offer as much and because they were receiving money for training, it cut into their social assistance.

It was actually through a meeting that we had with the people from CEIC and, I believe, Mr. Butters and Ms Cournoyea at the time that this was pursued and other jurisdictions who had people in smaller remote communities in this situation also pursued it. Mr. Epp and Ms MacDonald, the

federal Minister for CEIC, announced changes in that. So our main role in this area is to provide those two departments with the information of basically which of our residents are on social assistance and could do other things if the program was there. Our social assistance is restrained by CAP which means you can only give money to people in need who are unable to use CAP funds. The federal act restricts us from using those funds for training or for job creation. However, there have been some changes made so that people can take training without suffering, under the new changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Fine Option Programs

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question under the family and children's services, where the objective is to expand the program of community-based intervention and residential services for young offenders. There is another one here, to establish fine option programs in all regions. What has been established in these areas where it says fine option programs and to develop and implement community residential correction programs? My one main question is, what do you consider a fine option program?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the fine option legislation was passed a couple of years ago. We found out through the statistics that a lot of people who are in the correctional centres were only there because they were given a fine and because of failure to pay the fine they had to go to jail. The Fine Option Act allows the charged person to either pay the fine or he can go to jail or if they cannot pay the fine they now have the option of doing community work to raise the money to pay the fine. In that way they can avoid going to jail. We have contracts in communities, Inuvik being one and now up to 15 other communities, where a person who wants to take the fine option can do so and can do community work. But in order to have a program like this it takes a band council or a hamlet council which is supportive of the program and wants to have that program in their community. The option is there and the funds are there to get these programs off the ground. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is Yellowknife included in these 15 or 12 communities that you mentioned?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: If Yellowknife is included then when did this program start?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the law was passed a couple of years ago. We had a few pilot projects in Yellowknife that started a year ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Areas Of Concern

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to basically talk in terms of services to the communities in total, for the department and refer to the kinds of programs and studies that have been going on, and the task forces that have been going on, including the youth group that we met here and we dealt with a number of their recommendations. I think that some of them do involve community services. I wonder how the Department of Social Services is responding to some of those particular requests of the youth group regarding getting involved with community programs within this particular department, alcohol and drug programs, and the request, if you like, to get involved and be part of decision-making bodies.

I am concerned with where the Department of Social Services is with its assessment of aged and handicapped services; the spousal assault task force report; the development of safe houses, I think that is a terminology that has been used. We had some kind of discussion when the Minister responsible for Status of Women was in the committee to indicate to us just what was going on. I note that there is a considerable number of dollars allocated to the spousal assault program. That involves the public awareness part, establishment of family life co-ordinators and safe shelters in communities. I am not sure who made the statement but I think there were three being contemplated this coming year. I would like to get an idea of where they are. The establishment of community action groups and provision of counselling for offenders, all under the spousal assault program. Within the time we were reviewing this department in the standing committee on finance, we did not complete the discussion on the program. It may very well have been on the O and M. But there was very little done as I recall with capital. But I have some concern as to how this department is moving along in its priorities and this whole business of services to the community. I would like to get some indication from the Minister, what action he is taking as a result of these various studies, task forces and youth forums that we have had.

One of the other things of course that we note within this department, is that the funding relative to the Young Offenders Act is not within the budget itself, but will come within the first supplementary bill at a later time in this session. The funding is still under negotiation, as I understand. The standing committee on finance is concerned, and has been concerned, that negotiations have not been concluded as far as we know, unless the Minister can indicate otherwise. The Young Offenders Act has been around for a few years now, or at least around in the minds of everybody, and we recognize that there may very well be difficulties associated with the capital side of that particular program.

I think there are a number of areas, Mr. Chairman, with this particular department that I think require some kind of elaboration on the part of the Minister, to indicate to us just what the department is doing in various areas. I wonder if we can get some kind of elaboration of the few opening remarks that we had, and especially in the area of community services, especially in the area of spousal assault and the alcohol and drugs services. It is my understanding that the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council has been meeting to distribute its particular funding, and I know that there has been an enhancement announced by the Minister of Finance of \$600,000, for that activity. In the Finance Minister's budget speech, he indicated that enhancements to the alcohol and drug abuse program totalling over \$600,000, -- and that may be two different things -- will see a major increase in funding to community groups active in this area and the provision of regional consulting services. But it is my understanding that the alcohol and drug co-ordinating committee have reduced funding to some particular programs already established in communities, so that there is less that will be going around for the actual program itself. So in some instances, there may have to be reduction in the staffing that they have for these particular programs. Since these are problems that are very open and evident in the Territories and in today's world, I wonder how the Minister will be able to react to the concerns that have been expressed, and will be expressed specifically, if you like, in the area of alcohol and drug programs, in the area of community services. How is the Minister going to react to the demands placed on him by the youth, as a result of this forum that they have? I wonder if I could have a little more elaboration.

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

Youth Alcohol And Drug Pilot Project

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Starting with the youth initiatives, the funding that is in the priorities will be involved in providing two person years, and also the O and M, which should allow more regional and area meetings of youth as well. We expect to be able to tap a little bit of federal funding for that, if we are lucky. The alcohol and drug funds, the \$600,000, includes the \$350,000 that was given to the co-ordinating council at the tail end of this fiscal year, and has been left in their funds. As well, \$250,000 is specifically for youth programs. We have the alcohol and drug pilot projects, involving 10 youth alcohol and drug workers in five communities. That pilot project worked out fairly well. There was some turnover of youth workers and some actually became interested enough that they found related jobs in their communities with other programs. But that is all well and good really, because there is still that work in some areas.

In these pilot project groups, some of those youths took to heart some of their own recommendations that they made to us and really to themselves, that they had to get involved. Some of them have got themselves elected -- and I am just talking about this core of 10 youths -- they have got

themselves elected to local councils. They have got themselves on education committees. Some of them have gone around to the different bars and drinking establishments in the communities and encouraged their fellow youths, and some of them had a heck of a time when they first did this. One of them, I can quote, said, "All my friends thought I was crazy and on a mission", but they did this. They formed youth committees in their communities. Some communities that did not have the pilot project, but just had the youth here, went ahead and formed committees in their own communities. I have told them that they are going to have to help themselves, that we are not going to be able to fund everything that they do. And some of these groups have thrown dances and had draws and raffles and whatever else, in order to fund their local organizations. So I think they have taken to heart a bit of the challenge that their youth -- they are 16 to 25 years old and they are young adults and they have the ability to get out there and help themselves, and they are doing it. We extended the pilot project through till March 31, in order to keep those programs going but I told the youth at that time, that we expect them to take some initiatives in their own communities to fund their own operation in the new fiscal year.

As well, we have been involved in some of the specific follow-up of the youth forum, sending some of the youth out to various conferences, the ones that took leadership roles when they were here. We sent them out to different conferences in other provinces, put on by provincial and federal governments. As well, Jerry Paulette, one of Mr. McCallum's constituents, is working in the Department of Social Services and continuing to liaise with some of the youth that were involved and keep a network of communications open, so that we will not lose the initiative that was started here.

Survey Of Aged And Handicapped

The aged and handicapped survey, hopefully, will be completed in the spring, June, I believe. And hopefully by the next session, we should be able to have at least a preliminary plan to present to the Assembly. We certainly can make the statistics available and the results and we might have an initial preliminary proposal that we could make Members aware of, as to what we see has to be done in each region and area of the Territories in the way of facilities and programs and projections of what those things are going to be into the future.

In the area of spousal assault, the Executive Council I think was very generous to me as the Minister. They have allowed me to have not just those priority funds but have built I believe it was \$1,630,000 into my base budget. That is a program we can hope to continue on. We have made commitments to fund programs with actual facilities in Yellowknife, Frobisher Bay and Coppermine. We will have programs going and also I believe there is funding for some existing organizations in Inuvik and Fort Smith, that are doing work in this area to operate as well. Safe houses are part of what we are attempting to do, though capital is scarce. The Minister of Housing is helping me out in this area to some degree. We have not been able to finalize the financing for some of this yet.

As for the young offenders funding not being in the budget. I had the difficulty when I first became Minister of, immediately upon coming on the job, finding out that the Young Offenders Act was going to come into place and no planning or budgeting or anything has been approved by the previous Executive. It has been a general chase and follow-up ever since trying to put something in place. We have made renovations to existing buildings in order to come up with facilities and we have established programs in open custody and expanded them as we had to. So basically we are doing slightly better than the minimum required by law and basically we are offering both open custody and closed custody facilities for judges to send young offenders to. We still have our group homes which we operate under family and children's services. Those are also available for young offenders sentenced to open custody. We have a limited number of programs available right now and we are hoping to have some community-based ones once we finalize O and M funding from the federal government.

I met with the Solicitor General recently and I must say this is the sixth federal Minister I have had to deal with on this topic for funding since I got the job. He told me when he came up in May he was hoping to bring a cheque with him. In the area of capital, we seem to be all right but in the area of operation and maintenance we are having a fair amount of difficulty negotiating our requirements with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Development Of Day Care Policy And Regulations

MR. McCALLUM: Just one further comment and it is a comment dealing with day care and with the department's policy. Has the department contemplated making some changes to the existing policy or regulations regarding this particular topic? If so, what are they? Has the department developed a standard that is different than in the past or do they contemplate doing so? I wonder if the Minister could comment on this whole topic of day care.

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have hired a day care consultant who has been available to visit any communities which invited her. Her availability has been advertised across the Northwest Territories so that I am sure all communities who are interested were aware. When I have had direct requests from some communities I have arranged for her to visit there. So I know that has been done.

What she is doing is looking at what day care policy should be in the Northwest Territories. Right now I think most Members are aware that we help subsidize the cost of day care only to those people who cannot afford to pay for it. That is the present policy. For example, a young working mother who is not living with her husband or has no husband would get assistance from us so that she could continue to do her job and be sure that her children are taken care of during the day. As to how the regulations are going, we are hoping by June to have a policy in place. It will address the situation of regulations and legislation and whatever else may be required in this field.

As well, Members should be aware that there is a federal task force with Members of Parliament that is going to be holding meetings across the Territories on child care. We will be making presentations to this group. One thing we should also be aware of is that the existing situation in child care ranges from babysitting in homes to commercial operations such as we have in Yellowknife. So when we make regulations we have to be very careful that we take into consideration the fact that in smaller communities we do not want to put the existing services out of business. In other words, good people working out of their homes provide a day care service which is adequate if it is delivered properly. We do not want to lose that resource in the communities. So those are some of the considerations and problems that are being addressed by the day care consultant across the Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, on day care, I wonder if I could ask the Minister what he could tell us about the problems of parents in small communities who have to take upgrading courses that are now more and more being offered by the Department of Education. Whether or not his department is involved in any way in providing at the community level some level of day care services for this type of parent because I know that one of the problems that more and more young parents are having in trying to improve their education is the fact that they are not able to find babysitters and therefore they have to forget about going to adult ed or whatever. I was wondering if your department was involved in any way with that? If not, I think it should be.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Day Care Assistance For Students

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, right now the only financial assistance or program that our department has is as I described. We give financial assistance to people who are working and require day care services, otherwise they would not be able to do their job. So that is primarily the only thing that we are doing as far as a finance program goes.

In the Department of Education when students are attending Thebacha College or the TEP program for example in Frobisher Bay, then the Minister of Education has built into the living allowance that is given to people who attend the college and have children, it is built into their allowance, the cost for day care. I believe the Minister has made some recent improvements in that area.

As for actually delivering day care programs in the communities our government has no funding in this area. In fact we are looking forward to seeing what the federal government announces in this area because that is one of the topics they will be addressing. Certainly as our day care

co-ordinator has travelled the NWT, I know that she has personally heard presentations from small communities saying that they needed help, in adult education as well in as the area of families going out on the land but not wanting to take their younger children with them and having no relatives to leave them with. I know those issues have been brought to her as well from organizations who have written me letters outlining those types of problems. Those are some of the areas that we will be addressing when we will be making the policy. As well we are looking forward to what the House of Commons committee comes up with and what the federal Minister eventually does with those recommendations because that will affect our program as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments, Department of Social Services. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Just along the lines of this whole problem of day care. I know that Thebacha College and I expect the Frobisher Bay campus of Arctic College may very well have the same problem in getting day care services. I wonder if your department is involved or is that specifically a responsibility, for the provision of those day care services, of the Department of Education? It seems to me that the Department of Education is having some difficulty. I wonder if you would just comment on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the situation with day care in our department is that we provide subsidized funding basically for working parents who cannot afford it. The situation of students is being addressed by the Department of Education in the students' living allowance. Married students with a family are having allowance made for that and I believe that, as I previously mentioned, the Minister of Education is either addressing that or has addressed that problem recently at Thebacha College and in Frobisher Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Does the committee agree we go into the details of the main estimates?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Administraton Services, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We are on page 15.08, administration services, total 0 and M, \$8,912,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, there is an increase of person years involved here. Some of them are person years for regional social workers I expect. I am not sure how many of that increase is for social worker positions. Could the Minister indicate how many additional social service worker positions are there? What regions are they going to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said in my opening remarks, in the Inuvik Region, there is one full-time social worker going there; in the Kitikmeot Region there is one part-time social worker going to Holman Island and one part-time social worker to Pelly Bay; in the Keewatin Region, there is one part-time social worker going to Coral Harbour; in the Baffin there is a full-time social worker going to Pangnirtung and a part-time social worker for both Hall Beach and Repulse Bay, for a total of six and a half. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: With the addition of these and I apologize because I did not hear the Minister read them out, how far does this go then toward getting a full complement of social services workers in these communities? Some are part-time. Is there demand for more of them or do you perceive a demand for more social workers? What do you anticipate being a full complement of social workers in various communities? A part-time social worker in Pelly Bay for example, is that all that is required? Is the total complement of social workers then up to where you would like to see it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, there are still demands by some communities to have full-time social workers or even half-time social workers. I believe there are three or four communities that do not have a half-time worker. We have found difficulty when you have a part-time social worker. The person cannot just go to work at eight o'clock in the morning and go home at noon. Demands can come at you at any time during the day. So those people usually graduate from that job. Most communities have full-time executive liaison officers which position also pays more and they usually graduate from us into the executive. So we have a difficulty with half-time workers and we have found that a full-time worker serving two communities lends a little more likelihood to stability, that the person is more likely to stay on the job. We are continuously trying to address the situation with half-time workers where there seems to be a person willing to do it and the community is willing to accept that. Basically we try to accommodate the communities but we also try to prevent our turnover. If we do not have a full-time worker they usually get taken up by another department on us. This is one of the difficulties we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

In-Service Training Programs For Social Service Workers

MR. McCALLUM: Within here you have funds for in-service training programs, community development programs. The in-service training program, is that for people already on staff? Where do they go? Is that for post-secondary education as it were, for them to move toward a BSW or a MSW or what is it, just field training?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the difficulties we have in the Department of Social Services is that we have hired a lot of local people to work in communities and when this was initially done as an impetus to the department -- and Mr. McCallum and Mr. Tologanak can take almost all of the credit for this; Social Services is one of the departments that has a very high complement of native people working in it. But in recent years with the Young Offenders Act and child abuse and other situations, like family violence, coming to the fore as it has, many of our community social workers who used to be primarily involved in giving out financial assistance now have to face all these added pressures on them. They did not have qualifications to deal with that type of difficulty that is coming upon them now so that I believe it is \$350,000 and five person years and I think it will be done on contract. It is going to be addressed to on-the-job training to help these people understand the complexities of the Young Offenders Act where there are 42 forms to fill out and the problems with child abuse and what you should do, what are the professional ethics, how to involve the RCMP and nurses. All of these situations have recently come out in recent years and have added pressure on these workers which they have never been trained to deal with. That is what this funding is for, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments, Department of Social Services. Mr. T'Seieie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell us about the community social service workers. I am wondering about the terms of reference of community social service workers and whether or not these are being updated on a continuous basis or are they fairly standard across the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Qualifications Of Social Service Workers

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question is in a way related to what Mr. McCallum previously asked me about the on-the-job training program. We found that the new demands upon social workers are requiring first of all that social workers in general in the communities have to be more versatile in problems they have to handle. They are confronted with child abuse and family violence, etc., which is something they were not confronted with as much before. There is a lot more publicity about it on national television. People are coming forth to the social service workers asking for help which is something that never happened before. People used to keep that hidden and to themselves and now it is being brought to the social workers. So we have had to look at all the positions we have in the Northwest Territories -- different communities had different problems. In certain areas there are suicide problems, in some communities there are

heavy drinking problems. We are going to have to review all of our social workers. We are currently doing that to see what their current qualifications are and what the demands are from the communities as far as qualification goes. Part of what Mr. T'Seleie has mentioned is going to be addressed by this on-the-job training but part of it is going to have to be by hiring people who are specifically trained, professionally, to deal with certain problems that may be predominant in a certain community or region. We would also hope that once we identify these needs some of the programs might be carried on in their own Arctic College program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: I have a question. Does the funding for Storefront for Volunteer Agencies come under the administrative services and if so, how much? I hope I did not ask that before.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. They received \$78,000 a year from us and they are under the administration. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: And that is specifically here in Yellowknife? Are there any other storefront services being provided in other communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, there is no other storefront operation in other communities, however, Storefront has provided services to nearby communities and in some cases in particular needs of a community, some of the remoter communities, have addressed some of their services to those community organizations. A lot of time in the way of expertise and advice, I think. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Administration Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Administration services, total O and M, \$8,912,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Family And Children's Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Family and children's services, total O and M, \$5,835,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I know we will get into the young offenders on a supplementary appropriation but the grant that was given the department to start things up, have you fully expended that? Or do you have funding left over or do you seek additional funding?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

MR. McCALLUM: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I know there is an ongoing request for funds under the act but there was some money prepaid as it were to you. Have you utilized it all or do you require more?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the \$250,000 which was given each year was utilized. It had strings attached to it. We accounted for that spending in the first fiscal year and we were then granted the \$250,000 for the second year once we had had approved what we had spent the first \$250,000 on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Family and children's services, total O and M, \$5,835,000. Mr. T'Seleie.

Adoption Of Children

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what the policy of the department is with regard to adoptions. I am wondering especially about the fact that, at least among native people, in my point of view it would be more preferable for native children in one way to be adopted among their own people. I wonder if that is the policy of the department so that native children are not sent out for adoption in a place like Edmonton or Winnipeg?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is the preference and policy of the department that native children be adopted and all children, my children as well, be adopted into families of similar ethnic and cultural backgrounds. That is the policy of the department to try to do that. We also try to do this when we foster children out but one of the difficulties is that often in small communities, especially if the child has a bit of a behaviour problem and everybody in the community knows it, we have difficulty fostering children in that community and often they have to go elsewhere. A lot of times because of that, non-native families ended up fostering Inuit or Dene children and as it happens, especially if the foster parents do not have children of their own and wish they had children, when they do foster these children they often apply to adopt these children. If this is felt to be the best thing for the child then the courts and the department proceed with these adoptions.

I will read for Members the statistics for this year. There were 117 adoptions in total, 62 Inuit children were adopted into 61 Inuit homes. Five Inuit children were adopted into five white homes. Two Inuit children were adopted into two Metis homes. Dene children, 14 were adopted into 14 Dene homes. Three Dene children were adopted into three Metis homes. Dene children, 10 were adopted into 10 white homes. One Metis child was adopted into one Inuit home. Five Metis children were adopted into five white homes. Two Metis children were adopted into two Metis homes. White children, 13 were adopted into 10 white homes. One white adult was adopted into one white home, as Mr. MacQuarrie is doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Perhaps we better explain...

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to know if the number of adoptions are increasing or are they remaining the same or are they decreasing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the statistics right now but it does vary from year to year. This was a significantly high year because it seems to me that there were quite a few native custom adoptions routinely proceeded with by the courts, which were held up by the courts for an undue length of time and then finally cleared early in 1985. So there is a higher number of adoptions in 1985 than there was in 1984. I do remember there was a large number of native custom adoptions held up for about six months until some sort of a legal procedure decision was made. Once that was made they were all done early in 1985, so there is a larger amount I think than normal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if a child was taken away from home and adopted or whatever or put into a home because the parents were not fit to take care of the child and at some point the parents became fit again to take care of children, are those parents able to get their children back?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When children are apprehended and that is the case the Member is primarily describing, children are apprehended by the department because the parents are unfit to provide a home at the time, then those children are usually kept in our group

homes or fostered out, whichever is felt the most appropriate thing by the superintendent of child welfare. Then as time goes on if the family situation improves and the department acknowledges this then the child is moved back into the family. We have some programs, for example in Inuvik, where there are programs to even get the child back into the family. The family will move into Yellowknife for a period of time and reconciliation occurs with the family and the child and then eventually the family will go back and the child will live permanently with the parents in their original community. I think the only time that a permanent decision is made is for example when an unwed mother wants to give up her child at birth. They will often sign papers agreeing that the child can be adopted. In that case there is no recourse of the parents to try to get their children back because they have signed an agreement to have the child formally adopted by another family. I should point out to Members that there are more families in the NWT who want to adopt children than there are children available to adopt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Family And Children's Services, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Family and children's services, total 0 and M, \$5,835,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Correction Service, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Page 15.10, correction service, total 0 and M, \$8,732,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, whether the fine option program is in operation throughout all the regions? Could I get some idea of how the program is being run? I know it is in my community. I wonder how far it is developed in other communities. I recognize what it was for but I would like to get an update on how far along the program is in other communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program is in place in 15 communities in various regions in the NWT. I could make available to the Member the details of the numbers of people who have applied, who have completed the program and the amount of money worked off, if Members would like that made available to them.

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

MR. McCALLUM: In the Commissioner's opening Address there was a paragraph dealing with the rights of victims of crime. I recognize that it may very much fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Justice but I wonder what the Department of Social Services' role is in this particular new initiative and how it will implement the conciliation part of this particular program? Could the Minister comment on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think our department is involved in two areas in this. Primarily the rights of the victims of crime will be addressed by the Minister of Justice. The fine option program is an example where victims of crime have financial conciliation because often the fine is paid off by the person that is sentenced so if you want to say that the government is a victim of crime in the cost for court, etc., that is one example of the person paying for their crime through their fine but doing it by working it off rather than going to jail. Another example is when there is community parole and if there are strings attached to parole, in other words a person who is sentenced for theft for example when he gets out sometimes his parole is conditional. The judge may make that parole or the shorter sentence conditional upon them paying off the person they stole the money from as part of the sentence. In some of the smaller communities, our employees work with the parole board to supervise people who are out on parole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: This victim/offender program or project, you were to develop one last year as a pilot project. My understanding now is that you have a pilot project and you are going to implement it. The pilot project, will it take place in more than one community or have you selected more than one community? Where is this victim/offender pilot project to take place? Is it on a trial basis? What will be the end result of it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member will be happy to know that the pilot project is going to be in Fort Smith.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Correction service, total 0 and M. Mr. McCallum.

Closing Of Women's Correctional Centre, Fort Smith

MR. McCALLUM: The Minister some time back, Mr. Chairman, indicated there would not be, as such, a facility known as a women's correctional centre and I recognize it is in Fort Smith now. But it has moved prior to that. It is my understanding that the Minister or the government are not going to have a women's correctional centre per se but that facilities will be added to the South Mackenzie, Yellowknife and the Baffin Correctional Centres.

I have a concern with the people who have been in this present facility and have years of experience. What will their role be and how will the department now make use of the experience...

AN HON. MEMBER: The inmates?

MR. McCALLUM: ...that has been gained by these particular people? I do not know how many people are involved with it. I wonder where the Minister sees these people going? Surely after the number of years that they have been involved with it, you just do not say "Thanks very much and good-bye." You are not going to give them a gold watch after 10 years. What is the department's plan in a way of retraining these people to make use of the expertise that they have developed over the years in dealing with female offenders? In a lot of cases these people are long-time residents of the community. They have families, spouses who are working in other areas. They are not apt to leave the community. What I am wondering is, is the plan still on the go to not have a single women's correctional centre but have the centre as part of the three existing ones? Could I have some comment on that please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it is still the plan of the government to not have a facility dedicated to women prisoners only. The new correctional centre in the Baffin is designed in such a way that it is compartmentalized and can handle female offenders. In the South Mackenzie centre there are going to be some renovations required. In Yellowknife, the renovations there are such that compartmentalization is taking place so that various types of prisoners can be handled and the Yellowknife Correctional Centre could handle female offenders if necessary. I think the intention initially is to deal with female offenders at Baffin and Hay River only.

As for the employees, when the program for female offenders was originally transferred from Yellowknife to Fort Smith some of those employees transferred from Yellowknife to Fort Smith and I am sure some of them may be willing to move back as well. The people working right now in that facility would be the first people offered the new positions that would be created in the other communities and they would be given the highest priorities. For people who are working there who may not be qualified for the new positions that are being created or may not want to move, other places will be found. I am sure the Member remembers when he as Minister, shut down the child care receiving home in Hay River, that eventually all employees were transferred or absorbed into the system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Correction service. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister indicating then, that you make the offer to these people who have the first opportunity but it is a take it or leave it situation with them? There were two people I think that moved down. There is only one still in that particular facility, who

may or may not move. I don't know. But one person out of how many I do not know. And that person is still a home-owner in the community. The others are long-time people who reside, native people, who live in the town predominantly. And is the Minister simply saying now that we are not going to keep it going, we are going to add the extensions, renovations to the South Mackenzie and the Yellowknife Correctional Centres to the tune of about six million dollars to accommodate women in those two facilities and that it does not matter whether you have been an employee of the government for a long period of time or whether you are native and live in the town, you are given the first opportunity but you do not want to leave, take it or leave it. Is that what the Minister is saying?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Job Opportunities For Present Employees

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the employees presently working at the correctional facility in Fort Smith, will be the first ones offered the equivalent jobs that become available in the other communities. If they choose not to take those jobs, then the agreement which our government has with employees would take effect, and those people would probably be given the first opportunity at equivalent jobs in the community. Some people I am sure would be accommodated by training for new jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then, has your department done anything about attempting to find retraining for them, or attempting to find comparable positions in other areas within Social Services? I am not talking about whether they are going in other departments. But has your department done anything about it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, we have not made any specific proposals to anybody yet. The correctional centre in Fort Smith will be operating till at least this fall, because we cannot fully utilize the Yellowknife Correctional Centre at this time, until the renovations are completed. And also the problem of too many young offenders has got us in a temporary problem until we resolve that. So we do not have an immediate plan to give those people lay-off notices or anything like that. But once we can identify what positions we are going to need within the correction system, and other divisions of Social Services, those people will definitely be given the priority to apply for those jobs or be transferred to those jobs if they are equivalent. If that fails, then the Department of Personnel would have to, through the collective agreement, address the situation, and I am sure equivalent jobs in other departments could be found in some cases and training for other jobs might also be offered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So your department is doing nothing yet, but they are going to have to get out by the fall. And yet within this particular activity, you have a requirement or you are asking this committee to approve one additional person year and \$44,000, for one more staff to maintain a particular ratio in the women's correctional centre. You are going to hire another one to be in Fort Smith until the fall. And you are not doing anything now, to help these people get something. Do you not think it is about time you started to look to see what you are going to do with these people? If you are going to close it down in the fall, why are you asking me and other Members of this committee to approve one more staff member for the women's correctional centre in Fort Smith?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, as I point out to the Member, because of the overflow that we have of prisoners right now, we have utilized the facility in Fort Smith by putting male offenders into the Fort Smith centre. This practice is going to continue, at least until the fall and we will give adequate notice to employees of what their situations are. Until we have resolved this situation of the young offenders and have the Yellowknife facility completed, we are not going to know exactly what our situation is. But the Member has my word, the employees in Fort Smith will be the first ones considered to fill equivalent correctional officers jobs in other communities and if they choose not to take those jobs, we will undertake to find them equivalent jobs in other

divisions of Social Services. Failing that, the Department of Personnel will have to look within other departments and also possibly look at job training for some of the employees, if that is what is required to get them other jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum.

Privatization Of Correctional Services

MR. McCALLUM: I am sure they will be very pleased to hear that. In this whole business of corrections, there was a time when correctional services were contracted out. The department contracted out for correctional services assistance. But lately that is not going on. In light of the privatization policy of the government, have you or your department rethought that whole process? Are there people who are in that particular line of endeavour -- within the privatization policy of the government, is it possible that this may be a means by which you can provide correctional services?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fine option program, in a way, contracts out and privatizes some of corrections work. Victim reconciliation will also be an area where some contracting out is done. We are also looking especially for female offenders and some first-time offenders. We are trying to look at a situation where we can provide community beds rather than institutionalize people, so those will be done on privatization type contracts. An example of that is some of the propositions we can make with the Salvation Army on release of people, initially work release during the day which eventually turns into work release in the community and then eventually parole. The Salvation Army is involved in programs like that. There are possibly other areas that we can consider. In the corrections division that is what is being proposed right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Correctional services will always be overflowing with young offenders unless we set up some kind of a preventive program at the regional or community level. It is good and well to say that we will put extensions to correctional facilities and yet we do not have any preventive programs set in place for some of our young people. Almost all offences are alcohol related, the offenders are very young at that too, some of those inmates. At the community level, the only alternative that they know of is to turn to drinking because there is nowhere else for them to turn.

I will say this. I said it before and I am going to say it again, it is very, very hard to seek some kind of treatment at the community level. In one of my communities, in three months we lost four young people, all alcohol-related incidents. The community finally had to take a strong stand to deal with it. But at the same time we need some assistance in preventive programs, even at the regional level where I saw a treatment centre, in Fort Smith. They are very poor facilities. Old buildings thrown together. As far as I could see there was no recreation facilities. How can we encourage our young people even to go into training for recreation, with absolutely no facilities at all? I cannot understand why we do not concentrate and spend some of our money for good constructive recreational facilities at the community or regional level, otherwise we will always have this overflow. Because it is very, very hard to seek proper preventive programs. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister, would you like to comment on that?

Act Designed To Rehabilitate Youth

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think if the Member would look back -- I agree that the offenders that we have in the institute here in Yellowknife and the two other facilities and in Fort Smith are young adults between the ages of 18 and 25. A very large percentage in proportion to the population of that age group is in prison, compared to other age groups. It is a big problem. The Young Offenders Act was designed to replace the Juvenile Delinquents Act and one of the specific purposes of the Young Offenders Act is to take 13 to 17 year olds and make them recognize that they have some responsibility for any crimes that they commit and to allow the courts the opportunity to sentence them to programs which would be rehabilitative. The whole object of the young offenders program is to prevent youth from becoming adult prisoners in our system.

Our government has no plans to build more correctional centres in the Northwest Territories. Our emphasis is going to be on community programs such as fine option and community bed programs for first time or if you can say, harmless offenders, people that are not a threat to themselves or the general public, for community bed programs. For the young offenders we hope to have counselling, etc., in place that will divert these youth from becoming adult offenders. I do agree that in order to do that we need good programs and that is why we are battling with the federal government to try to get the O and M money necessary to have good programs.

As far as recreation goes, in all our facilities we make use of the community facilities that are in place. In Fort Smith the school gymnasiums, the arena, etc., are available. It is not the idea as the Member mentions -- we do not want to take these children and completely separate them from society. The idea is to as much as possible integrate them successfully in society. You do not do that by building a gymnasium on the youth facilities and keep them away from their friends and other people. The idea is to reintegrate them. So we do not want to institutionalize children. That is one of the things that is wrong with the present system. What we are trying to do is have community corrections and community orientated programs so that children can work their way back into society and will be diverted from being adult offenders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that especially in Fort Smith, they use the community facility once a week for one hour. If that is not separating them, I do not know what is. You cannot learn too much in that one hour a week deal.

The correctional centre in Hay River is almost like a recreation centre. That is how beautiful it is. And it is no wonder we have so many repeaters. They are well fed, they sit there in 40 below zero -- they do not have to shovel snow or anything. It is encouraging them to go there. Perhaps we can build a better preventive centre because a lot of them do not know how to deal with the problems that they are faced with, so they are turning to drinking. With a beautiful institute such as in Hay River, naturally they will go there with no place else to go. What I would like to ask is what kinds of programs are set up in the Hay River centre to deal with some of these problems, so that when they come back they know which way to turn so that they do not come back again. Is there any such program set up to deal with these problems while they are in the centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am at a bit of a loss because in one case the Member said that we should have better facilities for the young offenders and really nice looking buildings. Then she criticizes the fact that we have a nice looking building for the youth and they mostly are youth who are in Hay River. The public does criticize often that we are making too nice a place for people and that we are institutionalizing them. In other words it is too comfortable to be a prisoner. It is a nice routine, you get a room to yourself. I have heard all this line from the general public and from other people.

I had the corrections briefing for those Members who are interested and I am sorry that so very few were really interested enough to go and look at the facilities and hear what the program is. Myself and my officials are in the same dilemma the Member finds herself. You get criticized for having a nice facility like the one in Hay River and the new one in Baffin and the renovations in Yellowknife will make some improvements in the atmosphere in that facility. Then on the other hand you are told that these facilities are too good. Then when you have facilities that are not brand spanking new and perfect then the Member criticizes us for that too. So that is the same type of criticism we get from the general public.

Emphasis On Community Programs

What I have to say to the Member is that we are not going to emphasize the construction of facilities and the institutionalizing of people. We are going to emphasize community orientated corrections programs. Specifically the Member talked about the Hay River facility, they are not just there idle. We have a wood chopping program from which the profits are used to run the fishing program, which is unique in Canada. We also have recreation for them, they go to the local arena. They have hockey teams and volleyball and different other sports and of course we are criticized for that too.

If the Member had attended the corrections briefing she would understand the dilemma we are in because the criticism comes from both ways. We are being told on one hand that we are being too hard and on the other hand we are being told we are being too soft. So we try to find the middle ground and it is pretty hard to define where it is sometimes. So I can only make that comment to the Member's comment that she, on one hand told us our facilities are too plush and on the other hand, she says our facilities are not good enough. That is the criticism we get always, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not surprised the Minister is confused. He is not the first one to be confused in that department and he will not be the last one. It has been one big confusion as far as I am concerned.

What I am suggesting is that we have a better preventive program set up at the community level and the regional level, then we would not have such a big fancy institute and keep adding and adding onto it. There is nothing to be confused about. All I am saying is, let's put a good preventive program at the community level for our young people so that they do not have to spend so much time in the correctional centre and keep adding onto it. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not confused any more. The comment the Member just made is the direction we are trying to go. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

Tour Of Yellowknife Facilities

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to thank the Minister for giving us a tour of the correctional facility here in Yellowknife. We also toured a section that is being occupied by the young offenders and certainly where the corrections is to perhaps change the attitudes of the young people so that they become law abiding citizens. When we toured the particular facility for the young people there, it was really like a dungeon. I have observed the young people that were sitting there and they do not seem the least bit alive. They were sort of quiet and were not very motivated. Perhaps the positive thing about the environment that they are in is that maybe they will think twice and say that they do not want to spend the rest of their lives in such a gloomy looking environment. On the other hand, if we were to correct them -- it is like the Minister said, you are looking at a coin and there are two sides to it. Some people say it is good, some people say it is not a very good place.

I would like to agree with Mrs. Lawrence in that these young offenders have to make restitution to the community. Not only the young offenders but also adults, if they have a minor crime that could be served in the community. I think this is the route the government should take. It would certainly save a lot of money to the taxpayer if that was the case. I would like to ask the Minister what directive he has with regard to making restitution to the person that is being offended, or else to the community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, just to comment briefly on the accommodation that the Member saw out there. I know and all my officials know that because of the pressure that is on us to provide secure and open custody that the facilities we have had to utilize are not adequate. The Member should also remember that we then went beyond where those youth were and looked at the addition that is going on there. There are two large brightly lit rooms with large outside windows for classrooms so that we are trying to address the situation as fast as we can.

Youth With Problems Held In YCC

The Member should also realize that the youth that are being held at YCC are ones that are on remand. When a judge sentences a youth to remand it is because he feels that the child is dangerous to himself or society, and the other ones that were there were the ones that we had problems with in our other secure facilities so that the youth that are incarcerated at YCC are the

ones that have the most difficult problems. One of the reasons for holding them at YCC is we have more experienced counsellors here than we do elsewhere. The Member is right. Institutionalizing is not the solution. Our other secure custody facilities involve the youth a lot more in the community with different activities. The open custody children attend school with the rest of the children in whatever community they are in.

As to our future plans, the Member is right. Community corrections is the way to go and that is why we are not building any more major facilities. We hope that we can use the Young Offenders Act and community programs to divert youth from becoming adult offenders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, it would be premature to ask the Minister for statistics on the young offenders and the type of facilities they are in. But I would like to ask the Minister with regard to adults being incarcerated here in Yellowknife and Rankin Inlet, I think is the other facility and the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre in Hay River, that the type of facility might have an effect on whether a person wants to go back to jail or not. I would like to ask the Minister whether he has that type of information on the three or four different facilities that the North has and to which are the offenders most likely to go back to jail and where are they most likely not to go back?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

High Risk Offenders Housed In Yellowknife

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not been running the Baffin Correctional Centre long enough nor have we been running the young offenders program long enough to be able to provide statistics like that now. But I will make available, by sending around to all Members later, statistics on recidivism and repeat offenders, etc., and regional statistics on where prisoners come from. I think it will take us some time to find out how the different programs work and the different facilities compare to each other. You also have to remember that we have different types of prisons, different types of programs, the Baffin and South Mackenzie centres are not as secure. We do not have such high risk offenders in there as we do in Yellowknife so that there is a different type of population in the two different types of facilities.

I also think I would like to say my own personal opinion is that it would be nice to have some type of program for first time offenders and this is something that maybe some regions might want to consider contracting out, once we get our community services funds in place so that a youthful offender, the first time they came to one of our facilities, could either remain in a boring environment which they would not enjoy or they could sign up for a work program in which the work and recreation part would be strenuous and hard enough that they really would not want to come back.

I agree with the Member that there is a lot of criticism that it is comfortable to be in some of our facilities and that there are and I have actually seen court records that have been sent to me by different lawyers and judges of situations where it really appeared the person being sentenced or the person on trial really just wanted to go back to prison again. I agree that we have that issue out there and I would like to be able to address it at least in a small regional program at some time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will now recess for a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The House will now come to order. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a comment with regard to accommodation facilities that are established in the North with regard to corrections and what effect it has on the inmates, whether it motivates the inmates to stay away from jail or not. I note that it is difficult for such statistics to be kept but it is something that probably would be able to give indicators on the type of facilities that should be used up here.

The other thing I would like to say is that during this coming fiscal year there is going to be a psychologist who will be residing at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. Again, too, the type of living conditions that the inmate is in, does affect the mental well-being of the individual,

whether it motivates the individual to react accordingly perhaps violently or whether he is content with where he is staying. Perhaps it would be premature to find out those answers now but it is something I would like the Minister and his department to look into because it certainly would give us some answers on the crime statistics in the North. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Statistics Are Available

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Basically for reasons of our own information and partly due to reasons of having to keep very close track of sentencing as requested by the courts and parole days, we have very good records of the amount of days imprisoned, recidivism, etc., and I can certainly make those statistics available to Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services is one of the priority departments as far as the communities are concerned and these are the programs that directly affect them. I am quite surprised that a lot of the Members are not here to listen or to address the issues of their constituency. I would like to tell the Chair that we do not have a quorum here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you ring the bell for five minutes? We are back to order now. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister his position concerning inmates that are in federal penitentiaries and whether he supports them being transferred back up if requested. The other thing I would like to mention is that for inmates that are in federal penitentiaries, being transferred up here does not really affect the budget of the territorial government because they are still covered by the federal government. I guess thirdly, I would like to ask the Minister, for inmates that are sentenced to over two years and are permitted to serve their sentence up here, who covers their expenses? Is it still the federal government, or the territorial government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the case of federal prisoners being brought back to the NWT to serve part of their time, our government looks favourably on that during the end of a federal prisoner's sentence. You have to realize that most inmates that are federal prisoners have been involved in crimes or have behaviour problems that our facilities are not equipped to deal with, either our facilities or programs. But once a federal prisoner has been rehabilitated to some degree by the federal corrections service, then we are certainly willing to take those people back up here if the federal system agrees that the person is eligible to leave their system for ours. If that does take place, when a federal prisoner comes up here we bill them so much a day, just the same as if we have a prisoner who may be sentenced to less than two years that we could not handle, which happens once in a while. We send them down south, we are billed so much a day by the province for that. There are occasions where people have been sentenced to over two years for crimes and those people have been kept here rather than sent down south and that is due to personal family circumstances. Usually the case is the person does not speak English, may be elderly and therefore, for humanitarian reasons we keep them in the NWT. Once again, the federal system pays us so much a day for keeping that person. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Correction service, total 0 and M, \$8,732,000. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell us how many inmates are in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and how many guards or people who watch these inmates are there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Ratio Of Inmates To Guards

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the Yellowknife facility I believe can accommodate between 120 and 160. It was originally designed for 172 but it can hold in the range of 120 to 160 and I believe it is averaging around 140 right now. The number of corrections officers at YCC is approximately 60 full-time plus casuals that are hired as needed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I wonder if that is fairly standard as far as ratio goes. It is two inmates to one guard and in my view anyway if there were two bureaucrats for every...

AN HON. MEMBER: If there are, we have a problem.

---Laughter

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to know if that is fairly standard. I would also like to share Mrs. Lawrence's concern about not enough community-based type of rehabilitation programs in corrections. I do not agree that the correction service needs to become an industry for large municipalities. I am aware that they see them as job-creating types of things. I am not in complete agreement with it, especially after you find out what it costs the taxpayer, whether or not they are working. I do not think that we should take it for granted, in terms of man years for the government, that this is what it is going to continue to cost. I wonder if the Minister could comment on some of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the corrections system, Members have to realize that the courts order that people be incarcerated. We have to have an adequate number of guards on staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Even at night on weekends, when there are no office workers working and there may be not as much counselling going on, when there are just guards, there still has to be a minimum number of people for safety reasons, in case there is a fire or anything else or in case prisoners get out of control in a certain area. I should say we have fairly light security here compared to other jurisdictions. In fact the inmate/guard ratio is even higher. There are even more guards per prisoner than there are here. It is, as I said before, the intention of this government not to build any more facilities. We want to try emphasizing some community-based programs of corrections and some regional area programs where groups might come to us to help to deal with first time and, what you could call, light offenders. So that is our intent. We do not want to build any more institutions. They are very costly to run and there are questions about whether they are corrective or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Can you tell us what it costs the government in a year to keep an inmate at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Cost Per Annum For Inmate

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it costs approximately \$35,000 a year to keep an inmate, and that does not include capital construction, that is just O and M. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to refer back again to this coming fiscal year when you are going to be having a psychologist. With the establishment of a position like that at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, what kind of effect does it have with regard to the Mental Health Act, with that whole issue of involuntary committal? Are we actually violating the human rights of these individuals when they are incarcerated, when they are forced to have their minds examined on what makes them tick?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, correction service has little or nothing to do with this. A court order would take place in this situation. Usually the person who is involved in the involuntary committal would be sent to Alberta or another jurisdiction where the proper psychiatric examination can take place. There might be a rare occasion where one of our facilities might be used to temporarily hold somebody but it is highly unlikely, unless an inmate required some mental rehabilitation. Then there could be the possibility that such a court order could take place.

Involuntary committals end up in facilities usually in another jurisdiction. We do not certainly incarcerate people out at the correctional centre. We do not have the facility in the Northwest Territories to handle that type of court order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. GARGAN: With regard to the position that is being created here in Yellowknife, it is not really for psychiatric assessment but actually psychiatric treatment then. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, this person would not be involved in the type of things involving involuntary committals under the Mental Health Act. The person would be assessing prisoners when they come in and helping the counsellor determine which type of programs they might be in, what type of confinement they may or may not require, and would there be a need to give ongoing psychiatric counselling. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: This would mean that the inmates are given the opportunity on whether they want to have treatment under that program or not then. They are given that option, am I correct then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Inmates are offered counselling not just by staff but as well by such groups as Alcoholics Anonymous and other groups in the community, including religious denominations that have people interested in that, to come in and help people. Involvement in that type of counselling is usually voluntary in the case of the prisoner. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Correction service, total O and M, \$8,732,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister if he could provide us with information on the ethnic breakdown of inmates in corrections up here. I am not asking for names. I just want the breakdown.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think I could tell the Member somewhere in the area of 80 to 95 per cent of the correction days are served by native people in the Northwest Territories. I can have the department put together the exact breakdown and distribute to Members as soon as it can be put together. Thank you.

Correction Service, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more questions? Correction service, total O and M, \$8,732,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Alcohol And Drug Service, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Alcohol and drug service, total O and M, \$2,269,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council the money for that comes through this particular area, under contribution. The program delivery is done not only by the ADCC but also with the federal group NNADAP. Can you give me some idea if there has been any move to bring those together into one delivery rather than continue on the present time? What is the status of the ADCC now, that is in terms of membership? Could we get some kind of report as to how the funds are distributed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Directly to the Member's question; the two governments, the chief of programs in Social Services, a person from Health and Welfare Canada, and Dr. Ross Wheeler, the chairman of ADCC, are working right now as a committee to bring closer together under one roof the NNADAP program and the territorial funds. The most recent report by ADCC as to how their funds are spent, I tabled for the Members the other day, and that is for the fiscal year 1983-84. That is the last report ADCC has prepared. I believe they are working on the 1984-85 one right now. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Clerk of the House could indicate to us which tabled document it is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Tabled Document 31-86(1). Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I take it, there is just over one million dollars to ADCC, the GNWT share to fund projects? Is that the correct funding to ADCC?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, which year is the Member talking about? I am not sure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I guess it is 1983-84. What amount do we have now? Is it the \$1.791 million? Is that the only contribution? It is just under \$1.6 million this year, so that includes the \$600,000 increase from last year and again in this year that the Minister was talking about earlier. Is that correct?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that includes the \$350,000 which we gave as a supplementary in this fiscal year and are continuing into the 1986-87 year, of which \$200,000 is for youth and another \$50,000 is going on contracts relating to alcohol and drug programs.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister with regard to the NNADAP moneys. This program was supposed to be on for about five years. I would just like to ask the Minister the status of the native alcohol and drug program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I believe it was a program that when it was originally started was envisioned to taper off and have an ending at some time, but as far as we know the program is going to continue. But the most recent fiscal restraints announced by the federal Minister of Finance in his budget address may have some effect on how much NNADAP funds will be available to us. We have received nothing on that yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Thank you. Alcohol and drug service. Mr. Richard.

Duplication Of Services By ADCC And NNADAP

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, the document tabled by the Minister refers again to the recommendations of the Torrance report two years ago. I recall that in that report there was a strong recommendation that the federal and territorial programs be integrated and that a separate independent autonomous commission be established. It concerns me, Mr. Chairman, that ever since this Assembly years ago established the co-ordinating council, it is sort of unique in that there is, I do not believe, any legislation establishing that council. It occurs to me that there may be some duplication of effort and expenditure of funds between the NNADAP programs and the programs sponsored directly on a recommendation of the co-ordinating council and the programs that are the responsibility of the department. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could expand on his response to Mr. McCallum's question that there is a committee working on a proposal right now. What are they working on and what is the time frame for a report on this whole notion of combining these programs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the \$2.4 million that NNADAP has available and the nearly \$1.6 million that we fund ADCC is divvied out to different projects to joint meetings as co-ordinated by ADCC. The employees of NNADAP and the employees of ADCC in our department are involved in this and they make sure that duplications do not occur. Primarily the NNADAP funds, I believe, in the provinces are restricted to being on reserves. I may be incorrect in that but they are primarily orientated toward native programs. So an emphasis is made with the NNADAP funds to go into communities where there are practically entirely native populations. ADCC funds, you could generally say are in communities where there is a fairly mixed population of residents. The programs are all reviewed jointly by the two groups to make sure there is no duplication. In fact, I think, the Baffin Region is one example where recently they did some reallocating of funds to prevent duplication.

The group that is working together, from Health and Welfare Canada, my department, and Dr. Wheeler, is looking as a management committee as to how this can be even better rationalized. One of the ideas is that all the NNADAP funding would be transferred to our department or our government for handling. That is a proposition that has been made off and on by various members and that has never been resolved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What specifically then is happening about the recommendations in the Torrance report?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the Torrance report was tabled in the Assembly, I believe, the second or third session I was Minister, with the intent that it would be debated and some resolution would come of it. That never did happen. The ADCC reports to the Assembly through me. That is why the Assembly actually passed a resolution forming ADCC and if you will notice the covering letter from me to the Speaker transmits it to the Executive. I tabled it the other day because I realized Members may want to utilize the document during this committee. In fact the letter of transmittal occurred in June. I would like to say that we, as a department, would not mind receiving some direction from the Legislative Assembly as to the route we should take. Should we try to get the NNADAP funds transferred over from the federal government to our government to handle? Should there be a commission formed that would divvy out both the funds, or should we leave it as it is and try to make sure nothing is duplicated?

Those are basically the three options available and right now we are operating under a joint effort by both funding governments to serve the primers of the NNADAP which is for native communities, with our government serving the communities of more mixed residents and trying to prevent duplication. This is the present situation. If the Assembly has some direction that you would like to give the department we are certainly willing to try to respond to that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Richard.

Establishment Of An Autonomous Commission

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, can I ask, at the risk of the Minister saying that I am passing the puck back to him, can I ask whether the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council itself, since it saw the Torrance report, has taken a position on the establishment of an autonomous commission? Or has the Department of Social Services or the Executive Council since seeing the Torrance report taken a position on the establishment of an autonomous commission?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, one of the difficulties with the commission is that the operation of the commission could be fairly expensive and it might eat up the available funds. In order to offset that, there is a possibility that the person years in the federal government and the person years in our department, that deal with drug and alcohol, could be transferred to the commission. That would completely remove the department from having any control and/or responsibility for the program. That is one of the issues that Members would have to address. ADCC was initially formed as a result of a motion in this Assembly so that that may be the way the Assembly might want it to go.

I believe Dr. Wheeler and people on his council would probably prefer to have a commission. However, they are aware that the funding requirements of operating the commission might eat into the program money, especially if it was felt by the Assembly and the government that I should still have employees working in the field. The commission would have to be funded out of the existing two sources of funds, the \$2.4 million and the \$1.6 million they get from us right now. That is one of the main reasons why they would not want to go that direction. Our government, if we provided our person years to the commission, would no longer then be in a position to have control or much input into it. And there are pros and cons to that. As I said I am open to direction. I have never taken this as a specific issue to the Executive Council because I have never resolved it with the ADCC or NNADAP and I have never had any formal communication from ADCC or NNADAP making specific recommendations to me. I do not recollect receiving them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I take the Minister's response to be that none of the named bodies, the co-ordinating council, the Department of Social Services or the Executive Council, have taken a position on that particular recommendation of Mr. Torrance. The Minister's suggestion that the establishment or the administration of a commission would eat into funding -- I cannot at face value accept that. Because surely the moneys that are currently being spent in holding meetings of the co-ordinating council, administration expenses by the co-ordinating council or within the Minister's department, that those same funds could be used for establishing and administering the work of a commission. I do not advocate it one way or the other, Mr. Chairman, I simply am disappointed to see that the Torrance report was completed and tabled and it does not seem that anything has happened since then.

Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I could ask about the co-ordinating council. Now I appreciate there is no legislation establishing it and it was, I believe, created years ago simply by motion of this Assembly. What is the mandate? How are the appointments made to the council? What is the term? Is it a self-perpetuating advisory group? What are the terms of reference of the members of that council?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I think I would like to say that one thing is that there is a good working relationship between the employees in my department, ADCC, the NNADAP and their officials, in addressing problems in this area. The second thing that I would like to say is that I tabled the Torrance report purposely and brought it up in committee of the whole two budgets ago, I think, with the hope that it would get discussed. It was briefly discussed but there was no resolution. It is not a burning issue, whether the program delivery should be done under the existing system or under a commission.

The other thing that the Member mentioned, regarding the authority and everything, the first time I was called upon to sign a letter addressed to a person appointing him to the board, I put it aside and then I asked my officials, "Do I have the authority to do this?" They looked back and found that previous Ministers had been appointing people but then we could not find the authority for that anywhere. So I asked the Legislative Assembly and Mr. Hamilton co-operated with his staff to go through all of the old records, and apparently the Commissioner has to appoint these people. I have just received this report and I have not had time to deal with all the legal issues and whatever, but I have not filled the vacancy that was there because of that. There may be some technical difficulties with the previous appointments that were made by previous Ministers. There is an opinion that the Commissioner should be appointing these rather than the Minister doing it directly. So until I resolve that and get some legal advice on it, I am not making any more appointments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more questions on the alcohol and drug service? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I had asked the Minister earlier and I am not sure if he answered. Is the ADCC board up to full membership? How many are there now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, there are two vacancies right now and there is a total of seven members.

MR. McCALLUM: You have not replaced Bertha Nixon yet?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: That is right. That is the appointment that I was trying to fill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: May I ask another question then, Mr. Chairman? Of the \$350,000 that is going into it, how much of that money is put into the various community projects that go on, related to the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council? Has there been an increase in that kind of money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: I believe that all of the \$350,000 went into community program money. Thank you.

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

Problems With Alcohol Program In Fort Smith

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a problem or concern -- it is not my problem but it is a problem for people in the program in Smith, and it is that they have had about four or five people on staff in the last year, a community educator, two counsellors. They opened up a men's hostel and as I understand it, with their budget this year the hostel position is being deleted or the educator is being deleted. I forget which it is. It seems that they are going to lose a full position and a half position as far as I understand. I have some concern because I think this program has been good in Smith. It has certainly been good in the area of the men's hostel. It has served a useful purpose and as well there is a person doing community education who is a graduate of TEP. It is my understanding that of these two positions, one has either gone and the other is put to a half-time position. I am not sure which it is, but I have a concern that programs that have gone on and that seemingly have had some success, are curtailed.

I also understand that the counsellors' wages had to come up to parity. There were two counsellors and one was making more money than the other and through some kind of edict, I am not sure from whom, these had to come up to the same level of remuneration. That money then is taken out of the total budget and therefore there is less money going into the actual program. I wonder since it is done under ADCC, who distribute it, and therefore not under the Minister, how can these people go about getting these programs reinstated? I am sure that were an evaluation to be done or if it has been done that it would be a positive one. It is a problem they have met with some success. It is community run. Local people are doing it. How do they continue these programs? Can the Minister offer any kind of hope, charity? They have the faith.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, last year there was \$174,000 for the friendship centre and the men's hostel and \$3000 for training. This year there is \$174,000 for Roaring Rapids Friendship Centre and the hostel again, I believe, though initially there was funding from other sources possibly that helped them in their base and maybe those funds are gone. The thing you have to remember is that ADCC was set up in combination with NNADAP to review all the programs. A lot of times programs are introduced into the communities, for example the public awareness thing on alcohol, which was a program which was supposed to last for a year or two and then be terminated because the aim of public awareness is maybe achieved. Sometimes programs are not run as well as they are intended to, there is no community interest and they drop off. Sometimes other communities are underfunded and have a lot of interest, so the funds move to whichever community. That is the job that the ADCC has been mandated by this Assembly to do.

All I can say is that the employees in my department and NNADAP who help act as resource people to ADCC give them as much information as they can, which may be received from social workers in the communities and maybe other sources of information such as Alcoholics Anonymous groups. They operate in different communities, they advise ADCC of their concerns in the community and what programs are required. ADCC has the difficult job of choosing which communities are going to get new funding, which communities are going to have their funding terminated if there is a poor program or a program that has no support from the community. There are ups and downs, from community to community, from year to year, and that is why the council exists, to determine which

communities need a program, to monitor those programs and make the necessary changes from year to year from within the total funds from which they are allocated. As to the specific problem in Fort Smith, I am advised that officials from the department are going to be going down to meet with them to try to resolve some of their problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am hopeful when your officials do go down, they would be able to reconcile the situation because certainly the awareness has been made. In Smith there is a group that have held a number of public meetings to get people concerned with the problem. The awareness is there. What they have done is to make a lot of people aware of it and to bring more people into a program to get some kind of assistance. Whether it has been done well -- I would hope that there has been an evaluation either by your department or by the ADCC. It would seem to me once people are involved with it and community groups are involved with it, that it would be a shame to once build up an expectation then to have something drop down. That is the situation here.

At Christmas, for the first time, at a community get-together -- people that had been used to parties where there was liquor and everything else -- they held a party in town without liquor. It was well attended. Now there is recognition by a lot of people in town that something has to be done. They have gone into getting a lot of freebies from different people by using the local television station to do 15 minute and half hour interviews on it. They have a good program going. But if the department through its largesse, if you like, and the government through the ADCC is not enough to keep these going -- you have built up an expectation to make people become aware of the problem, to do something about it and to do it constructively and then they find they are not able to get the same source of funding or the proper funding on it to continue it.

I think there is something wrong somewhere with that kind of a rationale. Through the ADCC and the work of your own department with alcohol and drug awareness programs that you are continuing on now not only with the adult people but with youth and with schools, if you have created an awareness in the people, you have got a hold of a real problem in the community, you have community involvement in it, you build up an expectation and then you take it away -- I think that there has to be a better coming to grips with that kind of a situation if you expect people to take care of things. They are not going to be able to do it on their own. They are going to require government assistance. I would hope that if there has not been an evaluation as to the worthwhileness of that program in Smith, that there should be one. If it is not working then fine. Then I can see that you have to do something else, but if the program is a good program surely somewhere along the line they can get the assistance to do something. It knocks down or creates less of a drain in resources in other parts of your department as well as other departments of the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Alkali Lake Example

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The problem the Member identifies is something we probably feel throughout the whole Territories. Really, two things should be happening. In one case, we give out funding in order to make a community aware of problems. For example, if we fund a group that comes into a community and makes the community aware that you as a community, you have the resources, you have to have the will power. The initial funding is there to help people make themselves aware that they have a problem, exactly what the problem is and what some of the cures can be and what they can do for themselves.

For example, forming an Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets regularly and helps each other out, that is the program that continues on without funding because the people are then helping themselves. So on one hand, when we initially go into a community we create an awareness that requires funding and requires a program officer to get the ball rolling, but once the ball is rolling -- like in Alkali Lake in BC, for example, where a few people took the initiative to get the community going, pretty soon the community resources were aimed in that direction and you do not really need funding. You just need the people in the community working together to solve the problem. So there is a twofold situation. The idea is that the funds that are given out to the communities are to make the community aware of exactly what the problem is and how to deal with it and after that has been identified, to have some program officers to get things going, like alcohol awareness and community groups that are willing to raise funds and do stuff in the community

After that has been achieved that initial funding is not needed any more because the programs are in place.

Some programs like detox, etc., are ongoing and have to be continuously funded, but I think the whole idea of NNADAP was formed in the first place, with its idea of having funds that would terminate and the program would end after a period of time, was to do exactly that. Identify the problem, look for solutions within the community, get the community organized to address the problem and eventually the funding would end. That is something that has to be the objective of the whole program, to have funding in place to help the community to get organized to deal with its own problem and once the community is aware -- in a place like Alkali Lake for example, Alkali Lake solves its problems, the funding is no longer required because the initial funding served its purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate the Minister's words but I do not think that simply making it a creating awareness program and having some people set up programs is the answer. For example, there has been an AA program in Smith as long as I can remember and that is over 20 years. The real attack on the problem in Smith has been occurring within the last two or three years and it is occurring within the native population of Smith. That is not to say that there may not have been some of them that are involved with AA but certainly the program as I recall -- when I went there, Jack Castle was running one then, that is over 20 years ago. But the real problem has been to be able to set up these programs within the friendship centre and to get people involved to set up counsellors so that you had the native people being able to deal with native people. It has been a good success.

All I am bringing to your attention is that they have had a program that is going on and, as I understand it, now they are losing some of the program benefits that they had last year, and now you say you are going to try to do something about it -- you are sending some people in. I would certainly hope, and I appreciate that you are sending people down there, but I just do not think that setting up a program -- in creating the awareness, there has to be ongoing support from the government here in this instance. There is no other area for them to go to. All I am asking is that you do take notice that where there is something that is going on that is good, that you do something about it or continue to provide that assistance. I just do not think setting up an AA in a community is the answer. There has to be more to it. If it was the answer we would not have had problems in the last 20 years in Smith.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, ADCC funding, around a couple of million dollars, was started for a few years before I became the Minister. I was sensitive to Members' concerns and the Assembly gave direction as well, with some motions, and we have upped the contribution in two years from just barely over a million dollars to the total program of over two million dollars, when you count the person years and salaries and wages. There have been some significant increases in the last two budgets and we have been as responsive as we can. The federal funding has also kept pace and increased each year as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Alcohol and drug services. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only refer to a TV documentary that was just done last week on Alkali Lake on how they have been able to resolve their alcohol problems in that particular community. In the required documentation and community support for ADCC, they have different people that do give letters of support to the particular alcohol program. But that is to the extent that most of the support goes in written form. Once the support is given and a program is approved it is on an ongoing basis and it is a matter of the programs, to reapply for the funding on a yearly basis afterwards. This is a problem that I had to deal with -- I had to live with and I still have to live with it. Giving a form of support without any actual follow-up just does not serve the purpose of the program.

Measuring Success Of Alcohol Programs

The other thing I would also like to mention is that with regard to this particular document, the annual report, there are no particular indicators on whether the program is effective or not. I see in the report the highlights of programs that were initiated and the very positive comments over conferences and workshops that did occur. The successes of these conferences or workshops are not indicated. I can go to all the workshops or conferences I want to and I will always have a

positive comment. I guess the follow-up is something that really has to be looked at because, I believe too, that as far as ADCC staff is concerned it has its shortcomings because they do not have enough staff to actually go to the communities to do follow-up on workshops or do some kind of evaluation that says, "Okay, your program has been going on for four years, what has been accomplished since?" If a program is going to the communities, to the schools anyway, it is an awareness program but it is hard to measure the success. Or on the other hand it is a different thing altogether. The only way that you can measure success is, for example, last year we had about one person that decided to quit drinking and this year we have four. Certainly that is an indicator that there are some improvements.

I would like to think that there are ways of measuring the performance of the programs and be able to conclude that this program is working well, let's fund it again. This program is not working too well, perhaps we will fund it more, if it does work next year, but maybe we should cut back on the amount of money so it is better utilized by other communities. I like to think that that is the type of review that the ADCC boards give. I would also like to ask whether the existing membership of the boards is still the same, or whether there are new boards that are in place. I can only say by looking at the list that two people that were representatives of the Dene Nation are no longer employees of the Dene Nation. I am wondering about that particular membership too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, as far as the membership goes, the different groups like the Metis Association, Dene Nation, Baffin Regional Inuit Association, Kitikmeot and Keewatin Inuit Associations, change their membership all the time. So that is one difficulty that it has had, in that there is a continual change of membership from those organizations. That causes some difficulties with the board's capacity and ability to review and allocate money. That is one of the mandates that the co-ordinating council has, is to do the review and the assessment of the programs. That is their job when they feel that a program is not effective or has no community support. They will move those programs to an area they think is more fertile for the money to be spent.

All I can say is that it concerns me too. Are we throwing good money after bad money when we give these programs such a large increase? I think they have about an 80 per cent increase during the last two years from just over a million to nearly two million dollars. That is a question I have had, and I will make that known to Dr. Wheeler, that Members have indicated that they would like to have something in the annual report, because it is the job of ADCC to report annually to the Assembly. In the annual report in the future you would like to see some sort of comments on evaluation or successes of the program. When I met with the local detox group at a luncheon meeting with them the other day, that is one of the first questions I asked them. How successful is your program? How many people come back? What is your follow-up? I was impressed that they had fairly good statistics on the people that have been through their program, whether they had help when they got back to the communities, whether they have entirely quit drinking or just partially quit drinking or have come back to abusing alcohol again. I can say that the detox centre here in Yellowknife has a good follow-up program, at least as far as providing statistics on their success rate goes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I guess I can only refer to the main estimates in which the sale of alcohol has been going up since 1984. Most of the programs that are under ADCC have been funded since 1974. I was just having some reservations on whether new applications have been received by ADCC or whether any of the programs have been eliminated to accommodate new programs, based on the success of the program or the failure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I know for a fact that there have been programs that have been assessed as not being very successful in Tuktoyaktuk and in Fort Resolution. Programs were cut off for a period of time and those programs, I believe in both communities, have been re-established again with new people, once the community support was in place. As I outlined before that is ADCC's job, to assess programs and to decide whether they should or should not be funded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to ask the Minister, these programs that are in the constituency that I represent, will they be continued next year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I have only the approved programs for 1985-86, the ADCC makes a decision as to which program -- I believe they are beginning to assess that situation now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Just to say that I am in general support of this expenditure of money by this government. I think that these programs in communities have made quite a significant difference in terms of just generally making people more aware of the dangers of alcohol abuse. I do not think that with the amount of dollars that the government allows, that we can expect to have treatment centres. I know in the South there are expensive types of treatment centres for the abuse of alcohol and drugs. I do not think we can expect that. Just to say that I support this program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Minister, you want to respond to that?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I believe nearly a quarter of a million dollars were spent in the Member's constituency last year. I imagine those will be ongoing. I know in Fort Norman we helped fund the Four Skies group to go in there and there was a positive reception to that. As well, I have helped other communities through the Dene Nation. So we are trying to do the type of thing that builds up community awareness and are interested in that type of a program that gets the community to realize that it can solve a lot of its own problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

Alcohol And Drug Awareness Programs For Youth

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the Minister. It says here under drug and alcohol, community projects will be established in 1986-87 to deliver programs related to youth. Is that for all the communities? What kind of programs are you referring to, related to youth?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, as I described earlier the youth programs that we have in place, the pilot projects, we would like to see some of those initiated in some other communities. We would like to also continue to have some area, regional and possibly territorial meetings, to bring drug and alcohol awareness to youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Is this community project involving a few communities or is it just one community? How many communities are involved, is the question I am trying to ask?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I did not get that question.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not too clear on this community project. How many communities are involved in these community projects?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, there are projects in Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Cambridge Bay, Frobisher Bay and Rankin Inlet. That is where we have had the alcohol and drug prevention projects aimed at youth. There were 10 workers in the pilot projects, two from each community. Thank you.

Alcohol And Drug Service, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more questions on alcohol and drug service? Alcohol and drug service, total O and M, \$2,269,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Aged And Handicapped Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Aged and handicapped services, total O and M, \$3,051,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: On this particular activity that deals with the senior citizens facilities as well as handicapped people, the revenue that is noted here, the \$400,000, is that revenue from a federal agreement for disabled persons? Is there an established program in that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, that \$400,000 is from the federal government from a VRDP program, which is the vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I guess it was last year that the committee had an indication from the Minister that for the chronically ill people that have been sent to institutions in the South, in the past, his department was exploring ways in which it could provide for the care of those people taking them from the South back into the North. His department is supposed to be looking at ways by which he could do this or get the people into personal care units, where they would have them. What is the success in achieving this? Have you been able to continue or do anything with that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the costs involved in contracting these services out from provinces is pretty high, in some cases approaching \$50,000. I know for one lady from Baker Lake, I believe the charges when we had to put her in the Churchill hospital were in the order of \$350 to \$450 a day. Some of these expenses, when you go out of the jurisdiction, are so high that it becomes beneficial to us to start a program up. So when we identify enough aged or disabled people in one region that require chronic care, we can put them under one roof and give them a program comparable to what can be done by the provinces and it is important that our program has to be good. We have done that with handicapped children in Frobisher Bay and we have a handicapped children's facility, I believe, starting in Rankin Inlet. In Fort Smith we have a contract with a lady who, I believe, has six or seven children in that program. I would like to ask my deputy minister if there is anything more he could add on to that. Mr. Chairman, sorry, there are two children being repatriated this year from the Michener Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to express a concern I have with regard to the senior citizens home facility that was designated for the Hay River Reserve in exchange for the community gym. I believe the statistics and justification for the construction of such a facility have already been established. I feel that it is very unfair for the Minister to not reconsider his position on the construction of such a facility because there is going to be an exchange made. I do not think it is fair to my constituency and I do not think it is fair to the senior citizens of the reserve. The people on the reserve, Mr. Chairman, have taken the initiative in the housing program to improve the existing facilities to make do with what they have now until they get the new facility. I just wanted to express the concern that the Minister reconsider it because I believe it is very unfair to the people of my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I advised Members before, the survey we are doing of aged and disabled in the Territories is going to be what my department and the Housing Corporation uses to determine what kind of housing and programs are needed for the aged and

disabled in the NWT. No definite go-ahead is going to occur on these projects requiring capital funds from our government until those recommendations are approved by the Executive Council. In particular, in the case in the Hay River Reserve, the needs assessment survey, the community wanted to do that themselves. That meeting I believe was back in October sometime. I believe Mr. Fabian, Mr. O'Neil and Mr. Gargan himself, were there. As yet the community has not come forward with any sort of a needs assessment paper for the department to utilize. Thank you.

Aged And Handicapped Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more questions on the aged and handicapped services? Aged and handicapped services, total O and M, \$3,051,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Financial Assistance Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Financial assistance services, total O and M, \$11,031,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In opening remarks by the Minister today, the whole business of the dependence on social assistance was raised, in relation to what the department is trying to do to reduce the dependency on social assistance. There are some budget projections for decreased social assistance in a couple of communities, specifically Yellowknife and Inuvik, as I understand. Are these the result of those kinds of initiatives that the department has taken or is it just because of fewer people looking for it because they are employed? To what do you attribute these decreases in these two particular areas?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think I should say first off that the Department of Social Services provides the safety net for people who the system fails or they fail themselves. We, as best we can, make predictions each year as to what the differences are going to be. For example, in Yellowknife we are projecting a \$27,000 surplus this year but that is not a lot of money out of the \$600,000 that was estimated to be required. In Inuvik, almost 10 per cent surplus is going to be there, \$112,000 out of a \$1.2 million estimated. In general, through the Territories we are seeing a considerably larger amount. This can be due to lack of employment opportunities, young people leaving school but not leaving their community. In other words, they finish high school, go back to the community for a job and there are no jobs. So our department has to respond to failures of the total society or people failing themselves. We can only estimate from year to year what those demands are, and this year overall, we found that there is more demand on the financial assistance system than we had anticipated. What economic factors have driven those we are not sure. In the Eastern Arctic there is a considerable increase. Some people thought that could be due to the lessening of the value of the sealskin industry but we do not have detailed enough statistics where that could be definitely said for sure, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again this year, one of the objectives of this activity was to review the social assistance programs. As the Minister will recall we are dealing with housing rental rates; in particular communities the various categories, six or seven of them I think, are now dependent on the number of dependants. You had indicated last year that there was to be a review and you are going to continue it. Have you made any kind of a review? What is the result of that review? Have you changed the number of categories? Have you increased the allowable amounts of money? What has been the result of the review that you have done now that you are talking about revising the programs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the review I suggested took longer to accomplish than had been expected but we have done a review, community by community, and we have also done an overall review of the different zones and cost of living in those zones. Members might be aware

that a lot of those things have been affected by changes in air lines, the delivery of food by air into communities that did not have that service before, which in actual practice caused the price of food to go up because they never had an air service before or a reliable one. In other places roads have been built into communities, so the restructuring of the zones has to be done. The department has that prepared now and I have not reviewed it in detail so I am not in a position to actually go to the Executive Council with any recommendations on that. However, I will tell the Members that the recommendations would require a significant increase in the social assistance allowance over that which is presently set in the zones and communities right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question, and it deals with the senior citizens supplement. I just wonder how Mr. MacQuarrie's and my taxes are doing to help the senior citizens with the supplement, because it is cigarette money I am talking about. What is the rate now? Is it \$75?

MR. RICHARD: You should be getting the benefits soon.

MR. McCALLUM: I should be turning it back and getting some benefit out of it soon, is right. Is there a plan to increase it?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hockey pension.

MR. McCALLUM: Or whatever.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Guaranteed Income Supplement And Territorial Supplement

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, Members will recall that I increased the territorial supplement that is provided by our government to senior citizens who receive GIS. That was increased from \$75 to \$85 as of February, 1985. There is no intention to make any increases in this at this time. Members should be aware that the GIS and the old age pension, that are the most significant parts of what elderly citizens receive, are indexed still and the GIS, guaranteed income supplement, which is given only to those senior citizens that require it, increases on a steady basis. Really what was \$50, then changed to \$75, and is now \$85, is the cushion that we have put in place to recognize that northerners have a higher cost of living. But it is felt that the fact that the GIS goes up, covers off fairly adequately the inflation aspect of the cost of living, and our supplementary increase provides the extra cushion and at this time it is deemed to be adequate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regard to old age security. I saw some time ago in the paper where it stated that widows over the age of 60 are entitled to old age security. Does that apply in the Northwest Territories as well?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that applies all across Canada. I believe that was a change in the last year or so I think. But anyway a person who is a survivor of a person on old age pension is also taken care of. For people who are in that situation, if they are currently not receiving any money, social workers in the community are available to help them with the appropriate forms that have to be sent to the federal government, either to initiate a person getting old age security from the federal government or to do the annual return which is required by the federal government. So if there are no family members who can do that for the person, our social workers have been accommodating them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will recognize the clock now and I will report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister and thank you to your witnesses.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-86(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1986-87

MR. ERKLOO: Your committee has been considering Bill 1-86(1) and wishes to report progress and requests leave to sit again.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. in the caucus room.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 5th.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions: Motion 15-86(1)
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 1-86(1), 2-86(1), 3-86(1), 4-86(1), 5-86(1), 7-86(1), 8-86(1), 9-86(1), 10-86(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 5th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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