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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1986

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	166
Ministers' Statements	
- 4-86(2) Regional Council Review Co-ordinating Committee	166
- 5-86(2) Changes to Food Allowance Scale, Social Assistance Program	166
Members' Statements	
- Mrs. Lawrence on Sport and Recreation Programming	167
- Mr. Paniloo on Ministers' Changing Portfolios	167
Returns to Oral Questions	168
Oral Questions	171
Written Questions	171,185
Returns to Written Questions	186
Replies to Opening Address	
- Mr. Pudluk's Reply	186
Petitions	188
Tabling of Documents	188
First Reading of Bills	
- Bill 6-86(2) Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1985-86	188
- Bill 7-86(2) Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1986-87	189
- Bill 9-86(2) Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act, 1986-87	189
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Tabled Document 13-86(2) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Recommendations of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages	189

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

	<u>PAGE</u>
Report of Committee of the Whole of:	
- Tabled Document 13-86(2) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Recommendations of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages	209
Orders of the Day	209

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Ms Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 22nd. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 4-86(2): Regional Council Review Co-ordinating Committee

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the appointment of the regional council review co-ordinating committee. The committee will be composed of the following members: As chairman, Mr. George Braden, former NWT Expo pavilion commissioner; Mr. Al Menard, deputy minister, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; Charles Overvold, of the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat; Gary Black, Fort Smith regional director; Jack Anawak, mayor of Rankin Inlet, Eastern Arctic representative; John Hill, mayor of Inuvik, Western Arctic representative; Chief Joe Rabesca, western regional council representative; and Mark Evaluarjuk, eastern regional council representative.

The committee will undertake a major review of regional and tribal councils in the Northwest Territories in order to provide a base from which future directions and policies might be developed. The review will examine historical, current and anticipated developments of all regional and tribal councils, whether incorporated under territorial legislation or not.

The review will be prepared and delivered to me, as Government Leader, by June 1st, 1987 for tabling in the fall 1987 session of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Minister's Statement 5-86(2): Changes To Food Allowance Scale, Social Assistance Program

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that most Members are aware that changes were made to the food allowance scale of the social assistance program, effective October 1st, 1986.

These changes will accomplish two purposes. First, there is a need to assist social assistance recipients to meet their basic food requirements. The cost of food in the NWT increases each year. This is a part of our economic life which affects us all, but no one more so than people with low or no income.

Secondly, the cost of food varies considerably throughout the NWT. In many communities a family will pay half again what they would pay in Yellowknife, Pine Point or Rae-Edzo. In several communities they would pay twice as much. With such a variation in the cost of food, it is important that the social assistance program have in place a set of scales which increase the food allowance according to the cost of food in the communities.

To deal with these problems the government has increased the base food allowance in the NWT. We have also increased the number of food scales from six to 10 and placed the communities on the scales according to their needs.

Together these adjustments represent a projected total increased expenditure of 17 per cent for food in the social assistance activity over the next six months. The cost of the increase is estimated to be \$1 million for the period October, 1986 to March, 1987.

The revision to the food scales was made on the basis of a survey of food costs conducted jointly by the Bureau of Statistics and Department of Social Services, which measured food costs in NWT communities and compared them with Yellowknife costs. As a result of the survey, the number of scales was increased from six to 10 to better reflect the differences in food costs among communities. I will be distributing to Members an information item which details the effect of these changes in all NWT communities.

The Executive Council is also concerned about the impact of the downturn in the NWT economy on individuals and families who have derived an income from the mining and petroleum exploration industry or related commercial enterprises. Those who are laid off will turn first to unemployment insurance for financial support but, in time, insurance benefits will expire and many of these people will need social assistance. We anticipate that by January 1987, the first of the oil industry short-term employees will run out of UIC benefits. The full impact will be felt in October 1987, when the unemployment insurance of long-term laid-off employees expires.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the changes which this government has made to the social assistance program will assist persons adversely affected by the economy, or by personal circumstances, to better support themselves.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude Item 2. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Lawrence.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Sport And Recreation Programming

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to comment today about several concerns that I have with the organization of sporting activities and sporting associations in the Northwest Territories. This government encourages athletics through a variety of funding arrangements and contributions to associations. When athletes are chosen for Arctic Winter Games and Canada Games, it seems that none of the smaller communities are represented in the NWT team. I believe that this is a direct result of inappropriate athletic programming at the community level. Young people in larger centres have better access to athletic programs and the quality of facilities and training is vastly superior to anything available in smaller communities. It is no wonder that athletes from larger communities have an advantage over other people in tryouts for NWT teams.

I believe that an evaluation of GNWT sport and recreation programming priorities is long overdue. There should be much more emphasis on providing services and facilities to these communities that at present cannot provide any athletic challenges for its residents. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Members' statements. Mr. Paniloo.

#### Member's Statement On Ministers' Changing Portfolios

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to be talking about my concerns today. I have been concerned about the Ministers because they have been replaced by other Ministers too many times. Sometimes the people in my constituency would ask whether the Ministers

are not able to do their job because they changed their portfolios. I think this is going to be a concern for quite some time. I would like to hear from the Ministers when they are going to change their portfolios. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Richard, you have a long reach.

---Laughter

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to refer to an article that was in the October 3rd issue of News/North titled "Parents a problem, says youth worker." I just wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, that the article presents a very one-sided view of the alcohol problem of parents and its effect on the education of their children in Fort Providence.

The Fort Providence youth development co-ordinator, Greg Nyuli, told the inquiry into Indian education that "parents just don't seem to give a damn about their kids."

But this is a very negative view of the situation in Fort Providence. In fact, the attendance rate of students at the Elizabeth Ward School in Fort Providence has increased significantly. The attendance figure for September 1986 was 84.7 per cent, an increase of almost 8 per cent over 1985. This compares to an average attendance record of 81.3 per cent. The classrooms have competitions too, with regard to attendance and the K-1 group had a 95 per cent increase and they won a trophy last September.

I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that this is the age group that is most vulnerable if their parents do have an alcohol problem. I believe Mr. Nyuli's statement was unfair to both the parents and the students in Fort Providence and in fact they should be commended for the improved school attendance record. I also would like to further elaborate that Mr. Nyuli also had an alcohol problem which resulted in his dismissal from the Elizabeth Ward School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Further Return To Question 025-86(2): Price Of Oil And Gas In Sanikiluaq

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to oral Question 025-86(2), asked by Mr. Appaqaq on October 20th, 1986 regarding the price of petroleum products in Sanikiluaq. Contact has been made with Shell Canada who advise that, effective October 22nd, today, the price of gasoline will drop by 5.6 cents per litre. The company also advises that the price reduction should have occurred on September 1st and they are looking at ways to reimburse the community for the six weeks the residents were overcharged.

I will let the Member know what the company finally decides on, as soon as I hear from Shell Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, are we still on returns to oral questions?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Ballantyne, I am sorry. It is returns to oral questions.

##### Return To Question 036-86(2): Liquor Plebiscite, Resolute

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 036-86(2), asked by Mr. Pudluk on October 20th, 1986, to do with the Resolute Bay liquor plebiscite. This return is in respect of the oral question asked by the honourable Member for the High Arctic regarding the holding of the liquor plebiscite in Resolute Bay.

I am pleased to inform the honourable Member that plebiscite regulations for Resolute Bay have already been made in accordance with the wishes of the residents of the community and the Liquor Act. These regulations provide that the plebiscite be held on October 29th, 1986. Further action on the plebiscite will depend on the outcome of that plebiscite. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Pedersen.

Return To Question 03-86(2): Personnel Advertisements In Southern Newspapers

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 03-86(2), asked by Mr. McCallum on the native employment policy. In response to Mr. McCallum's query, representatives of my department contacted the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the employment advertising manager of one of the country's larger newspapers. In both cases, the response to using the native employment clause was tentative. The newspaper advertising manager suggested that he would have to discuss it with his lawyers and the Canadian Human Rights Commission representative stated the commission would have to review the clause and the components of our affirmative action program in detail before responding.

I will study this issue and report back to the House once my officials have consulted in more detail with the Canadian Human Rights Commission and a cross section of southern Canadian newspapers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Wray.

Return To Question 08-86(2): Privatization Of Journeyman Positions

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question 08-86(2), asked by Mr. McCallum on October 16th, with regard to the vacant carpenter positions for Fort Smith.

As a result of the recent retirement of two journeyman carpenters working for the Department of Public Works and Highways in Fort Smith, the department has commenced an analysis of the potential for privatizing the work previously done by these carpenters. The analysis now under way is totally consistent with the efforts of the GNWT to provide contracting opportunities to the private sector to assume more of the work previously handled by employees.

There are numerous factors to be taken into account including cost, impact upon apprentices and contractor availability, and no action is to be taken to either privatize the work or fill the vacant positions until the review is completed. This analysis has only commenced in the last several weeks and is not expected to be completed until early December. In the interim, casual employees are being utilized to perform the work previously done by these staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Pedersen.

Further Return To Question 016-86(2): Wildlife Officer, Lake Harbour

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question 016-86(2), asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on October 17th, concerning a wildlife guardian at Lake Harbour.

There has been no progress over the summer in arranging for a wildlife guardian in Lake Harbour. The new regional superintendent, Jim Noble, will be arriving in Frobisher Bay next week. He has been assigned, as a priority, the task of locating a suitable individual in consultation with the Mayuktalik Hunters and Trappers Association. Depending upon the success of their efforts, we expect to have a wildlife guardian in place early in November.

As well, the department still plans, as per our current operational plan, to staff the renewable resources officer position in Lake Harbour early in the fiscal year 1987-88. The region is making appropriate preparations now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Pedersen.



Return To Question 038-86(2): Species Put Forward To CITES

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the last one I have today. It is a return to Question 038-86(2), asked by Ms Cournoyea on October 21st, regarding listing of wolverine, narwhal and lynx on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species appendix.

We learned in late September that the World Society for the Protection of Animals planned to submit proposals for the listing of narwhal, wolverine and lynx on Appendix I of CITES, which would effectively eliminate international trade in these species. The listing proposed by the World Society for the Protection of Animals must be approved by the Canadian CITES authorities before the proposal can be taken to the next CITES meeting. In order for Canada to support these proposals, the World Society for the Protection of Animals will have to show that the species involved are in danger of extinction due to the effects of international trade.

Our position is that we do not believe the argument is true and will be arguing against these proposals. We have contributed over the past year to the development of CITES status reports on each of these species, as well as several others that may eventually be the target of similar actions by animal rights activists.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has established a public consultation process to receive input into the development of the Canadian position on proposals such as these. The original deadline for the submission of proposals from the public was August 25th, 1986. This was subsequently extended to October 22nd, 1986. The proposals in question were not received by that time. The deadline, however, is not the issue, because this will not prevent the society in question from advancing the proposals through some other country. The deadline for submissions from countries for consideration at the Ottawa meeting is not until February 11th, 1987.

The Canadian public consultation process calls for two public hearings. One will be held on December 11th, 1986 in Ottawa to consider Canadian proposals, and the second one on June 11th, 1987 to consider foreign proposals. I would encourage northern groups with an interest in wildlife and renewable resource development to participate in these meetings, and consider participating as observers in the convention next July.

My department plans to assist interested groups in preparing for these public hearings and will consider limited travel assistance, if necessary, for a representative to attend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Further Return To Question 046-86(2): Equalization Of Liquor Prices

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the first reply is to a question asked by the Member, Nellie Cournoyea, yesterday regarding the equalization of alcohol prices. In order to answer the honourable Member's question it is necessary to give some background explanation on alcohol pricing and the equalization process.

The retail price of alcohol is calculated simply as a wholesale price -- which includes freight costs -- plus the government's markup. This markup includes both taxes and the cost of operating the various stores. The markup varies by product type and is 150 per cent of the wholesale price for spirits, 110 per cent for wine and 100 per cent for canned beer. The actual method used to establish a system-wide price is fairly complex but in effect the different costs for each of the nine distribution centres is calculated. These costs are then put into a formula which takes into account the relative volumes sold at the various stores and the different costs of freight. This produces an equalized price which is different than the price that would be calculated from simply adding the standard markup to the wholesale price. It is higher in some stores and lower in others. The net effect is to produce the established markup revenue for a product across the entire system. Equalization is revenue neutral; that is, removal of this program would not generate additional revenue for the government as rises in prices in some communities would be offset by drops in others.

It should be noted that the equalized price only applies to distribution centres. Consumers in communities outside of distribution centres pay the full price of freight from the nearest store to their community.

For most products, freight makes up a fairly small portion of total cost. Generally the cheapest available method of transport, trucks on the road system and barges elsewhere, is used. This is quite different from other products, such as milk or bread, which, because of their perishable nature, must be flown into many communities. Thus the removal of equalization would produce price differences of from three to eight per cent, or from 50 cents to \$1.25 per bottle, depending on product and location. The exception to this is beer which, because of its high volume and relatively low price, has a much higher component of freight in its final price. As well, since beer has a short shelf life, it must be flown into places like Frobisher Bay.

So to finally answer the Member's precise question, removal of equalization would cause the price of 12 cans of beer to rise from \$12 to \$12.12 in Yellowknife and Hay River's price would fall to \$11.88. In Frobisher Bay, the price would be \$14.24 in the summer and \$26.74 in the winter. I would note that the winter wholesale price of beer in Frobisher Bay is \$13.37 and this is the only instance where alcohol is actually subsidized, that is, sold for less than cost. It is not the government that provides this subsidy but consumers in other parts of the Territories.

As to what benefits would accrue to other programs, it is too early in our analysis to say. As I indicated, equalization is revenue neutral so its elimination would not produce additional revenues for the government. Many factors must be considered in this matter, including whether price rises would result in lower consumption and if problems of product substitution -- that is, spirits for beer -- would occur if equalization is simply removed. The Executive Council will continue to examine the issue and will keep Members informed of the results of our deliberations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Further Return To Question 018-86(2): Report On Whitehorse Meeting

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a reply to the question asked by Mr. Richard on October 17th, regarding the joint cabinet meetings with the Yukon government. I am pleased to tell the Member that I will table a written report on the joint cabinet meeting between the NWT and Yukon governments that took place in Whitehorse, October 10th and 11th, 1986.

Return To Question W9-86(2): Capital Allocations Planning

Mr. Speaker, finally a response to another question by Ms Cournoyea on October 21st, 1986 regarding capital allocations planning. The response is no, the capital allocations planning has not been concluded. The criterion of relative community needs is used, as it has always been, to determine the priorities for capital allocations.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, returns to oral questions. That appears to conclude this item for today. Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 055-86(2): Parental Responsibility For Children

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for our Government Leader. At the Native Women's Association annual assembly you stated that women should stay at home as care-givers of their children. To encourage family participation, should not you as the Leader be encouraging men, as fathers, also to have some responsibility in a family unit?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 055-86(2): Parental Responsibility For Children

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the matter that the Member refers to is a matter that arose as a result of my speaking to the Native Women's Association's annual conference here in Yellowknife a number of weeks ago. The controversy, I think, has arisen in part in the way that the media reported the comments that I made and recognizing that the media generally is interested in sensationalizing an issue, which I think was done in this case. I can tell the Member that when I was speaking on the subject I was stating my own personal views. I was asked directly about that

and I did indicate that generally people should take care of their own children and not leave it to other people to look after them. In the course of saying so, I did refer to women. On further thought, I ought to have said, "Parents ought to stay home to look after their children." That is the best situation.

In my meeting with the women I felt that I did cover the issue of single parents and people who both have to work to make a living. I did indicate that I recognize that we are not living in a perfect world where either parent could stay home and that occasionally one of the parents must be away from home. I said that in that instance I think that the care should be as good as possible. So I hope, anyway, that this clarifies the matter and that this causes no more concern to the Member.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question. Reality today does not allow some mothers to stay home. Also, in small communities some men do stay home while their wives go back to school or to work. My question is: How can you justify that affirmative action plan and encourage women to work when you feel that we should stay home?

MR. McCALLUM: Good question.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the Minister answered that question. However, if he wishes, he may rephrase it to satisfy you. But in his reply to you on the last remark he did cover that subject. Mr. Minister, do you have any comments you want to make?

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Inaudible comment)

MR. SPEAKER: He stated it in his last -- read the Hansard, it is in there. Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 056-86(2): Fair Representation From Communities In Arctic Winter Games

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for sport and recreation. Mr. Speaker, it was suggested earlier this afternoon by my colleague from Tu Nedhe that there is not a fair representation in the selection process for participants in Arctic Winter Games to represent the Northwest Territories from among the various communities of the Northwest Territories. It was my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that in recent games, over the last number of years, that that situation had improved and improved drastically and that there is indeed a fair representation. I would ask the Minister, Mr. Wray, to confirm whether my understanding of that improvement is correct. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 056-86(2): Fair Representation From Communities In Arctic Winter Games

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is indeed correct. We have just recently completed a review of the 1986 Arctic Winter Games and I am pleased to report that from the 1984 games there was a 28 per cent participation increase, from a total of 1556 participants in 1984 to 2003 participants in 1986. The number of communities involved increased from 31 to 37. There were 37 communities in the Northwest Territories heavily involved in the Arctic Winter Games and the participation by native people in the games also rose by approximately five per cent.

In addition to that, recognizing that small communities, no matter where they may be, in northern Canada or southern Canada, cannot compete with large urban communities in the sports arena simply because larger communities have a much larger population base to draw on and their teams are exposed to much more competition, they are exposed to many more clinics, much more coaching -- we have taken steps to try to alleviate some of those problems with our small communities.

We have two programs in this fiscal year which were designed specifically to address those problems. One is called the intercommunity sport competition program, which is funded to promote participation and to increase individual and team skills to a level competitive with larger

communities. The travel costs of this are funded on a 70 per cent GNWT, 30 per cent community basis. We also now fund a sports skill clinic program which promotes participation and skill clinics in the small communities. In addition to that, in the upcoming operational plan in the new fiscal year we are proposing to move to regional games on a yearly basis as opposed to every two years with the Arctic Winter Games.

What should be pointed out, Mr. Speaker, is that the Arctic Winter Games themselves are simply a combination of community and regional trials put together by Sport North, and the participation at the regional and community level is something like nine or 10 times higher than that of the Arctic Winter Games. The Arctic Winter Games are simply the best athletes that we have representing the Northwest Territories to the best of their ability. So I think there is some misconception about the Arctic Winter Games. The participation level is extremely high. Literally, in one weekend hundreds of athletes are moved around the North from community to community and from region to region. As I say, 37 communities were involved in the past year. Thank you.

MR. McCALLUM: Quite an answer.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Reasonable.

---Laughter

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

Question 057-86(2): Changing Quotas On Polar Bears

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources concerning the quotas on polar bears. Are you able to deal with decreasing the quotas on polar bears?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 057-86(2): Changing Quotas On Polar Bears

HON. RED PEDERSEN: I suppose the answer to the question is yes, but if the Member would like to elaborate a little more...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Maybe not quite that good, but...

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Paniloo.

Supplementary To Question 057-86(2): Changing Quotas On Polar Bears

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our community for the past few years there have been some problems with polar bears getting into the caches of meat. In one year there were some 50 polar bears that got into the meat caches. We try not to kill any of these bears because our quota is only 50. If these bears who get into our meat caches were to be killed, there would be a drastic decrease in the population of polar bears in our area. I have asked about this previously. Can we kill these bears that get into the meat caches, or are they not allowed to be killed because they are not a threat to the person?

The personnel from Renewable Resources have informed us that we are not supposed to kill these bears who get into meat caches. My question is: If these bears get into the meat caches, what kind of steps should I take to improve the situation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: We will bear with you, Mr. Minister.

---Laughter

Further Return To Question 057-86(2): Changing Quotas On Polar Bears

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have an allowance where nuisance bears can be killed or disposed of. I do not think we would like to see, in effect, the quota doubled from 50 to 100 by going after the up to 50 incidences per year where bears get into meat caches. I have in this House, in reply to Members before on the request for an increase in bear quotas, stated, and I will say so again, that the quotas are set within the best biological data information that we have. I feel that it is absolutely essential and critical that we keep it within that and that we be seen both nationally and internationally as being wise harvesters within a sustainable yield of the resource. If we do not do that, Mr. Speaker, I suspect that we could, in very short order, be faced with having the polar bear listed on Appendix I of CITES, which would effectively kill off our market for polar bears.

I do not think any of us want to get into a situation where we can shoot as many bears as we want, under our aboriginal rights, but if we are only left with eating the meat and wearing the skin as pants, I do not think that we are as well off as we are today. We have to realize that on all these renewable resource harvesting markets where we market a product of the harvest, that we are subject to and dictated to by the international sentiment on how well we do the harvesting and whether we do it wisely and within sustainable yields. We have had enough questions about polar bear quotas -- I will take it under consideration and let the House know at a later date, but we are considering setting up a small group to travel to all the polar bear harvesting communities and explain the situation and seek their continuing co-operation.

As to the direct question of what should Mr. Paniloo do with the meat caches, for the time being I cannot really answer that question other than to make the caches more secure. I think I have given the best answer I can under the circumstances. Thank you.

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

Question 058-86(2): Relocation Of Tank Farm Dispenser, Gjoa Haven

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct this question to the Minister of Government Services. I have asked the question before. It is still regarding the tank farm in Gjoa Haven. I know it is very difficult for his department to do something about it, but I guess the community is really in need to have something done about the tank farm. As I mentioned before, the piping system where you dispense fuel is approximately 50 feet from a house. I guess the answer is, very simply, just to move it a little further away from that house instead of moving the whole tank farm. Would his department do something about it so that the dispenser of that tank farm could be moved away from the house instead of moving the whole tank farm? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and provide a response later. I will probably have to consult with my friends here. I think they will be able to move the house instead of the dispenser.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not satisfied with the reply that I got. I was simply asking, would your department do something about it? That is the question that I asked and I want a reply now. Because the question was asked a long time ago.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Angottitauruq, the Minister has indicated that he would take your question as notice and he is entitled to do that. He will give you a reply at a later date. You cannot demand a reply to a question. Oral questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question 059-86(2): Labour Funding For HAP Program

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to ask this question of the Minister of the Housing Corporation. I was with him in Baffin Island last spring. We visited my constituencies and I was very happy about that. But I want to ask him what he was talking about through the HAP program, the people who are building houses through the HAP program. I found in Pangnirtung a person who was building a house and had the funding of \$2500. I would like to have this confirmed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

Return To Question 059-86(2): Labour Funding For HAP Program

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I assume that the Member is talking about labour funding with the HAP program. As I understood, what happened is that this year labour funding came out of two programs. One was STEP, subsidized term employment program. I would think \$2500 would be the amount per house in the Baffin out of the STEP funding. The other program was the ICHRS, Indian/Inuit community human resources strategy program. I understand that many Baffin communities decided not to use it for housing but to use it for other projects. So they did not get as much money in the Baffin for labour because of the decision of the communities. It is an ongoing program. It is a question Ms Cournoyea asked me. What we are trying to do, for next year, is to come up with a better system. It was very, very difficult with the existing two programs that really did not match each other. We managed to get through the year. I have a proposal in front of the federal government. Unfortunately the Minister was changed. I have brought it up with the new Minister again. I will be talking with him in November and hopefully, for next year, we will have a better system. But I think what happened this year is that \$2500 came from STEP, and some communities decided to use the other program money for other than housing.

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

Question 060-86(2): Status Of Arctic Bay Petition

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this to the Minister of Education. I brought a petition here from Arctic Bay. I would like to ask the Minister of Education if he is going to deal with the petition that I handed to him, before school begins next year. And I would like to hear what you think of that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 060-86(2): Status Of Arctic Bay Petition

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the rules of this House require me to give a reply to a petition within 60 days of its being presented in the House. So I will certainly do that. My reply will be well before the beginning of the next school year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 061-86(2): Financial Assistance Offered Nunasi Corporation

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Economic Development. It is related to the responses the Minister gave yesterday on the financial assistance being offered to Nunasi Corporation. Can the Minister indicate whether the financial assistance which, if being offered, is under the business loans and guarantees fund or legislation or whether the financial assistance which is being offered is outside of that program? And if so, what is the nature of the program or assistance that is being extended to this corporation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 061-86(2): Financial Assistance Offered Nunasi Corporation

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, the recommendation of the committee that was struck between Indian Affairs, our Department of Economic Development and the banks involved restructuring the financing to allow each responsible agency to at least make some contribution to the state of Nunasi Corporation. We have not, as yet, committed any funds although we have been asked to definitely provide some financial assistance. Our proposal, so far, has not been accepted by Nunasi Corporation. So therefore, I cannot at this moment tell you whether or not we have provided any funds to them. The conditions that we have put forward have not had a formal response from them yet. But I do want to say that the programs that we are working under are under the direct responsibility of my department -- regular programs, no exceptions at all to the rules that apply to your constituents, to business, and therefore once the response has been received, I will be in a better position to state something about it. At this time, I am not sure whether they have agreed or will agree to the conditions that we have asked Nunasi to abide by. Thank you.



MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Richard.

Supplementary To Question 061-86(2): Financial Assistance Offered Nunasi Corporation

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I had understood the Minister to respond yesterday that an offer of financial assistance with conditions attached to it had been extended to Nunasi Corporation. The Minister is indicating today that there has not, in fact, been an offer of financial assistance put forward to Nunasi. I would ask the Minister, firstly, to clarify that. When the Minister indicates that there is no special treatment, could he indicate for me, when he says that there has been a committee struck between his department and DIAND and the banks, how often is such a committee struck to deal with the financial problems of private entrepreneur corporations with which his department has contact? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 061-86(2): Financial Assistance Offered Nunasi Corporation

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, on any major refinancing or restructuring of a company there normally is a committee of interested groups formed to deal with the questions that are involved. So the committee that we struck at that time was not formal but agreed to work together to communicate to all parties involved. So one is not implicating the other. It is no different from any major company that might be in jeopardy here in this town -- if the bank has one interest in the company and the GNWT has some interest in it, they would try to agree to work out some basic financial problems that the company is having. Yes, we were asked to commit a certain amount of money but we could not do so unless the conditions that we have put forward are accepted. That is all I can say.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Richard.

Supplementary To Question 061-86(2): Financial Assistance Offered Nunasi Corporation

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, if the applicant, Nunasi Corporation, meets the conditions that the department has placed on this offer, will the assistance that would flow therefrom be made under the Business Loans and Guarantees Act? Or will it be outside of that program?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 061-86(2): Financial Assistance Offered Nunasi Corporation

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, they will be within the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, particularly they will be administered and the programs that are affected will be dealt with by the business development section of the department. No loans, in my view, are being applied to this particular situation unless they have put forward a new proposal to both governments.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of a direct response to that fairly simple question, I am going to assume that the assistance being offered is outside of the normal business loans and guarantees fund. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Richard, that is an observation, it is not a question. Mr. McCallum.

Question 062-86(2): Advertising In The South

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Personnel. It is in relation to the reply he gave me regarding Question 03-86(2). Could I ask the Minister, given what he had indicated to me last Thursday, can he assure me that from now he intends that ads that appear in the southern papers will be the same as in the North? Does the Minister intend now to go ahead, notwithstanding that he is going to look later, or does he intend not to advertise in the South at all?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 062-86(2): Advertising In The South

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Speaker, I intend to go ahead as I indicated to the Member. We will advertise the same way in the North as we do in the South. As I mentioned to you today in the reply, we are waiting for further information. I do not think that the information that we get back will prevent us from advertising in the South.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. McCallum.

Supplementary To Question 062-86(2): Advertising In The South

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could supply this House with figures to indicate, since the advent of the affirmative action policy, how often the government has, since affirmative action has come into place, hired people from the South. And is there a cut-off level, under the public service pay scale? Is there a cut-off level whereby this government does not advertise for these positions in southern papers?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice and give the Member a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Question 063-86(2): Assistance In The Past From Both Levels Of Government

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to the House whether a similar type of assistance has been given in the past by both levels of government, the GNWT and the federal government. In other words the same type of assistance that is being considered for the Nunasi Corporation. Could he give us examples of similar situations that occurred in the past and if so, what are they?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 063-86(2): Assistance In The Past From Both Levels Of Government

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would think there are many examples. One that comes to mind in very quick thinking is the arctic co-op situation where we were forced, not only to form a committee, but formalize a corporation that would eventually handle the co-op development fund. The committee existed for a number of times. I think the department was instrumental in getting third party funding for the state of co-ops. Therefore, that particular group negotiated with our bargaining position that we had at that time because we were not able to relieve the co-op systems heavy financial situation by going it alone. So we negotiated with them and we had a management group in place for almost a year before the deal was finally agreed to by all parties. Thank you.

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

Question 064-86(2): Travel Assistance To Sports Groups

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question directed to the Minister responsible for the Arctic Winter Games Corporation. I just want to ask whether or not he is aware that there was an advertisement in the papers requesting interested sports groups or sports governing bodies to make presentations to the Arctic Winter Games Corporation, and whether or not these particular community groups would be assisted in travelling to Yellowknife to make their presentations?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 064-86(2): Travel Assistance To Sports Groups

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I was not aware of that ad. The Arctic Winter Games Corporation is an independent body that does not report to me. I, in fact, made a presentation myself to the NWT component of the Arctic Winter Games Corporation, but, no, there was



no consideration being given to bringing community groups in. The sports governing bodies of all the sports are independent bodies elected by the members of that sport. I have no control over those bodies nor would I desire to have control and as such it is their responsibility to collect the opinions and the ideas from their various community-based sports groups. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 064-86(2): Travel Assistance To Sports Groups

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I do not suggest to the Minister that he assume responsibility for all sport organizations. But I do say that this Assembly does have influence over the Arctic Winter Games Corporation because we do provide the finances. I would ask if the Minister is prepared to consider suggesting to the Arctic Winter Games Corporation that they hold hearings outside of Yellowknife to ensure that there are presentations made by community groups, because they do not have the finances to come to Yellowknife and make the appropriate presentations.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 064-86(2): Travel Assistance To Sports Groups

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, most certainly, I will undertake to make that representation to the Arctic Winter Games Corporation and perhaps suggest to them that given the high costs and the fact that we really contribute a very, very small amount to the Arctic Winter Games Corporation, that they may wish to look at perhaps holding hearings in regional centres, for example, as opposed to trying to travel into every community because the costs are just too high. But I can certainly undertake to make representation along those lines to them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

Question 065-86(2): Navigational Aids And Lights, Snowdrift Airport

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Local Government. I would like to know what has been done to the airport at Snowdrift, if they have installed beacons and lights. I would like to know what has been done up until now. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 065-86(2): Navigational Aids And Lights, Snowdrift Airport

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Navigational aids and lights are being installed in Snowdrift and will be completed this year.

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

Question 066-86(2): Limits On Sport North Lotteries

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Local Government. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to this House whether there are any limits placed on Sport North in regard to the amount of revenue that they can raise through their lottery licence or is it open-ended?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take that question under notice and reply to the Member tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 067-86(2): Airport Lighting, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. This past winter the lights at the airport were installed but there are still about 200 feet of lighting that have not been installed yet. The Minister said they have worked on it, but there are 200 feet of lighting left to be installed. Therefore I would like to know when that 200 feet of lighting will be completed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I will also have to take that question under notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being taken as notice. Mr. Richard.

Question 068-86(2): Legislation On Use Of Seat Belts

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Government Services. Recently I wrote to the previous Minister, Mr. Butters, on a Government Services matter, indicating that there has been a concern expressed by constituents of mine that we do not have any seat belt legislation in this jurisdiction, particularly any requirement for the use of child restraint seats. Mr. Butters responded that the government was considering bringing in such legislation. Can the Minister indicate when we might expect to see this proposed legislation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 068-86(2): Legislation On Use Of Seat Belts

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I did not have an opportunity to check the Member's question, but the information that I have, as the Member probably knows, is that the government is proposing to introduce a major bill in the winter session, if my colleague and his staff can expedite the drafting of the bill for motor vehicles. My information is that this idea is contained in the proposed new act to be introduced in the winter. I will be pleased to provide further information by letter to you, after checking to see what your correspondence was to the previous Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Ms Cournoyca.

Question 069-86(2): NWT Issues Within Free Trade Talks

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe that this particular question should go to the Government Leader and it is on the matter of the free trade talks. In regard to the issues in the NWT, what issues were brought forward on behalf of the NWT to be dealt with within this process?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of that question and provide a response as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 070-86(2): Keys To Operate Lighting, Fort Providence Airport

MR. GARGAN: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is also for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. In Fort Providence the lighting for the landing strip can only be operated by key and there are only three people who have the keys for the lighting. The town council and the secretary are the ones that have keys and there is another person in Providence who has a key. At the moment Air Providence have a couple of planes there but they do not have any keys to operate the lighting for the airstrip. So what I would like to ask the Minister is: As Air Providence has the two planes, and if there is dire requirements for using the key to the lighting for the airstrip, can they use the keys?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 070-86(2): Keys To Operate Lighting, Fort Providence Airport

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea why Air Providence does not have the key. I suspect it is because they only use the runway, they do not own it. The council operates the runway and the people who operate the runway are the ones who are given the keys to operate the runway. We do not usually provide aircraft operators with keys to airport facilities. Other than that, I do not know. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 070-86(2): Keys To Operate Lighting, Fort Providence Airport

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were a number of incidents in Fort Providence where, on weekends, there was an elderly person who needed to be medivaced. I do not know about the second situation but this was one case where the nurse was not there and the settlement manager was not there and the person that had the phone was not there to answer the phone in order to deal with the lighting situation at that time. I have some concern that these types of circumstances would occur. I would like to ask the Minister whether he would be in a position to do something about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly look into the matter and see what we can do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Question 071-86(2): Status Of Discussions On Arctic Airports Facilities Policy

MR. WAH-SHEE: I have a question for the Minister of Local Government. I wonder if the Minister would be prepared to indicate to this House what is the status of the discussions between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Ministry of Transport in regard to the arctic airports facilities policy, I mean the facilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 071-86(2): Status Of Discussions On Airports Facilities Policy

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The negotiations are coming along rather well. I am pleased to report that we actually have MOT now talking dollars for the nine airports that were not completed under the arctic B and C policies. As to the amount of those dollars, we are into a negotiating phase. The initial position of Transport Canada was that they wanted to transfer all the B and C airports over to us, including even the 11 unfinished ones, and we would assume responsibility for them. Obviously, in their minds, it would mean assuming responsibility for the capital construction costs of those runways. I indicated to them that this was unacceptable. The capital costs were in the neighbourhood of \$55 million. We have subsequently met with them and they have now indicated their desire, along with the transfer, to perhaps also transfer a significant amount of money to us to complete the 11 airports. Because of the extensive negotiations and the fact that we are having to deal with three regions, Quebec, central and western, it could very well be that we will begin to transfer starting next year, region by region, because MOT, in their regional offices, are very different. It has been very difficult to come up with one standard set of parameters, dealing with Ministry of Transport. But I can indicate that things are starting to progress and the fact that they are now talking about money is a hopeful sign. Thank you.

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

Question 072-86(2): Return To Question 300-86(1), Rehiring Practices

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 18th, 1986 I had a question to the Government Leader, Question 300-86(1), concerning unemployment. He answered that he would look into this. I am wondering why when there is employment available, they do not offer it to the Inuit people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I am sorry I cannot give a reply on the question asked, but tomorrow I will be able to reply. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 073-86(2): Basis For Determining Number Of Social Workers

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. There are social workers in the communities. What is the population requirement to get two social workers in a community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 073-86(2): Basis For Determining Number Of Social Workers

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department does not use population size as a requirement for how many social workers are in a community. What we do is use the case load in communities. Some communities, for example, will have more social assistance recipients than others or maybe have a history of more social problems than others and those communities would more likely have more social workers than another community. So, the population in the community is not the main determining factor. It is how many cases there are of people requiring social assistance and other social services in the communities.

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

Question 074-86(2): Policy On Privatization Of Translation Services

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. Mr. Speaker, earlier this session, I asked the Minister of Economic Development to provide the details of policies that the government has developed for each department on the issue of privatization. I have yet to receive a response from that Minister. However, specifically, with respect to the privatization policies in the Department of Culture and Communications for translation services, I am aware, Mr. Speaker, that my colleague for Yellowknife Centre recently wrote to the Minister citing a specific instance where privatization of translation service had occurred with respect to the proceedings of this Assembly on an earlier occasion. There appeared to be a change recently in that policy. Can the Minister indicate whether there is a policy developed for his department, specifically for translation services, and provide the details of that policy to the Assembly? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 074-86(2): Policy On Privatization Of Translation Services

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, it has not been long that I have been in the department so I do not, precisely, know whether there is in fact a policy with respect to the matter that the Member has raised. But I do know that there is a practice of occasionally contracting out translation and interpreting work to persons that hold themselves out to do these services as a business. There has not been a change in this practice since I have taken over as the Minister responsible for the department. The department intends to continue that practice in the future. With respect to the reference to the letter that another Member had written, a letter should be sent to the Member very soon, with respect to his questions concerning this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 075-86(2): Completion Date For Capital Planning Process

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the reply to a question the Government Leader stated that the capital planning process had not been concluded at this stage. Could he reply and state when he plans to have the capital planning process completed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the precise date for conclusion of that process. It will be sometime between now and, obviously, the winter session. I will advise the Member tomorrow as to the precise date.

MR. SPEAKER: He is taking the question as notice. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 076-86(2): Criteria For Capital Plan

MS COURNOYEA: Would the Government Leader, Mr. Speaker, be willing to table the criteria and the community needs, as he referred to, in establishing the expenditures on capital planning?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice and provide a response tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being taken as notice. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 077-86(2): Recommendations Re Downturn In Economy Related To Capital Plan

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, would the Government Leader also undertake to let us know at this Legislative Assembly how the working group, Messrs. Butters, Curley and Ballantyne, will fit their recommendations regarding the downturn in the economy in relationship to the capital planning?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 078-86(2): Indian Remissions Regulation

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance and it is with regard to the Financial Administration Act. It is regarding a regulation cited as the Indian remissions regulation. I would like to ask the Minister, under this particular act, what does that mean as far as the Hay River Reserve goes. Does it in fact mean that people who have been paying taxes since 1983 will be reimbursed for tax paid out? I would also like to know if it also means that regardless of ethnic background, people who are working on the reserve are exempt from taxation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I am not personally familiar with the regulation in question. I will look at it and will have a response by Friday. So I am taking the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being taken as notice. This may be a good time to recognize in the gallery Mr. Roy Fabian and his delegation from the Hay River band. Welcome to Yellowknife.

---Applause

Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 079-86(2): Informing Employees From The South On Affirmative Action

MR. MacQUARRIE: It is for the Minister responsible for Personnel, following up on a question that was asked earlier by my colleague for Slave River. The matter as to whether or not the notice that preference will be given to applicants under the native employment policy, whether or not that will appear in southern newspapers is one matter, but regardless of whether it appears or not, are people who we hire from the South specifically and explicitly informed by some other means before they are engaged, that there is an affirmative action policy in place in the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that as notice and give you a reply tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being taken as notice. Supplementary, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Supplementary To Question 079-86(2): Informing Employees From The South On Affirmative Action

MR. MacQUARRIE: Supplementary, if they are, could I be informed as to how it is done so it is not left to chance, because I did indicate when we discussed the affirmative action program that I thought it would be very unfair to engage people from the South -- they are safe getting that job, but they cannot advance in the territorial government. They ought to know that before they come. The question revolves around that predicament for them.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will provide that together with the other one.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 080-86(2): Effect Of Economic Development Conferences On Capital Plan

MR. NERYSOO: A question to the Government Leader. In relation to the questions being asked by my colleague for Nunakput, is the capital planning process going to be affected by decisions and recommendations from economic development conferences, to deal with solutions surrounding the whole issue of the downturn in our economy in the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 080-86(2): Effect Of Economic Development Conferences On Capital Plan

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the government recognizes that there is an economic downturn in the North at the moment and in dealing with the problem I think we will use all of the resources available to us, and other means, to try to deal with this as well as we can. One way that we can deal with the economic downturn is through the financial resources that we have as a government. So certainly the capital planning process that deals with expenditures of the government for capital projects is one of the areas that we are looking at to see if we can provide employment and opportunities for people in the North. So the economic conferences that have been held to date in various parts of the North are very useful to indicate to government concerns in a particular region and the decisions and recommendations from those too, will also impact on us in our consideration of our capital plan.

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

Supplementary To Question 080-86(2): Effect Of Economic Development Conferences On Capital Plan

MR. NERYSOO: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the comments he made, can the Minister and the Government Leader give me assurances that no final decisions will be made prior to the economic development conference to be held in the Mackenzie Delta and, in particular, Inuvik?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 080-86(2): Effect Of Economic Development Conferences On Capital Plan

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I understand that meeting is sometime in November. We will be very pleased to await the outcome of that meeting before making the final plans with respect to our capital plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The Chair would like to recognize the mayor of Fort Smith, Mr. Mike Miltenberger. Welcome to the chambers.

---Applause

Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 081-86(2): Selection Of Committee To Review Regional Councils

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. I was not here when he made an announcement of the selection of eight people to the regional council review co-ordinating committee. There are four from the government, two from municipalities and two from regional councils. I would just like to ask the Minister how the selection of these people was done.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 081-86(2): Selection Of Committee To Review Regional Councils

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, in considering membership to the committees that we establish, we are very mindful of attempting to get people from all parts of the North and I believe we have done so. We have people from the Delta and from the Eastern Arctic, Keewatin and from Denendeh, as it were. So I believe that we have been successful in getting a group together that represents all regions of the North and different areas of responsibility. I may just say that I believe there are three members from the government: Mr. Menard, Mr. Overvold and Mr. Black. Mr. Braden has been an employee of the government but I believe that will soon be terminated and he is seen as a private person.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 081-86(2): Selection Of Committee To Review Regional Councils

MR. GARGAN: These people that are being selected, are they going to be employees of the government or are they going to be meeting on a continuous basis on an honorarium? Now that this board is established, how long would they work in order to accomplish the task given to them?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 081-86(2): Selection Of Committee To Review Regional Councils

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I guess the Member should have been here a little earlier. He would have heard me say that the length of the co-ordinating committee's term is to provide me with a report by June 1st, 1987, with a view to presenting the report, likely by the new government, at a future session of the Assembly. The persons that will be on this committee will be paid on an honorarium basis. They will not be required to become civil servants.

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

Supplementary To Question 081-86(2): Selection Of Committee To Review Regional Councils

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a supplementary again. Does that mean then that the people that are now employees of government will be given special leave or leave of absence in order to accomplish this task?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) Why do you keep asking me that question? (Translation ends) Of course, the civil servants that are going to be part of this will not lose their status and position as civil servants. They will remain as civil servants but, I am sure, be granted leave and special provisions made for them to take part in this very important committee.

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

Question 082-86(2): Mr. Overvold's Participation In Review Process

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just with regard to continuing with the questions that were asked by Mr. Gargan. I, Mr. Speaker, have some concern with regard to the representation by government. Is the Government Leader suggesting that Mr. Overvold, who could be a part of the negotiating process and more intensive process that the Government of Canada has suggested, going to have enough time to participate in this particular process, while at the same time in the negotiation for aboriginal rights?



MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 086-86(2): Mr. Overvold's Participation In Review Process

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I do believe that Mr. Overvold will be able to take time from his responsibility as our government representative on the Dene/Metis claims. In fact he is head of the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat now. I will just say in passing that an attempt was made to get people from various fields, people that have been involved with the regional councils, people that are involved with the municipalities and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and a person, too, that has knowledge of regional government administration. In the case of Mr. Overvold, he was asked to be part of this because of his experience and knowledge of constitutional development matters, possibilities that exist for people in the North in the future with respect to constitutional changes. So that is the basis on which someone like Mr. Charles Overvold was asked to be on this and I do hope that his involvement on this will not derogate or take away from his foremost responsibility as head of the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today. Item 6, written questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W10-86(2): Nunasi Corporation

MR. MacQUARRIE: For the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Will the Minister please provide me with the following information as it becomes available: 1) The recent guidelines established by the Business Loans and Guarantees Board for the refinancing of companies that are experiencing financial difficulty; 2) The conditions that the GNWT put forward to Nunasi Corporation in order to make it eligible for financial assistance; 3) If GNWT financial assistance is made available to Nunasi Corporation, the amounts and terms of various loans, loan guarantees, grants and contributions, and other management assistance that is made available, as well as identifying the various departmental programs under which this financial assistance is authorized; and 4) Were normal application, decision-making channels used in getting to the point where financial assistance was made available to Nunasi? If not, what deviations occurred, and why?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Order, please. Written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question W11-86(2): Arctic Winter Games Sports Selection Meeting

MR. NERYSOO: I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs the following questions with regard to the Arctic Winter Games Corporation and the sports selection meeting: 1) How many community representatives or groups made presentations to the Arctic Winter Games sports selection meeting on Saturday, October 18, 1986? 2) How many communities received the sports information questionnaire and how many were completed? 3) When were these questionnaires made available to the communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Written questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question W12-86(2): Government Building, Clyde River

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) In Clyde River there is a government building, No. 71-404, which hasn't been used for two years; before that it was used as a school. The Government had some plans to turn it into office space but there is no funding to do the necessary work. My question to the Minister of Public Works and Highways is to ask if he could look for some funding to do some renovation work on this building. The building could then be used by government employees since there is very little office space in Clyde River.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question W13-86(2): Benefits To Public Servants

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct the question to the Minister of Personnel. Can the Minister review benefits being offered to public servants, including teachers, within the Mackenzie Delta communities?



The review should include the following: 1) Comparisons of housing benefits between the regional centre, Inuvik, and the Mackenzie Delta communities; 2) What is the comparison of rents being paid in the regional centre, Inuvik, and those being paid in the Mackenzie Delta communities; 3) Could the Minister indicate whether there is a loss of any benefits to employees in the communities as compared to the regional centre; in particular I would like to know whether there is a loss in housing allowance when more than one person in a family is employed by the government and that family is living in government-provided housing?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Written questions. That appears to conclude written questions for today. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Question W6-86(2): Native Economic Development Program

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to Question W6-86(2), asked by Mr. Wah-Shee on October 21st, 1986, with respect to NEDP. In response to the Member's question regarding the secondment of a member of my staff to NEDP, this program is a federal program, and as such the federal government is solely responsible for the delivery of this program. The secondment of a territorial employee is primarily to ensure the program is widely known and utilized in the North, and to ensure the federal administrators of this program are aware of the unique problems facing northern applicants. We want to ensure that NEDP becomes a vehicle for assisting in the development of the North. We feel this is an appropriate way to ensure positive results for the Northwest Territories.

It is my job as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism to ensure that federal economic development programs are utilized to their maximum. We have supported specific proposals from native groups such as Liard Valley Band Development Corporation and the Slave River sawmill. By having a northern office -- not a regional office, as the Member stated -- close to native business people we hope to make this program more accessible to native people.

Referring to the question regarding consultation of native groups for the NEDP northern office, it was not our responsibility to do this consultation. However, I understand that in the short period of time before this proposal was put to NEDP, as many native development groups as possible were contacted to solicit their opinions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Actually on written questions you just need to read the topic and file the report. It is not necessary to read the full context into the record. Returns to written questions. Are there any further returns? Mr. McCallum, on a point of order.

MR. McCALLUM: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that under our new rules, the written responses or returns to written questions are to be filed with the Clerk who indicates that, and then they are to be passed out. I do not think that it was the intention that it is necessary to read out all returns to written questions. I recognize that the Minister may want to read out a question but they should be filed and the reply should be in our books so that the individual Member could read it. That is Rule 55.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: He has the option to read it out.

MR. SPEAKER: The new rules have changed the position somewhat but we are still going on the position that the Minister will indicate that there is an answer to the written question on such and such a matter, period. He does not have to read it in, and at that time, it will then be added to the Members' books, after the Ministers have given that amount of information. Now, possibly our interpretation needs to be looked at. We will do that. Maybe we are not doing it properly under the new rules.

Returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Pudluk's Reply

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to try to make this a short reply. Perhaps if I talk a little bit about my trip this summer, when I was travelling to my constituency communities, Alert, Mould Bay and Eureka. This was my first visit to these sites since I was

elected and I am happy that the new park was opened on Ellesmere Island. I thank the Minister of Economic Development, the Hon. Tagak Curley, for coming to open the park. He also came with Dennis Patterson and Red Pedersen but these two did not make me aware ahead of time that they were coming. At the same time I would like to thank them for coming to my constituency area. The government programs, since I was elected to be an MLA, have improved quite a bit but there is still a lot of room for improvement.

Now, I would like to talk more about the government employees in smaller communities. There is not enough staff housing available to the government employees in communities. The local people are allowed to build a house under the HAP program if they meet the criteria that the Housing Corporation applies, but the government employees do not meet these criteria, so therefore they are at the losing end most of the time. I think the GNWT should try to accommodate their employees, whereby the government could assist the employees to build their own house under their own program and not under HAP.

#### High Suicide Rate

I think one of the main concerns that people have today is the rate of suicide in our communities for different reasons and the cultural transitions that our people go through. In the media it was said that the suicide rate is higher in the North than anywhere in the country. I looked into this matter and in 1983 and 1984-85, in three years, there were 53 suicides in the North. With these figures, the most people who committed suicide were Inuit. There were 31 Inuit who committed suicide and their ages were between 15 years old and 34 years old. There were more boys who committed suicide than girls. In this Legislative Assembly I think we should be more aware of this problem so we can try to alleviate the problem and deal with it so that there is not as much suicide in the NWT. We know there is a lot to be done. One of the reasons for the high suicide rate is that the young people are bored in the communities. I think we should look at this and deal with it instead of just talking about it. In the near future we will have to deal with this otherwise it will get worse and it is getting worse.

In 1983 there were 21 suicide cases and in 1984 there were 16 suicide cases. Also in 1985 there were 16 suicide cases. The number of people who commit suicide is not getting much lower. For that reason let us try to do something about this and make our people more aware of the problem and see how we can help these young people in our communities. One of the ways that will minimize the problem is for the young people to be given different opportunities, such as education. I think this helps to minimize the suicide rate. I do not believe the Canadian government is doing as much as they can do, such as creating new jobs for our young people who are coming out of the schools with some qualifications.

These are the things that I wanted to talk about. Most of all I would like to thank the Members regarding the motion that I made yesterday. You were able to participate with the motion that I introduced and it shows that we are all concerned about the problems that we encounter. I want to thank the Members for participating in the discussions of the motion.

#### Development Of Local Government

Also I am going to be talking about the communities. The communities are starting to be on their own and the communities are increasing in population. I am happy to say that the government has been able to let the local people develop their communities. When I first became a Member in 1975, the communities in my constituency were just starting to run their own affairs a little more. There are a lot more people now in the communities and it is good to see that this is happening but sometimes they cannot always do what they would like to do because of lack of resources. For instance when they first started having vehicles in the communities they used smaller equipment, but now with the population increasing in the communities they need bigger equipment to be used in their communities for community services. I think what we should think about now is getting bigger equipment to service the communities. For instance, those 966 front-end loaders that some of the communities have are adequate but if other smaller communities were to get the 966, I think it would cost them about \$270,000 for each vehicle. The larger equipment is better for the communities that are growing in size.

I do not want to talk for too long. But another concern of my constituency is regarding the money that is provided for education. In some of the smaller communities it is very hard to try to get some funds for the purpose of cultural inclusion in schools. Maybe during this session we could

come up with some funds to accommodate this need in smaller communities for courses for young people to take as part of their education. I think we should be gearing toward talking about the traditional way of life as part of the educational system. I think I will stop for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Replies to Opening Address. That appears to conclude this subject today. Item 9, petitions. Mr. Pedersen.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Petition 7-86(2), from the hamlet council of Cambridge Bay pointing out the age and inadequate size of the present community hall and requesting a larger community hall. The petition contains over 450 signatures. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Petitions. That appears to conclude petitions for today.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, this document is regarding the trip that we made to Whitehorse in the Yukon and it is the answer to Mr. Richard's request for a copy. (Translation ends) Tabled Document 14-86(2), Report to the Legislative Assembly of Joint Cabinet Meetings, NWT/Yukon, in Whitehorse, October 10 and 11, 1986.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 15-86(2): A letter to Mr. Kenneth C. Thomas, chairman, Native Economic Development Board, dated September 10th, 1986.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 16-86(2), a letter from the Cape Dorset housing association. It is directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and to the district manager of the Baffin Housing Corporation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude this item for today.

Item 12, notices of motion.

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

Item 14, motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 6-86(2): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1985-86

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 6-86(2), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1986, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 6-86(2) has had first reading. Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 7-86(2): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1986-87

HON. TOM BUTTERS: My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 7-86(2), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1987, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 7-86(2) has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 9-86(2): Write-Off Of Assets And Debts Act, 1986-87

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 9-86(2), An Act Respecting the Write-off of Assets and Debts for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1987, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 9-86(2) has had first reading. First reading of bills. This appears to conclude this item for today.

Item 16, second reading of bills. No gamblers in the House today.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, not today.

MR. SPEAKER: That seems to conclude that item. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Tabled Document 13-86(2), Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Recommendations of the Task Force on Aboriginal Rights, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER TABLED DOCUMENT 13-86(2), GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with Tabled Document 13-86(2), Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Recommendations of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages.

There is a meeting of the Members of the standing committee on finance in the caucus room. We will take a 15 minute coffee break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come to order. We are on Tabled Document 13-86(2). Would the Minister like to make any opening remarks? Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have tabled the government response to the task force on aboriginal languages. I will seek your concurrence and that of the committee to have Mr. Art Sorensen, the deputy minister of the Department of Culture and Communications, as well as Ethel Blondin-Townsend, the ADM of the department, appear as witnesses along with me.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Would the Minister like to make his opening remarks now? Mr. Minister.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, this is it, our response to the task force report before you. In providing the responses, I and my Executive colleagues have been conscious of the aspirations of the native peoples with regard to their languages. We have been conscious of your views as MLAs and also conscious of what is practical and what can reasonably be obtained at this stage in the development of aboriginal languages in the North.

In providing our responses, we have had to take into consideration the limited financial resources that we have. In saying this, we have in the past few years begun to expend quite large sums of money in areas of language. But we continue to need more. Certainly, if we were able to provide and satisfy all of the recommendations, we would have needed much more money than what is presently provided. In providing the responses, we have had to contend with what is in place now by way of department structure and organization and also the people that are presently in place in the departments. We have done our best, we have attempted to respond as positively as possible, and we have gone as far as we can in satisfying the recommendations of the report. I would be pleased to deal with any general questions that Members may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee has already agreed to the recommendations by the task force on aboriginal languages. If the committee agrees, we could go from one response to another with regard to the response to the recommendations that were given by the task force on aboriginal languages. Do the Members wish to make general comments at this time? Are there any general comments? Does the committee agree then that we go from -- Mr. Angottitauruq.

Concern About Dialects

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be asking a question. In the Kitikmeot Regional Council meeting it was brought up by one of the delegates. I guess they were concerned about the different dialects they have in the NWT. The communities there get the Keewatin dialect for classroom paperwork sometimes. I guess they were quite concerned whether their dialect was going to be recognized. They would like to use less of other dialects or use their own dialect if possible and start putting it on paperwork such as in classrooms. I guess that is the question I have to ask on behalf of those people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree that we go from one response to another in regard to the recommendations?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): If the Minister agrees, perhaps the approach we will take on this is that the Minister would explain the position of the task force in response. We will go from one response to another. So the committee has already agreed that we go in that direction. I will ask the Minister to respond to recommendation 1, official status.

Aboriginal Languages To Be Official Languages In The North

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, what our response indicates here is that our government is prepared to recognize and legislate aboriginal languages as official languages in the North and put a lot of the rights and duties that pertain to such a right in legislation. Members know that at the moment we have a language act which provides differently for official languages of French and English, and aboriginal languages are delegated to official aboriginal languages only. So they are not on the same status as French and English. What we are saying here is that we do agree that aboriginal languages should be put on the same status and basis as French and English.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I might ask the Minister, what is his interpretation of "same status"? All services and programs and all government agencies will provide the same service. In other words, will we conduct all the court cases in the aboriginal languages, will we conduct hearings of government in aboriginal languages? Is that the intent or is there much more work that has to be done in order for us to recognize the so-called "same status" in the types of services that we provide to the aboriginal people?



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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, what we are proposing in this regard is in our legislation to put aboriginal languages on the same official status as French and English. You will notice at the moment that for French and English certain rights are outlined as to what "official" means. It means, for instance, that they can be used in the Legislative Assembly, certain documents and records can be provided in the French language; certain services in court and likewise, certain services from government in the French language. We propose to provide similar rights to aboriginal languages.

We recognize that it is not an easy matter for French and English in the North. English and French are found throughout the North and it is a lot easier to deal with these two languages than it would be for the aboriginal languages. We recognize the difficulty and the task that would be involved in legislating their rights, but we do believe that it can be done. We intend to work very hard in the next few months to outline the extent of the rights in the Assembly, in the court system and in the services of government, with respect to aboriginal languages. We know offhand that aboriginal languages will be dealt with on a regional basis; that these rights will not be common throughout the North.

So we certainly do not underestimate the work that has to be done as yet, but we feel that it can be done in the next few months, with a view to having them available and ready for your consideration at the winter session.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nerysoo.

#### Official Languages Should Be Identified

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Personally I do not think the government is going to have this government ready with regard to official recognition within the next couple of months. I think the reality is that there is much work to be done. I do not oppose the idea of the so-called official recognition of aboriginal languages. I would, however, suggest to the government that in any recognition there be a clause that identifies aboriginal languages. Those aboriginal languages that are specific to the NWT are the languages that should be recognized and not necessarily aboriginal languages per se, so that we end up with a responsibility of implementing or recognizing aboriginal languages from other jurisdictions. I think it has to be very specific to the North. That has to be very clear.

The other thing is, I think that it should be a section that is separate but recognizing the official aboriginal languages. I say aboriginal languages for a very particular reason, that aboriginal languages are unique to the North. They are languages that must be recognized for that uniqueness while at the same time being recognized as official languages of the Northwest Territories. I believe that it is probably very simple to institute as a separate section, but recognizing it in the context of the section recognizing English and French as official languages of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. We are on the first recommendation, official status. Further comments. Mr. MacQuarrie.

#### Same Status As English And French Questioned For Aboriginal Languages

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, when I first read the government's response here, I was very satisfied but on hearing the Government Leader comment on it, I now am a little concerned. I recognize that the matter of official status and the matter of the legislation are dealt with separately. So perhaps, I am misunderstanding what the intention is. But it seemed to me that the Government Leader just said that native languages would be accorded the same status as English and French. I may be wrong, but to me, that seems to me, that when French is fully proclaimed as an official language of the Northwest Territories that laws of the Northwest Territories will have to be translated in French and that the French editions will be equally authoritative. Now, if you are going to put the aboriginal languages on the same status, are you saying that all of the laws of the Northwest Territories will have to be written into the aboriginal languages and that they will have the same authoritative status? Because if that is what you are suggesting, as I recollect, in the report of the task force on aboriginal languages they specifically ask that you do not do that at this time

and spend the time and money for things that may not be read, in fact, but rather select for entrenchment, certain services in the region that would have more meaning for people. That is the way that I recollect and to me, that was the sensible approach. But this would not be. I cannot see us even being able to do this if we indicated to people that we should do this. So will the Government Leader please clarify?

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

Aboriginal Language Rights Recognized Differently From French And English

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know how I can deal with Mr. MacQuarrie without stating very clearly that the idea and the intention of our dealing with the aboriginal languages and raising and giving them the same status as other official languages is exactly that. To accord the aboriginal languages the same status initially, in legislation afterwards. How we deal with them and how we propose that certain rights and so forth be recognized will be dealt with differently. It is recognized that it is not going to be as easy to deal with as French and English but we do intend wherever possible to set out the rights and obligations of aboriginal languages. Initially, we recognize that it will not be easy to have the same blanket provisions as French and English. But as time goes by, more, I suppose, could be put into legislation as the language develops and their use is increased. As an example, I think that it will be a right for an aboriginal person to use his language in the Assembly and also, with respect to a right, to obtain a transcript of proceedings in the Assembly. But in the case of the Dene language, up to now, it has not been a written language, it has been a verbal, spoken type of language. We propose, as an example, that the transcript, the verbal tape, of the proceedings as translated, should be available to a person. So, as you can see, we will deal differently with aboriginal languages than we would with French and English. But, somehow or another, we will provide for certain rights.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I think I understand now and approve. What you are saying is that initially in the bill there will be a statement that says they all have official status but somewhere further on in the bill you will say "but for the aboriginal languages, official status means this and this and this". I accept that approach except to say that I think it is a little misleading then to say, to start off by saying, that they will have exactly the same status because, in fact, they will not have exactly the same status. It would be unfair to lead people to think that initially they will all have the same status by that kind of opening statement. But anyway, I understand now what you are referring to and that is acceptable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. We are on recommendation 1, official status. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: If I could just add to that. I think we could get hung up a little bit on semantics. I think the Government Leader meant that the language would be treated with the same respect as English and French. I think as Mr. MacQuarrie and Mr. Nerysoo quite properly pointed out, there are some realities that we have to deal with. The practical realities of aboriginal languages. Obviously there are some practical realities, that where a language is prevalent in a region, we will not say that language will have the same status throughout the Northwest Territories. We do have federal legislation that protects English and French, and we have to be aware of that particular reality. There are financial, practical realities. I think that the task force on aboriginal languages recognized all these practicalities. And they did not ask that every single piece of legislation be translated into all the languages of the Northwest Territories. All our languages will be treated with the same respect as Mr. Nerysoo, I think quite rightly, pointed out. In the bill, what French will be used for, what English will be used for, and what each of the languages will be used for, will be set out clearly. As time goes on, what can be done with those languages could increase and more and more things perhaps could be done. So, does that clarify, Mr. MacQuarrie, what the intent is, or Mr. Nerysoo?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. The Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Loucheux Language Written Since 1800s

MR. NERYSOO: I do not think that I needed the so-called clarification. I think it was pretty clear to me the approach that was being taken. Just one issue that I wanted to raise with Mr. Sibbeston. I just wanted to remind the Member, the Government Leader, that the Loucheux language was written since the 1800s, in Roman orthography, at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Minister, were you aware of that?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: You are supposed to be truthful in here and I was not aware.

Recommendation 1, Official Status

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Recommendation 1, official status, and the response thereto. The Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Some comments that the Justice Minister just made raised some thoughts in my mind, as well. If you are going to have sections for English and French that indicate what official status means with respect to the French language, would that violate the spirit of the agreement that was reached between this government and the Government of Canada with respect to the implementation of French as an official language? In other words, is it being considered that a statement will be made initially that it is an official language but then severe limitations on its implementation be placed in the bill later on? Or will it have essentially the same status as English?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Of course it will have the same status as English, as set out in the Official Languages Act and in our agreement with the federal government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further comments on recommendation 1 and response. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Estimate Of Cost Sought

MR. MacQUARRIE: Well, it applies to number one but it applies to all the others as well, I guess. The government has indicated what it intends to do and I think generally has done a good job of that. I would suppose that the government has estimated what it is going to cost to implement the action program that they have outlined here. So could we be given some indication as to what would be the initial cost and costs over the years to fulfill what the government is indicating it will fulfill in the matter of languages?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, this is an area where we could probably spend hundreds of millions of dollars if we had the money, but in implementing the changes that we agreed to we will keep within the financial resources available to us which is essentially our own money -- about \$5 million of our own money each year and over the course of three or so years the \$16 million that has been provided by the federal government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further comments on recommendation 1 and response?

Recommendation 2, New Institutions

Recommendation 2, new institutions and the government's response. Comments? Mr. Minister, do you wish to introduce this item?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Just to say that our response to the recommendation that we establish a new ministry of aboriginal languages and culture is that we have made some changes in our government organization. We have established a new Department of Culture and Communications last year and we feel that this change, as well as the fact that we have appointed a number of native managers in this area, as well as there now being an aboriginal Minister in charge of the department, should be sufficient to meet the thrust of this recommendation. With respect to the Dene and Inuit advisory



councils, we do not feel that establishing these councils is necessary. For the Inuit there is an Inuit Cultural Institute, and more recently in the West, the Dene are attempting to establish a Dene cultural institute. So we proposed to seek advice from these two aboriginal organizations for advice in respect to languages.

With the other matter, the proposal to establish two commissioners of official languages each with support staff for the Dene and Inuit languages, we consider that it is not necessary and that it would cost too much. We propose instead to eventually set up one commissioner of official languages who will be the commissioner I guess of all the languages in the North. Not immediately, but sometime in the future. That is our response to this recommendation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recommendation 2, new institutions and the response by the government. Comments?

Recommendation 3, Recommendations Specific To The Language Bureau

Recommendation 3, recommendations specific to the language bureau. Mr. Minister, would you like to outline the government's response to these recommendations? Mr. Minister did you wish to comment on recommendations specific to the language bureau?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: No, Mr. Chairman, the response is fairly brief and self-explanatory, I believe.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Do Members have comments on recommendation 3? The Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question with regard to reclassification process. Does the reclassification process also include those positions that are in the Department of Education? I just want to indicate that the only two recognized aboriginal language instructors, certified at this particular time, in fact are in Fort McPherson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I will ask Mr. Sorensen to respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I can say that the reclassification mentioned in this response applies to the members of our language bureau only, our interpreter/communicators. It is a process that began two years ago and was finalized about eight months ago. This applies to the professional interpreter/communicators in the different levels of service within our department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sorensen. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: I can deal with that issue as well under recommendation 7.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Further comments on recommendation 3 and the response to those recommendations?

Recommendation 4, Language Bureau

If not, we turn to recommendation 4, also dealing with the language bureau and the government's response thereto. Mr. Minister, any opening comments here? No. Comments from Members on recommendation 4?

Recommendation 5, Specialist Categories

If not, we will turn to recommendation 5 on page five and the government's response. Comments?

Recommendation 6, Training

Recommendation 6 on page five and the government's response. Comments?

Recommendation 7, Recommendations Specific To Education

Moving right along, recommendation 7, recommendations specific to education and the government's response thereto. Comments on recommendation 7 and the response? Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, this is one of the major recommendations concerning education. We did seriously consider the matter of putting all cultural language matters under one department but in the end decided to go with the present system that is in place now, where the Department of Education deals with language matters as it pertains to the schools. We are conscious of the plans of the Department of Education to decentralize education wherever possible to the communities.

We thought that in the long run this will be the means by which people in communities and areas will have the greatest say with respect to education matters and likewise the curriculum and languages used in instructing students. So we resisted the idea of putting all matters under one department and consider that the initiatives and work that the Department of Education is presently doing in this area are very good and they should continue their work in this matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nerysoo.

Omission Of Loucheux Language Centre In Loucheux Community Queried

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is aware of the question that I asked in the House with regard to the criteria that are being used, as to what were the criteria being used to establish Fort Franklin as the cultural institute for the Loucheux language. I would assume that one of the criteria, or at least the idea of any kind of language centre would at least recognize the language association of particular languages. It is strange to note that there are two centres that are just being established to work on the development of the Slavey language: one in Fort Simpson and one in Fort Franklin. And yet the Loucheux language, which is very, very different from all those other languages, is being associated with a centre in a community that in no way has an association with Loucheux.

I raise the concern with that because over the next few years, every region and every different dialect of either Inuktitut or Slavey, including Dogrib, Inuvialuktun, is going to have a centre that recognizes those particular languages. And yet where we have a region that has a centre that has done much research and has a written version of their language, to the point of having computerized much of the research, much of the work done, and much of the development having taken place over the past five years, there is no structure that is being recognized that will ensure the protection of that particular language. If there is one language that needs protection in the North, that certainly is one. And yet, in spite of that, the initiatives of the government do not seem to recognize that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. The Minister of Education.

Loucheux Language Work In Co-operation With Yukon

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure where the honourable Member gets the idea that the centre for teaching and learning in Fort Franklin is going to be dealing with the Loucheux language. That is not the case. Mr. Chairman, there will be a number of language centres -- if I can call them that -- developed over the coming years. The Slavey centres in Fort Franklin and Fort Simpson, as well as Fort Providence, are under way. But I would like to make it very clear that we have ambitious plans, as well, for developing language materials and curriculum materials in the Loucheux language. I would like to point out that a great deal of good work has already been done in Fort McPherson in that area.

What I would like to make clear, Mr. Chairman, is that the Loucheux-speaking population in the North is located in both the Yukon and the NWT. There is an excellent centre for the development and teaching of the Loucheux language located in Yukon. It seems only logical that we should combine our efforts with those of Yukon in developing instructional materials in Loucheux. So Mr. Chairman, our intention is to continue the work that is being done in communities like Fort McPherson through grants that have been available from the Department of Education and will continue to be available through the Department of Education. We will also work in an even more co-operative way with the Yukon so that instructors can be trained and certified. I am sure the

honourable Member is aware that two fully-qualified language instructors from his constituency have graduated from the language centre in Yukon. I have just met with the Minister of Education for Yukon and explored with him ways in which we might work more closely together and support more closely the good work that is being done in Yukon in Loucheux.

So there is no intention to expect that the Loucheux language will be absorbed with the Slavey or any other language centre in another part of the NWT. It has its own character and its development should take place in the region where the language is spoken, which happens to include both Yukon and NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: I do not have any problem with the idea -- through you, Mr. Chairman, to the Government Leader and the Minister responsible for Education -- I have no problem with the idea of having an association with the Yukon. But I think that you had better become aware of the types of presentations that are being made to such organizations as the Inuvik Region educational committee and the association that McPherson was supposed to have in the so-called educational process. We were supposed to have a relationship with the Fort Franklin learning centre, and that was the presentation that was made to the representatives of the local education authorities of that particular region. So I think that you find no argument with me at all in that particular debate.

The other thing is that I just wanted to raise a concern with regard to the recognition, as has been identified under the reclassification process under the language bureau. Is the Department of Education also going to recognize and reclassify teaching positions for aboriginal languages? The Minister also raised the issue that the only certified language teachers are those in Fort McPherson and they were certified in the Yukon.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I will ask the honourable Member, outside the House, who made the presentation to the Inuvik Region education committee, because it in no way reflects the plans of the Department of Education. I would like to correct that information with the Inuvik Region education committee because it is not our intention at all.

#### Certification Of Language Instructors

Mr. Chairman, on the question of certification of language instructors, I would like to point out that although we are very proud of the two women from Fort McPherson who achieved certification as native language instructors through the Yukon language centre, we are taking a different approach in the Northwest Territories. The approach that we are taking is that every language instructor and classroom assistant should be a teacher-in-training. So the approach that we have taken is to certify classroom assistants on the way to becoming teachers and we encourage our classroom assistants not only to become certified as qualified classroom assistants but to go further and enter the teacher education program and become qualified teachers and certified teachers, rather than merely end at being certified language instructors. So the intention of the department is to make our field-based teacher education program in the western part of the Territories reach out to Loucheux classroom assistants and Inuvialuktun classroom assistants who are teaching the native languages in the school and certify them by allowing them the opportunity to become qualified as teachers. The program has recently been revamped and I am confident will be much more effective in training bilingual teachers. So, that is our intention, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on recommendation 7 and the government's response. Further comments?

#### Recommendation 8, Legally Enforceable Bilingual Language Education Rights

We will turn to recommendation 8 on page six and the government's response to that recommendation. Comments? Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, just to say generally, just to capitalize I guess generally what our response is. The task force recommends two things here. One is that the Education Act be revised to provide for bilingual language education rights. I guess, too, that we outlined the work the department is doing and will be doing over the course of the next 15 years in the area of

languages. Part of that, in fact, is the hope that much of the responsibility for education in communities can be devolved to communities and that parents will have control over the education system. So that will give the people an opportunity and chance to have much language content and provisions in their education system.

With respect to the present Education Act, the government recognizes that the provisions for languages and culture are weak in the present act. We intend, through the revisions, to strengthen these.

With respect to the second part, this recommends that regulations affecting use of aboriginal languages and culture and so forth be the responsibility of the Minister of Aboriginal Languages and Culture. We are not able to comply with that. We believe that all matters with respect to education, the language and cultural part, should remain with the Department of Education at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recommendation 8. The Member for Tu Nedhe.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mahsi cho. (Translation)...grade nine and grade 10 should be all the same level, but some are different.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: ...in the communities, all be the same as the education standards in the larger centres. I think it has been noted and recognized that there is a difference, that the students coming from the smaller centres to the large centres find that they are not quite up to par with the students who have gone to school in larger centres. It is a matter that the government is conscious of and is seriously attempting to rectify. This will occur over the course of years I believe, as parents and people in the communities take over education of their children. I am sure that they will be making greater demands of the teachers and so the standard will eventually rise through this process of devolving education to the people. I cannot say anything more than that the government recognizes the problem and is trying very hard to rectify the problem. It will take a number of years to have children in all communities in the North basically on the same standard and on par. I do not know if Mr. Patterson wishes to add to this. He ought to feel free to do so.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Patterson.

#### Competency Tests For Students Entering Grade 10

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, it is true that students who come from smaller communities tend to have trouble fitting into grade 10 in a regional high school. I think part of the explanation must lie in the fact that for many years there have not been strict admission tests required, and students were sent to regional high schools on the assumption that they were ready for grade 10. Now that we are testing students, testing their competency in math, science and languages, we know in advance how ready they are for grade 10. In fact, due to these tests there has now been a program established to allow students working over a semester to upgrade themselves if tests reveal certain deficiencies, before they go into the grade 10 program.

Mr. Chairman, that lack of preparation has nothing to do with the fact that students come from small schools or small communities. It may have something to do with the fact that they have not attended well in the community school. In my view, it is an advantage to be in a small school. It is an advantage to be in a small high school. The student has a better relationship with the teacher, classes are smaller, and there is much more opportunity for individual attention. It is also an advantage, in my view, for students from small communities to be at home with their parents rather than being in a residential situation. I am not quite sure how this relates to the recommendation, Mr. Chairman, but those are my comments. Thank you.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just feel that this paragraph has very weak wording in it, such as native language programs could be developed. You know, there is no guarantee that it is going to be developed. I hope that this does not mean that, once the funding is gone, they are just going to push this aboriginal language in the back and forget about it. They imposed French

as official language on us, although they did teach French in school even before French language was made official; one of my daughters is bilingual in French, she was taught in school. I just feel that I am not really satisfied with this wording. What if the funding runs out? Does that mean that they will forget about the aboriginal language altogether, or is there any kind of assurance that they will be teaching some kind of a native language in schools?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Does either Minister care to respond? Mr. Patterson.

Funding For Native Languages Not On A Par With Funding For French

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to explain that in my view it is extremely unfortunate that, because of generous federal moneys for the establishment of French instruction in the schools, which I think we should all welcome, there has not been a corresponding availability of moneys to develop programs in native languages in our high schools. This is sad but true. We are basically facing the challenge of developing native language programs in the high schools from scratch.

I guess what the department is saying here in commenting on this recommendation is that our first priority, we feel, since we are so far behind in native language programs, our first priority should be to develop solid programs in kindergarten to grade nine and in Loucheux and Chipewyan, where there has not been very much work done at all, we should work on kindergarten to grade three programs. We want to do something in high schools and, I guess, with limited resources being available, the Department of Education has determined the first thing we should do for native students in high schools is teach them the history, culture and social aspects of Dene or Inuit studies. So those programs are being developed and will be implemented at the grade 10 level in the coming year. We have provided instruction in Inuktitut at the high school level in the high school in Frobisher Bay for some years now. However, we have yet to develop native language instruction in our other high schools.

I do not want to raise expectations, Mr. Chairman, because the development of these programs is extremely costly and, as well, we have to be concerned about being able to find qualified instructors. I know that last year there was an effort made to develop a Slavey language program in Sir John Franklin High School, and I am told that it failed because a qualified instructor could not be found. I am not trying to make excuses, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member that something more than just possibilities should be promised. Perhaps, the revision to the Education Act that is discussed here will have the teeth in it to require the Department of Education to make that a priority. Perhaps we will be able to negotiate ongoing funds from the federal government so that we can expand native language programs to the high school level as we are now doing with French. But, we are going to need more resources than are now available, Mr. Chairman, and I think that is what we are trying to say as openly as we must, that with the present resources, we have to give the emphasis to the elementary and junior high level. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on recommendation 8. Further comments?

Recommendation 9, Aboriginal Language Curriculum And On-The-Land Immersion Programs

Turn to number 9, recommendations on curriculum for teaching aboriginal languages and on-the-land immersion programs and the government's response to those recommendations. Comments? Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, just to say that our response to the recommendation that there be consultation with Inuit and Dene elders councils in developing appropriate curriculum, our response is that the government does plan to devolve education to the communities and this will, as I said earlier, give an opportunity to put control of education in the hands of the local people. Our response to the input from elders in the development of the curriculum is the establishment of centres of teaching and learning, which is going on now. These centres will be developing curriculum material for schools. This is presently going on. With respect to on-the-land immersion programs and northern society courses, these are also going on. The Department of Education has two on-the-land immersion programs planned as test projects this year, and an Inuit and Dene studies program for high schools is being developed at the moment. So we feel that we have responded quite positively to this recommendation.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Comments on the recommendation under section 9 and the government's response. The Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. WAH-SHEE: I wonder if the Minister could give some indication as to just how far are we in regard to curriculum development, say for the junior level and also the high school level. I imagine that you are into curriculum development for the high school level as well, but I would like to have some indication as to where we are in regard to the involvement of the communities in establishing these curriculum developments. I am aware that some of the regions are more advanced because of the decentralized involvement of the different regions. But, in some of the regions they are not as well developed because you do not have regional boards in place in some cases. So in those areas, curriculum development is somewhat limited, I would gather. Am I correct in my assessment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, can I ask Mr. Patterson to answer that question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Yes. Mr. Patterson.

#### Regions At Different Stages Of Curriculum Development

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Member is quite correct that we are at different stages in curriculum development. Maybe I can just outline in a little more detail where we are at right now in various regions. First of all, Mr. Chairman, a manager who happens to be an aboriginal person has been hired to head up a new section within the Department of Education to deal specifically with aboriginal language and curriculum development for in-school programs. Language specialists are now being hired for all language groups in the Northwest Territories, including Loucheux, incidentally. And we are presently finalizing a two year plan to provide curriculum training for the language specialists.

The language development work is going to take place in what I call centres for teaching and learning. They have already been established in Fort Franklin, Fort Simpson and Eskimo Point this year. Future plans are to establish centres in the next fiscal year to serve the Dogrib and Inuvialuktun language areas. Centres will also be established in Baffin and Kitikmeot Regions to provide for aboriginal language work there. The centres for teaching and learning will represent decentralization of our efforts to develop, co-ordinate and monitor as well as implement programs in a language area. These centres will also be used as a base for the field-based teacher training program, the main objective of which is to get bilingual persons into the teaching profession.

In the Athapascan languages we are working in a number of areas. Fort Franklin has a first language program, Fort Simpson has an immersion program and the majority of the other communities are providing native language as a second language program. Presently, work is under way to extend the Fort Franklin curriculum beyond grade three. Cultural units for a Dene first language program from kindergarten to grade nine are presently being developed and should be in schools for implementation and evaluation within the new year. I mentioned that language and cultural materials had been developed in the Loucheux centre in Fort McPherson and the training has been provided through the Yukon language centre.

In the Inuvialuktun area, COPE continues to do curriculum work for the Department of Education. The kindergarten to grade three program is being implemented in schools at this time. Inuvialuktun programs for kindergarten to grade three are being revised for the Kitikmeot Region and will be ready for final publication by early 1987.

In Inuktitut the kindergarten to grade four curriculum is now complete and work is presently under way on grade five and six curriculum. The grade five program is expected to be complete this school year. A cultural program for junior high students has been developed by the Inuit Cultural Institute. This program will be distributed shortly to all schools in the Eastern Arctic. And a training program is being developed for language and cultural instructors in Keewatin by the Inuit Cultural Institute.

I hope that provides some more detail for the honourable Member, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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



MR. WAH-SHEE: I just want to give notice to the interpreter that I will speak Dogrib, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): You are going to speak Dogrib now, Mr. Wah-Shee?

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Excuse me, Mr. Wah-Shee. We do not have translation yet. Can you wait a moment?

MR. WAH-SHEE: I'll be more than happy to do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): For a fee, Mr. Wah-Shee?

--- Laughter

Do we have the Dogrib translation?

INTERPRETER: Yes, we do. Thank you.

MR. WAH-SHEE: (Translation) ...1986 when the children are going to school. I would like to know at what grade level the students are being taught in Dogrib.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) Mr. Patterson would know stuff like this. You can ask Mr. Patterson about this issue. He is the one that knows about this topic better than I do, so you can get a better response from him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Patterson, would you care to respond to the question of Mr. Wah-Shee?

#### Development Of Dogrib Curriculum Materials

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am not certain of the answer to Mr. Wah-Shee's question. I believe that the instruction that is being offered in native languages in many Dogrib communities has been offered in Dogrib as a second language. We have a full-time person specializing in the Dogrib language, working within the department. I understand that person is working now on the development of curriculum materials in Detah. Requests have also been received from Rae-Edzo for assistance in providing curriculum materials. I know that some work has been done by communities which have developed a number of materials. But I believe they have not yet been put together into a concrete curriculum.

Without being able to provide a great deal of detail, Mr. Chairman, I can assure the honourable Member that we have quite a big challenge ahead of us in developing native language materials in Dogrib. I think what work has been done has been ad hoc and has not been put together into a coherent curriculum. I would think that once we have a school board established for the Dogrib communities and a language centre established for the Dogrib communities we will see much greater progress being made toward the development of a proper native language curriculum. But much work remains to be done. I could provide more details, Mr. Chairman, with a little bit more time but that is all I can tell you at the moment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

#### Location Of Dogrib Centre For Teaching And Learning

MR. WAH-SHEE: (Translation) Thank you. The government said last year at that time that the Dogrib language -- at that time he said that all the students will be taught. In the Dogrib area there are five communities. With regard to this language centre that you are talking about, I would like to know where this language centre is going to be established in these five communities in the Dogrib area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A precise location for the Dogrib centre for teaching and learning has not been determined. There has been a great deal of work done in Lac la Martre in the way of native language materials. In my own mind, subject to advice from the honourable Member and/or from the regional local education authorities, it would seem that it should be either Lac la Martre or Rae-Edzo. But I will take advice on that. A decision has not yet been made. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Just the other evening the Member for Rae-Lac la Martre was telling all who would listen that Yellowknife is within Dogrib country, so perhaps it will be built in Yellowknife.

---Laughter

Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: I am afraid that the city of Yellowknife is not really that bilingual yet in comparison to other communities. (Translation) If the Dogrib language is going to be taught -- if the Dogrib language centre is going to be established I would like to know, before that, if the government and the government officials have asked the Dogrib leaders in that area about where this Dogrib language centre is going to be established -- such as tribal councils and local education authorities within the five communities. I think all these people that I have mentioned, such as local education authorities within the five communities and the Dogrib tribal councils, should be asked before you make a decision where this language education centre is going to be established.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would have every intention of consulting with the Dogrib leaders in communities before making a decision on this. It is really up to them. The only limiting factor is that, because we are using moneys from the federal language enhancement program, we are looking for existing facilities in which to establish these centres. It does not include a capital component so in looking at the location, we will want to have a location where we can use, as we are doing in Fort Franklin, a spare classroom in the school or, as we are considering in the Baffin Region, unused parts of a federal research lab, etc. So that would be the only limiting factor but I can assure the honourable Member that we will be getting advice from the appropriate bodies, as well as the MLA, on that matter before the location is determined. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on recommendation 9 and the government's response to those recommendations. Further comments? The Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman. ...(No Translation)

INTERPRETER: I cannot hear him.

MR. GARGAN: ...the aboriginal groups here, primarily, because I know that in the Eastern Arctic or within the Inuit culture they do have a very strong aboriginal language content in their own culture. I can only elaborate based on what the electoral requirements are for the East and the West. In a lot of cases in the East, 75 per cent of the requirements for elections are based on Inuit syllabics as the communication language. In the West it is vice versa where I believe there is about 25 per cent translating of electoral documents because of perhaps more exposure to western culture in the Western Arctic, so that a lot of the aboriginal groups in this area have lost a lot of their traditional skills in aboriginal languages.

#### Comparative Funding, Eastern And Western Arctic

I would like to ask the Minister whether, as far as funding arrangements goes, it is on equity funding or is this a case that, where there is a requirement for more extensive research in aboriginal language, more funding would be given. What is the funding arrangement with regard to the whole issue of aboriginal languages, because there is a big difference between how strong the aboriginal language is used by aboriginal people in different regions? That certainly should have an impact on the type of funding arrangements that are used or formula that is used in developing the aboriginal language or reinforcing the aboriginal language.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I will just state generally that I think our government has come a long way in putting money toward language and culture of the aboriginal people of the North. I know back in 1979-80 when I had come back to the Assembly after being away a while, at one point I banged the table a bit because there was not one cent spent on the Dene language and at that time there was a million dollars spent for the Inuit translators. But we have moved a great distance since then, to where there is approximately \$5 million in the Departments of Culture and Communications and Education, being spent in this area. So we have come a long way.

As to the precise breakdown between the Dene and the Inuit area, I do not know what that is. We do not have that information in precise detail, but if the Member wants we can attempt to provide the Member with information and a breakdown of the moneys spent with respect to the various languages.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, since the Minister is going to be providing information on the allocation of this money, I also would like to get information too on exactly what is the ethnic or aboriginal language component in both the East and the West. I believe there is quite a bit of difference in the area of how much aboriginal language is used in both areas. Last year, when we met in Frobisher Bay, or Rankin, we had the whole issue of the Elections Act and there was a breakdown done and provided to us by the federal government. It shows the East and the West and how strong the aboriginal language is in the East compared to the West. So if the Minister could provide me with that information.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) I will do research on the statistics you talked about and we will get back to you in regard to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): The honourable Minister of Education.

#### Centres In Each Major Language Area

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to explain, perhaps in partial answer to Mr. Gargan, that with these language centres that are proposed to be established, the intention, basically, is to provide a language centre for each major language area in the NWT. So the areas will be the Inuvialuktun language centre for teaching and learning which will be funded under the auspices of COPE; the Fort Simpson and Providence centres -- the Fort Providence centre already existing for Slavey -- as well as Fort Franklin for North Slavey, Eskimo Point for the Keewatin dialect; and planned centres in Baffin, Kitikmeot and Dogrib areas. So these centres, which will have a co-ordinator and a program specialist and a TEP co-ordinator, a staff of three, plus resource materials, including computers, will basically exist to serve each language group. I should not forget the Loucheux language centre which will be a joint venture with the existing language centre in Yukon and as well will build on the work that has been done in Fort McPherson. So I think at least as a department, in developing these centres, our plan is to try to develop centres to cover each major language group. They will all be funded with the same basic resources.

I would also like to mention, Mr. Chairman, that my department has been administering an approximately one million dollar fund for the previous three years, which was called the indigenous language development fund. The philosophy we had in granting money under that fund, whereby quite a lot of good work was done, was basically to respond to communities which brought forward projects and had initiatives to develop ideas. There never was an analysis done of how the moneys were distributed on a language basis, but I think it has proved that experience has shown us that there is a great deal of interest in communities, particularly in certain communities, in doing this difficult and important work. If in developing our teaching and learning centres, we can continue to take advantage of these resources that are available in the communities, then I think we are going to have good value for our money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Gargan.

#### Use Of Syllabics Or Roman Orthography

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a recommendation concerning on-the-land immersion programs and I understand that there is some pilot test this year, and an Inuit and Dene studies

program for high school is being developed. I would like to know whether, within the department for aboriginal languages, the government is going into studies with regard to syllabics being used as opposed to Roman orthography. Because as recently as -- well, my mom and dad, for example, know syllabics and used it when I was quite young, with regard to stories like Tom Sawyer. These stories come from the United States but they were able to understand syllabics of that area. I am just wondering if, in the opinion of the Minister or the Government Leader, those syllabics are universal among aboriginal people and whether that type of program would be brought back because I am certainly not in favour of Roman orthography being used to translate an aboriginal word. Syllabics are the appropriate way of translating the aboriginal language and that is what should be used rather than adopting a little bit of one language to strengthen your own.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mahsi. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: (Translation) Ethel Blondin-Townsend knows a lot about this subject so I think it would be appropriate to have her reply to Mr. Gargan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Ms Blondin-Townsend.

MS BLONDIN-TOWNSEND: I address Mr. Gargan. In regard to the use of syllabics as opposed to the use of the Roman orthography, which is the normal practice these days -- it is a very complex situation regarding the standardization of the written Dene languages. It is simply not an answer that we could give at this time, but presently we do use the Roman orthography. All of the translations that are done for governments and the organizations outside of government are done in Roman orthography. We realize that in coming to, I guess, a formal standardization of the Dene languages that there will have to be a consultation process undertaken with the elders in formulating what we are actually going to put out formally as our written language -- the Dene languages. I think that it should be brought forth that although syllabics are recognized as something that are part of the Dene culture, there is some question as to the origin of syllabics; that it comes from a shorthand system brought in by the Europeans and the missionaries, and that was brought forth to the Crees through the missionaries and by the missionaries up into the North, therein the establishment of the use of the syllabics was brought to the Northwest Territories.

I think that it is not a response that we can give, except that we do now have, within our schools and within the various organizations that need translations, written translations where we do use the Roman orthography. It is not economically viable to switch to syllabics at this point. Another point to be recognized is that with the Roman orthography, we have a representation -- it accommodates all of the sounds that we have in our Dene languages, at least in our Slavey languages. Apparently, from my dealings with linguists, the syllabic system does not accommodate all of the sounds and all of the characteristics of our Dene languages. I hope that that gives some clarity.

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

MR. GARGAN: Just one clarification. Did I hear you correctly when you said that syllabics originate from Europe and that, in fact, we are the ones that adopted that? Because, I am pretty shocked to hear that, really. It must have been before my time. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Just two or three years before your time, Mr. Gargan. We are on the recommendations in section 9 and the government's response to those recommendations. Further comments?

Recommendation 10, Joint Responsibility For Teacher Training Programs

Recommendation 10 on page eight, joint responsibility for teacher training programs, and the government's response to that recommendation. Comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Recommendation 11, Adult Education Programs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Recommendation 11 on page eight, regarding adult education programs and the government's response to that recommendation. Comments? The Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.



MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some difficulty with the recommendation 11, mainly because I would not like to see the delivery of adult education become solely the responsibility of the Arctic College. I think that Arctic College should really be responsible for post-secondary education, similar to the college system that exists in other jurisdictions. As far as adult education goes, I would much prefer to see the prime responsibility of adult education be confined to the regional boards, because the delivery of adult education should not be as centralized in one area as the Arctic College.

However, I do support that there should be a standard approach to the delivery of the various courses in adult education but in actual delivery of these programs, I would prefer to see it decentralized through the divisional school boards. If we say that adult education should rest with the Arctic College then there is going to be a confusion in regard to what kind of authority the regional divisional school board would have. I think you can indicate very clearly what areas the Arctic College will be responsible for and in what area the divisional school board will have a responsibility in regard to adult education. I am aware that there is a real need and there has been a lot of indications so far from the different communities that they want to see more funds being allocated for adult education. Could I get some response either from the Government Leader or the Minister of Education?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. We are back on Bill 1-86(2). The honourable Minister of Education.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman. I respect the Member's views and I have heard similar concerns from local education authorities and other MLAs but let me say, in my view, the divisional school boards are intended to be responsible for kindergarten to grade 12 -- what we traditionally know as the school programs. The Arctic College is responsible for post-school programs; adult programs, programs for school drop-outs and of course, connections to university and technical centres in the South, if necessary. The problem is that adult educators up till now have been working very closely with local education authorities. Since divisional school boards are comprised of local education authorities, many people think that adult educators should belong to the divisional school boards.

I am willing to accept advice from divisional school boards on that question. There is no firm decision at the moment on where adult educators are going to go. But, in principle, it would seem to make some sense to put all the adult programs together under one system and to put the responsibility for school programs under another authority. Maybe there is a way of achieving a compromise whereby adult educators can be connected with a college which has certain resources to offer -- for example, through the teacher education program, which is a bilingual teacher training program and has resources in the native language instruction area -- but at the same time allow the adult educators to have links with the local education authority.

The main thing, Mr. Chairman, is that we need to develop, in communities, native language instruction programs. I would like to suggest that if programs can be delivered through the Arctic College, we should welcome them. If programs can be delivered through the centres for teaching and learning, we should welcome them, and if programs can be delivered, under whosoever auspices, by adult educators in communities because that is what the community wants to get, then we should welcome those as well. So I would hope that it does not have to be an either/or situation and maybe the wording here can be looked at so as to provide a number of options, because I think the more native language instruction we get, the better. Maybe we can have programs developing locally and programs developing through the college and programs developing through these centres for teaching and learning without anyone having a monopoly on native language instruction. Thank you.

#### Recommendation 11, More Adult Education Literacy Programs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recommendation 11 and the government's response. Further comments?

#### Recommendation 12, Increasing Public Awareness

Recommendation 12 on increasing public awareness and the government's response. Comments?

Recommendation 13, Delivery Of Training Programs

Recommendation 13 on delivery of training programs in aboriginal languages and the government's response. Comments?

Recommendation 14, Medical Services

Recommendation 14 on page 10, medical services and the government's response. Comments?

Recommendation 15, Receiving And Providing Government Services

Recommendation 15 on government services and the government's response to that recommendation. Comments? The Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the discussions that the Government Leader is going to pursue, I am wondering if the Government Leader could also include a discussion around the responsibility of the government to consider hiring translators or interpreters in these particular areas as well in the future. Because the suggestion is that there is a need to ensure that those people that are receiving health care and social services that are now being provided by the Government of Canada, should be provided with them in the aboriginal languages, rather than just limiting it to the UIC and that sort of thing. I hope that it could be also with the idea of convincing the Government of Canada to recruit the necessary people and the staff to provide that particular service.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I agree with that advice and that matter is also covered under recommendation 25. But I will do as the Member advises.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recommendation 15. Any further comments? Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask a question in regard to medical services in the aboriginal languages. As part of the negotiations which take place to transfer the health services to the GNWT, I wonder if one of the points that should be negotiated with National Health and Welfare in regard to the transfer, is that the Department of National Health and Welfare should provide sufficient funding to clearly provide services in the aboriginal languages. In order to do that you have to zero in on the amount of money it will take to have these interpreters, specialized in the usage of sophisticated medical terms, almost to the point where you may even have to train paramedical teams, which in turn would be your medical interpreters as well.

So, I wonder if it is possible to ensure that this is among the items that should be raised with National Health and Welfare when you are negotiating the transfer, because it will have a direct impact in regard to the amount of resources that you will have, to have flexibility to really accommodate these recommendations under recommendations 14 and 15. Otherwise, you are only using the \$16 million set aside and, once the \$16 million is spent, you really do not have ongoing arrangements. If you are talking about a transfer of medical services to the territorial government, then that should be part of the package. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Sibbeston, would you care to answer for the Minister of Health on that one?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, I understand what the Member is saying and I agree with him, and we will attempt what the Member advises or has suggested to us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you. We are on recommendation 15 and the government's response to that recommendation. Further comments?

Recommendation 16, Standardization Of Written Dene Languages

Recommendation 16, standardization of written Dene languages within the next 10 years and the government's response. Comments?



Recommendation 17, Use Of Aboriginal Languages In Criminal Proceedings

Recommendation 17, use of aboriginal languages in criminal proceedings and the government's response. Comments?

Recommendation 18, Providing Interpreters

Recommendation 18, providing interpreters and the government's response. Comments?

Recommendation 19, Judicial Decisions

Recommendation 19, issuing judicial decisions in aboriginal languages and the government's response. Comments?

Recommendation 20, Using Aboriginal Languages In All Court Proceedings

Recommendation 20, using aboriginal languages in all court proceedings and bilingual RCMP officers in each community and the government's response. Comments? The Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you. I wonder if the Government Leader could indicate whether it is possible to raise this particular recommendation when the Government of the Northwest Territories is renegotiating the police agreement with the federal Department of Justice, so that there again, the issue of resources and training may have to be discussed to ensure that this particular recommendation is implemented.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: The response is, yes, we will take the Member's advice and raise it with the federal Solicitor General's office when we next deal with the RCMP agreement. I undertake to do that as well as ask the Minister of Justice, in his daily dealings with the RCMP, to continue striving to hire as many native RCMP or special constables as possible, to increase the capability of the RCMP to be able to deal with the aboriginal people in their own language. So I appreciate the Member's advice very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know it is a priority of the department to hire special constables. We also would like to encourage more bilingual regular constables. At the last federal/provincial Justice Ministers' conference there was a discussion about the renegotiation of the police contract. We will be entering into that within the next year and I think your comments are well taken and we can use the renegotiations as a lever and try to incorporate some of these recommendations into the new contract.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. I do not want to raise this particular item again and I know that I missed it -- the jury issue. And noting all the good work that is being done by the Department of Justice -- a simple yes or no. Are we able at this particular time, this day, to have unilingual jurors preside in a court case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Today, no. Within the year, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): There, Mr. Nerysoo, you said yes or no. You got both a yes and a no. You cannot ask for more than that. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Is that a guarantee from the Minister of Justice?

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: The "no" is.

---Laughter

Well, you got 50 per cent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, I cannot give you a total guarantee but after discussions with members of the law reform committee, we are all quite optimistic that we can be successful. So I can give you a qualified "yes".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Order, please. We are on recommendation 20 and the government's response thereto. Any further comments? Mr. Appaqaq.

Problems Of Communication With RCMP

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment to make on aboriginal languages being used by the RCMP. This is very important to us and it should be implemented. This is a great problem. Even when we have an RCMP in our community we cannot communicate with him if there are any problems arising within the community. We have to look for an interpreter and sometimes it takes a whole day until we do finally find an interpreter. This is a problem when we have something to bring up to the RCMP. As you may be aware, although we have an RCMP officer, there was a murder in our community this summer. We do need interpreters and if the RCMP could have communicated with one of the Inuit in the community, this incident would not have happened. The hamlet council has requested me to get a special constable for the RCMP as soon as possible, even before these recommendations are implemented. Being able to communicate is very important. I wanted to point out that I fully support this recommendation. Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Appaqaq. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the Member's comments are very much appreciated and we will do our very best in the area of justice to provide good interpreting services over the course of years. This is one of the areas we will be dealing with when we change the Official Languages Act, rights with respect to an aboriginal person to have court proceedings in his own native language. So that will mean that we obviously have good interpreters. But the complete answer is that some day there be an Inuit judge and prosecutor and so forth who can deal with the people in their own language.

I can tell the Member that I was involved in a situation a number of years ago when I was a lawyer out in the field where we were conducting court and the prosecutor was an Indian, I was the defence lawyer, the policeman was an Indian and the accused was an Indian. So the only non-native person was the judge. There was another case years ago when I was a young rambunctious lawyer, where we conducted a court in Wrigley and I did all of my questioning in Slavey and it was interpreted back for the court in English. So we made little steps and these things have occurred in the past, and I am sure will again, in the future.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Was justice done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you. The Minister of Justice.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are presently undertaking a study as to what would be the financial impact, how many interpreters we will need in the Territories and what sort of specialized training these interpreters will have to have. Ultimately it would be good if there was a network of interpreters across the Territories, that the police would be required to utilize in these cases. So we are working toward that end. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): The government's response to recommendation 20, further comments?

Recommendation 21, Use Of Aboriginal Languages In The Legislative Assembly

Recommendation 21, use of aboriginal languages in the Legislative Assembly and proceedings of the Assembly. Government's response. The Member for Tu Nedhe.

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) I will talk in my native language. Our translators said that there are only two translators here in the Assembly, although in the NWT there are a lot of aboriginal people who speak the native languages. Are they going to increase the interpreters at the Legislative Assembly? (Translation ends)

There are only two translators in the small booth there, and there are several aboriginal languages that the Assembly uses. Is there any way that they are going to be extending it or putting in more cubicles because there are times when we are speaking and it slows us down because they have to change their seats. They are playing musical chairs back there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mahsi. Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the matter of interpretation for the Assembly is really the responsibility of the Speaker, to be sure that Members have adequate interpreters. I think that the situation is such that as Members use their own native languages more and more and the usage increases, I am sure that the Speaker will provide for more interpreters and more space and so forth than is presently provided. So, I think it is just a matter of time and the experience and a little bit of money maybe would help too. In terms of the department itself, we have increased the number of our translators/interpreters over the course of the last year quite substantially and these people will be available to the Assembly as they are needed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Sibbeston is taking that as notice for the Speaker. Recommendation 21 and the government's response. Further comments?

Recommendation 22, Documents Of Municipalities, Boards And Committees

Recommendation 22, translation of documents of municipalities, boards and committees and the government's response to that recommendation. Comments? Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if this would apply to the city of Yellowknife proceedings? Can I have a response to that, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I wish that the Minister of Municipal Affairs was here to deal with it, but I guess in my role as the Minister responsible for Culture and so forth, I will eventually be writing to all of the municipalities and groups of that sort encouraging them as much as possible to make their decisions and so forth available to the public in native languages. Yellowknife will be one of the groups and bodies that we will be approaching to do that. I am sure too that the city of Yellowknife will respond if they do see that there is public interest and that there are people in Yellowknife interested in having the results of their proceedings made available to them in any of the aboriginal languages.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recommendation 22 and the government's response. Further comments?

Recommendation 23, Identification Of Bilingual Positions

Recommendation 23, identification of bilingual positions and the government's response. Comments? The Member for Nunakput.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I realize that this has probably been dealt with by the committee and one of the reasons that I have not said too much about the recommendations is because I believe that I can be in full support of it and I certainly give commendation to the people who have worked on the aboriginal languages and their determination to bring them to this point.

In the identification of bilingual positions, one of the questions that had been raised was, if you identify bilingual positions and give wage parity to the person that is bilingual, we have a difficulty where you could have a bilingual person who could serve, say a Slavey language community, but yet be transferred to another area where the language would not be useful at all and there was some question as to how you would judge that. There is support for people who have more than one language being compensated in government service, particularly if it is a workable one, and I am wondering if the discussion has come to any conclusion on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): K'aowe. Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the government is just beginning to examine this whole area and the intent here is that there are certain positions in government that are so important --

positions that interface or have a lot of contact with the public -- that certain positions can be identified as being positions where a person must speak one of the languages common to the people in the area. So that is the intent. With respect to bilingual bonuses, I believe we already have that for teachers, some of the teachers who are bilingual. And so a start has been made to recognize the fluency and the ability of certain of our public servants in the aboriginal languages. We are just beginning to examine this whole area and at this stage would not want to say too much about that as to what our definite plans are, except that we are examining it with a view to try to do something about it. If Mr. Pedersen, the Minister of Personnel, wishes to add anything, I should think he ought to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Richard): Mahsi cho, Mr. Minister. The Chair is going to recognize the clock at this time and rise and report progress. I want to thank the Minister, Mr. Sorensen, Ms Blondin-Townsend and a special thank you to the interpreters in the translation booth this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Richard.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 13-86(2), GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

MR. RICHARD: K'aowe. Your committee has been considering, in several languages, Tabled Document 13-86(2), Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Recommendations of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages. Mr. Speaker, k'aowe, I wish to report this matter requires further consideration.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

And Mr. Speaker, k'aowe, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

---Applause.

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: Possibly the motion that they were dealing with yesterday might be applicable today. Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a Nunavut caucus meeting after adjournment this evening. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on public accounts tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. There will be a meeting of the special committee on rules, procedures and privileges at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 23rd, at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions

7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Document 13-86(2)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House will stand adjourned until Thursday, October 23rd, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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