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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1986

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, 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 Thursday, October 23rd. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 6-86(2): Nunasi Corporation

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On September 2nd, 1986, Nunasi had no general manager. It became evident that no assistance package, however generous, could have any effect without a first class manager to implement it. Consequently and in concert with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, we insisted on two conditions for our assistance: 1) that an experienced business person with an excellent track record be named general manager of Nunasi Corporation; and 2) that he be authorized to direct Nunasi's day-to-day activities in a businesslike manner. These conditions have been met and I was most pleased to hear that Mr. Jim Britton was appointed general manager of Nunasi as of October 21st, 1986.

On August 27th, the territorial government issued a press release supporting Nunasi Corporation. Mr. Speaker, Nunasi Corporation is not bankrupt; its assets exceed its liabilities by nine million dollars, in spite of the fact that the corporation started operation more than 10 years ago without any cash. However there is no doubt that Nunasi was having a cash flow problem, considering the interest payments on the loans secured from the banks to acquire these assets.

As stated in the press release of August 27th, my department did not want to see a forced sale of Nunasi's assets, particularly Nunasi's NTCL holding. Moreover, we did not want to jeopardize important projects such as Nunasi's sealskin project, a project that could provide extra income of \$850,000 for approximately 76 hunters in the Northwest Territories during the first year of the operation. Four years from now the sealskin project could produce 230 jobs in the NWT and provide \$6.9 million in extra income for 1500 hunters.

Mr. Speaker, in order to prevent this from happening it was decided to assist Nunasi Corporation to implement a business plan which would address its cash flow problem. This has been done and DIAND have agreed to contribute \$170,000 and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, \$110,000. This is nothing new and no precedent is being created here. Under our business development policy and our financial assistance to business policy, a policy whose purpose, and I quote, is "to assist business enterprises in financial difficulty and in legitimate instances of proven need", we have assisted 65 businesses in the NWT with accountable contributions in excess of \$600,000 during the current financial year.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the working group created to supervise the allocation of funds to Nunasi represents DIAND, the bank and the GNWT. This has been done to make certain that the funds contributed are accounted for and are used to implement the new business plan. We did the same with Arctic Co-operatives Limited -- a steering committee was created -- and we have done the same for all our contributions, although in most cases an area economic development officer is involved to monitor allocation of funds and ensure that funds are utilized properly.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the measures taken to assist Nunasi were taken to assure the viability of an important native corporation. If required, we will give similar assistance to any other development corporation in similar circumstances. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

Minister's Statement 7-86(2): Urea Formaldehyde Foam Insulation Problem

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform the House that the matter of the urea formaldehyde foam insulation, which was causing a problem in certain buildings in the community of Snare Lake, has now been completely resolved. The problem was addressed through the joint action of my occupational health and safety officials and the Department of Public Works and Highways. All of the urea formaldehyde foam insulation was removed from the multipurpose hall and placed in sealed drums. Arrangements have been made to transport the sealed drums to a proper disposal site in High Level, Alberta, for permanent disposal. I am drawing this to the Legislative Assembly's attention since I believe it is a good example of two departments working in unison to resolve a particularly difficult problem. The urea formaldehyde foam in these particular buildings had deteriorated and posed a health hazard to the persons using the buildings. As stated, this problem has now been completely resolved. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Minister's Statement 8-86(2): Secretary Of State Funding For French

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am please to be able to advise that the Department of Education has successfully negotiated with the Secretary of State for a contribution of \$645,000 for French programs in 1986-87. This amount includes the minimum contribution of \$145,000 as per the Canada-Northwest Territories agreement on the official languages in education, as well as an amount of \$272,000 from supplementary funds, for projects and activities implemented in the last three years which are to be ongoing this year. Also included is a further amount of \$228,000 from supplementary funds for projects and activities initiated this year.

Mr. Speaker, this fall saw the expansion of French immersion at the grade 11 level at Sir John Franklin High School and at the grade four level in the Yellowknife separate school system. The Secretary of State helps to defray costs for teachers and teaching materials for the pilot classes in immersion. Support will also be given for the continuance of the pre-immersion French program offered to students in the spring at J.H. Sissons School in Yellowknife.

The Department of Education is in the initial stages of developing a core French curriculum adapted to our northern needs. All territorial schools offering a French program this year received contributions to help purchase French learning materials and resources. Except for Nanisivik, all communities where French is offered received cultural support through visits of groups of touring performers. The value of this cultural support, in my mind, is immense and gives our students an appreciation and understanding of another culture.

Funds are set aside for all communities who identify a need for French language instructional assistants to help in their French programs. These communities, Mr. Speaker, are Nanisivik, Frobisher Bay, Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Pine Point, Fort Smith and Yellowknife. My department has expanded this year, the use of university teleconferencing courses for professional development, to Frobisher Bay and Yellowknife. This will give adults the opportunity of pursuing university level courses without having to leave their community. Travel

assistance was given to students who qualified to take French summer language courses in different parts of Canada. My department is well aware of the benefit of these six week courses in enhancing our students' proficiency in their second official language and will seek to offer more CMEC bursaries next year.

I am particularly pleased to advise the Assembly that Frobisher Bay received from the Secretary of State 100 per cent funding for its French first-language program. Funding to hire a teacher, a French instructional assistant, a French monitor and to supply teaching and library materials, and professional development opportunities will contribute greatly to providing French educational needs identified by the Francophone parents in that community.

My department will continue to actively seek Secretary of State support for our territorial French programs and will encourage any jurisdiction which would like to initiate a program based on identified needs. Merci bien, Monsieur Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 9-86(2): Initiatives For The Prevention Of Child Abuse

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I have a statement on initiatives for the prevention of child abuse. Mr. Speaker, the prevention and elimination of child abuse requires the efforts of many people. In co-operation with other agencies, the Department of Education will begin introducing measures designed to help its staff understand and deal with this sensitive topic.

The Department of Education has prepared "Procedures for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse". These procedures have been developed in conjunction with the Northwest Territories medical/legal committee, representing the territorial Departments of Health, Social Services and Justice, Health and Welfare Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Justice Canada. All the revisions which have been recommended by the medical/legal committee have now been incorporated into the draft and once the procedures receive the final approval of the committee, which will be meeting on November 12th, they will be introduced into all schools across the North. It is expected that implementation will begin in approximately one month. These procedures have been acknowledged and supported by all the agencies involved in the treatment and investigation of child abuse.

The intent of the procedures is twofold: 1) To ensure that employees of this department are aware of their legal obligation to report suspected child abuse, as outlined in the Northwest Territories Child Welfare Act. 2) To ensure that all staff know the correct procedures to follow, in the event that they have to make a report. These procedures will also contain a number of scenarios depicting different situations which may confront staff who suspect child abuse. These scenarios are intended to provide staff with more understanding of the reporting procedures.

Training has already begun for principals, on this sensitive topic, and training will be available for teaching staff, in co-operation with the Department of Health.

A package of information about the initiatives of this department in this area has also been forwarded to all other Ministers of Education across Canada, in an attempt both to share information of mutual interest and to prevent the rehiring of professionals who have been convicted of child abuse. This is a further effort by my department, working in conjunction with other departments, toward helping to prevent child abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Achievement Of Nanisivik Mine Rescue Team

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of this House will recall that during the June session of the Legislature, the Hon. Michael Ballantyne announced that the mine rescue team from Nanisivik mine had won the 1986 NWT Mine Rescue Competition.

I am now pleased to inform you that the Nanisivik mine rescue team successfully represented the Northwest Territories at the Canadian National Mine Rescue Competition held in Nanaimo, British Columbia, in September of this year. The Nanisivik team were joint winners of the national trophy

along with the team from Ontario. It is the first time since 1975 that a team from the NWT has won the national competition. The NWT team won the actual mine rescue simulation exercise section of the competition, while the Ontario team won the first aid and equipment testing part of the competition.

I am sure you will all join me in congratulating the team from Nanisivik Mine. This is an important event and they were excellent ambassadors on behalf of the NWT. Mine rescue teams are an important aspect of safety in the mines.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 026-86(2): Appointment Of Inuktitut-Speaking JP, Lake Harbour

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question 026-86(2), asked by Mr. Arlooktoo, on October 20th, 1986. It has to do with the appointment of justices of the peace in Lake Harbour. Officials of my department have received an application for the appointment of Mr. Kinneyua Pudlat as a justice of the peace. This application was received October 17th, 1986, and will be given serious consideration within the next few weeks. Mr. Pudlat had applied for an appointment last October. His application was not supported at that time on the basis of a lack of qualifications. We have not received any other applications since that time and we are prepared to re-evaluate Mr. Pudlat's qualifications.

We do have one justice of the peace in Lake Harbour at the present time. Mr. Ivan Gallant has worked and lived in small northern communities since 1977 and has held a justice of the peace appointment in Lake Harbour since November 1985. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to two questions which were asked yesterday by the Member, Mr. Gargan, Question 067-86(2) and Question 070-86(2). The first one concerns 200 additional feet of runway lighting requested by the Member from Fort Providence. The Member also requested this item in the February sitting. I am pleased to report that the department has once again acted very quickly. The 200 feet of additional runway lighting was installed five months ago.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

AN HON. MEMBER: We will need to drop in for a visit.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Next town, Sam.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: It is obvious the Member uses his truck and not a plane. With regard to a key to activate the airport lighting system: Air Providence will be given a key out of courtesy, but they will not be given any compensation for activating runway lights, as that is the responsibility of the settlement council. An ARCAL system, which will allow pilots to activate the lights with no ground personnel required, will be installed by December 31st and totally eliminate the requirement for keys.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have it with me yet, but I have an attachment to this return which shows the status of the number of small airports which were also mentioned yesterday by several Members. So when I get the attachment I will also file it with this return. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 023-86(2): Request For Canadian Rangers, Sanikiluaq

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, this is a reponse to Question 023-86(2), asked by Mr. Appaqaq concerning Canadian Rangers.

The Canadian Rangers patrol program is operated by the federal Department of National Defence in a number of northern communities. Generally, a ranger patrol is established in a community if DND identifies an operational requirement for that area. The establishment of new patrols is also dependent on the availability of human and financial resources. Although setting up of ranger patrols is usually initiated by DND headquarters here in Yellowknife, an interested community may approach DND with a formal request to establish a patrol.

I am informed by officials in the Department of National Defence that establishing a patrol in Sanikiluaq is considered a low priority because of the low likelihood of military activity in the area. As well the department has no plans to expand the ranger program at this time although this may change in the next year or two. Nevertheless, they encourage the community to write with a formal request, since factors such as strong community interest are taken into account in deciding the location of new ranger patrols. Mahsi.

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

Return To Question 037-86(2): Funding For Soapstone, Pangnirtung

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) In response to Question 037-86(2), asked by Pauloosie Paniloo, concerning Pangnirtung soapstone retrieval and training.

The Pangnirtung co-op and the hunters and trappers association have been working on a three year program funded under Special ARDA and Canada Works, to train local people in S-MITE, non-explosive, quarrying techniques and to development the Clearwater Fiord soapstone site.

The Inuit community human resources strategy approved a \$10,000 grant for training in the summer, but this was not enough to complete the project, and because of the lateness of the season even a smaller project could not proceed.

The Baffin Region's economic development officers have worked closely to make this program work and will try again next year since S-MITE can only be used in warm weather. If other funding had been in place this year, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism would have made up the difference to allow the project to go ahead. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 05-86(2): Departmental Plans For Privatization

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Return to Question 05-86(2), asked by Mr. Ted Richard on October 16th, 1986, regarding departmental privatization plans.

The following departments have to this date submitted privatization plans: Education, Health, Social Services, Economic Development and Tourism, and the NWT Housing Corporation. The Departments of Personnel, Public Works and Highways, and Municipal and Community Affairs have draft plans available. The remaining departments have indicated that they have no programs which lend themselves to privatization, or that they have contracted out to the private sector the maximum amount of work available for privatization.

Consistent with my oral response of October 16th, a full report on privatization will be available once all the various plans have been completed by the various departments. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 066-86(2): Limit On Sport North Lotteries

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to Question 066-86(2), asked by Mr. Wah-Shee on October 22nd, with regard to lottery revenues, Sport North.



Revenues on Western Canada Lottery ticket sales are set by the Western Canada Lottery Corporation. As the NWT marketing agent for Western Canada Lottery tickets, Sport North receives a preset percentage of each ticket sold. Non-profit groups which act as retailers also receive a percentage of each ticket they sell. Percentages for the various tickets are as follows: on the \$1 Western Express, Sport North receives seven per cent, the retailer receives seven per cent; on the \$5 Provincial, Sport North receives 10 per cent and the retailer receives 10 per cent; on the \$10 Superloto, Sport North receives seven per cent, retailer receives eight per cent; the \$1 Instant, Sport North receives five per cent, the retailer receives five per cent; on the \$1 Lotto 6/49, Sport North receives five per cent. Lotto 6/49 is a computer-based game. The only ticket terminal in the NWT is in the Sport North office. Sport North acts as both the marketing agent and the retailer for this ticket.

In addition, the Western Canada Lottery Corporation rebates to its provincial marketing agencies, including Sport North, any additional profits realized after each draw. Rebates are shared by Sport North with their retailers. Two points of clarification should be noted:

1) All revenues are used by Sport North to support their programs and services, including the Arctic Winter Games and the competition travel program. A formal agreement with Sport North details which programs and services these revenues are to be used for.

2) Sport North acts as the territorial agent for Western Canada Lottery Corporation tickets only; those are the five ticket programs mentioned earlier. Sport North is not involved in any fashion with the many other local lotteries, bingos and Nevadas which are governed by the Lotteries Act, administered by the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 035-86(2): Job Creation, Spence Bay And Pelly Bay

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to Question 035-86(2), asked by Mr. Angottitauruq on October 20th, 1986, regarding job creation at Spence Bay and Pelly Bay.

Referring to the Member's question regarding the high cost of living in Spence Bay and Pelly Bay and the need for job creation projects in these communities, my department has undertaken a number of initiatives to assist in this area.

For example, an economic planner has been placed through EDA to work in the communities of Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay. His final report is due in March, 1987. An employment officer position for the hamlet of Pelly Bay has been approved through our Inuit community human resources strategy program. This position will evaluate the skills of area residents and has already been successful in getting eight residents employed in the construction of the school. A new co-op store in Pelly Bay was approved through Special ARDA. A hospitality training course and a mineral identification course for 25 residents of Spence and Pelly Bay is being planned. A contractor management training program is scheduled for the new year to assist local contractors to bid on housing association contracts. Ongoing assistance to Taoyoak Crafts in Spence Bay which employs five full-time and 25 part-time workers is also being provided. My department is also working with local tourism operators, and examining the possibility of exporting arctic char to Yellowknife for resale.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, in my reply to the Member we will review all the recommendations of the regional economic development conference held in the Kitikmeot Region and we will continue to work with the region to develop business and employment opportunities. I share the Member's concern for the need to create more jobs throughout the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. That appears to conclude this item. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 083-86(2): Assistance In Purchasing Kerosene

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to Tagak Curley, Minister of Economic Development, concerning kerosene which is not available in the co-op stores and is very useful in our communities, especially for the hunters. I am wondering if we could be assisted in getting kerosene; for instance, naphtha has a subsidy. This is my question to Mr. Curley, if we could be assisted in this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that kerosene is very useful in the communities and a lot of the hunters are using it and it is very expensive. To date, the gasoline regulations -- I do not know who is looking after it, but I will have to find out first in order to give you an answer. I will take it as notice.

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

Question 084-86(2): Terms Of Reference Of Regional Council Review Committee

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader and I probably should say first of all the Government Leader should not feel threatened by the fact that I am wearing a rose in my lapel today. It does not necessarily mean what it could be taken to mean.

---Laughter

Mr. Government Leader, yesterday you did inform us about the personnel that would be serving on a regional council review co-ordinating committee. Could I ask the Government Leader if, as soon as possible, he would table for our information the terms of reference under which that review committee will be operating?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 084-86(2): Terms Of Reference Of Regional Council Review Committee

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to provide the document at the appropriate time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Chair would like to recognize Mrs. Sorensen, a former colleague in the gallery.

---Applause

Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 085-86(2): Restrictions Re Territorial Government Policies

MR. RICHARD: Qujannamiik. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Personnel and concerns, Mr. Speaker, a matter raised at a recent constituency meeting with Yellowknife MLAs; the matter being the undue restriction on civil servants. In the Public Service Act there is a provision, Mr. Speaker, that prohibits public servants from criticizing publicly, any territorial government policy. For example, Mr. Speaker, it prohibits a carpenter, say in the Department of Public Works, from criticizing the government's education policies that affect his children. It would appear to be too wide a restriction on the freedom of speech of public servants. I would ask if the Minister would agree that it is unreasonable restriction and undertake to bring an amendment to that legislation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I would not here agree that it is an unreasonable restriction, but I will make an undertaking to the Member to look into it and then answer his question on whether or not I agree with him after I have looked at it fully. Thank you.

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

Question 086-86(2): Problems In Request For Alternative Oil Agent

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Tagak Curley, Minister of Economic Development, concerning the oil and gas. I am still not satisfied with the answer. I have been asked within my constituency, if, as Shell Canada is responsible for delivering gas and fuel to our community, we could possibly get, a company other than Shell Canada to deliver the fuel and gas. Maybe get Esso Imperial to deliver the goods. I am wondering if there will be any problems in requesting to have another company deliver the gas and fuel to Sanikiluaq.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 086-86(2): Problems In Request For Alternative Oil Agent

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, all over Canada, whoever is responsible for delivering the gas and fuel is up to those who want to do it. But, if you would ask the company itself, maybe Esso Imperial then you would have to get their permission first to say whether they would be willing to do that. I cannot tell them to go ahead and deliver this gas and fuel to the community. They would have to start making profit and be able to say if there are going to be enough tanks available within the community in order to do that. This is one of the reasons why the high prices are in existence for gas and fuel and for those that are buying the gas and fuel. It is very expensive because it is not run by the territorial government. The tanks are huge and we do not get the company to pay for the tanks and the fuel, but we pay. So therefore, the companies are more expensive than the government itself, if they were to run it. So we will have to find out and I will have to take this as notice for the Sanikiluaq Member.

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

Question 087-86(2): Status Of Revision Of Statutes And Regulations

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Justice. Earlier this year, in March, a motion was passed in the Assembly recommending to Executive Council that funding be allocated to the Minister's department to enable an early revision of the statutes and regulations. Can the Minister indicate whether he will be providing a status report to the Assembly on that recommendation and on that particular task? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 087-86(2): Status Of Revision Of Statutes And Regulations

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I would be happy to submit a status report. I am still not quite clear, Mr. Speaker, under the new rules whether you can present a status report under Ministers' statements but if you will allow me to do it, I would be more than happy to give you an update.

MR. SPEAKER: The items that have been dealt with under Ministers' statements have covered the full gamut. I have been wondering when some honourable Member might question the Ministers for the type of statements that have been made. Under the rule as being allowed at the present time, Mr. Ballantyne, I do not see any problem. That does not say that that will last forever. Oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Question 088-86(2): Bastarache Report On Implementation Of French

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. For the Government Leader. Again, we have been dealing with the matter of languages in the House recently and even today the Minister of Education gave a statement on what will be done with funding that is being received for French. I would like to ask the Government Leader what has happened to the Bastarache report. I know that this government had engaged Mr. Bastarache to, I think, lay out a plan for the implementation of French as an official language. I thought that we would have heard something about it before this time. So, can I ask the Government Leader for an update on that report and when will we be able to see something of the recommendations?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 088-86(2): Bastarache Report On Implementation Of French

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bastarache has completed, to date, a number of preliminary reports for our government including the provision of documents on French language legislative and court procedures, on French language training, and as well a draft policy on the use of interpreting and translation services. He has also assisted us in making arrangements through the Secretary of State to begin translation and vetting of all our legislation and regulations. Mr. Bastarache has been of great help to us in negotiations with the Secretary of State for funding to allow the Department of Culture and Communications to contract for a French project officer and to establish a French language section within the NWT language bureau. I am pleased to announce that

an agreement-in-principle has been reached with the Secretary of State and I expect to be signing a final contribution agreement in the next week or two. This contribution agreement will provide \$211,000 for the remainder of this fiscal year and this is in addition to the moneys that Mr. Patterson spoke of earlier. This \$211,000 will permit us to hire a French project officer, two interpreter/translators, a bilingual word processor operator and a bilingual receptionist/secretary. The project officer is already in place and the remaining positions will be recruited in November.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W14-86(2): Radio Station Tapes In Inuktitut

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. The question is with regard to Inuktitut radio station tapes. The cassette tapes that the government sends out to the local radio station have been coming in untranslated. Could the Minister responsible for Communications see to it that the local stations get tapes translated into their first language?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Written questions. Written questions. That appears to conclude this matter. Item 7, returns to written questions.

Procedure Under New Rules For Returns To Written Questions

I have a response to Mr. McCallum's point of order yesterday concerning returns to written questions. I wish to clarify the procedure under the new rules that should be followed. Rule 55(1) states that all written questions shall be filed with the Clerk who shall endorse the date of filing thereon, and forthwith provide copies to all Members.

As you are aware, the procedure followed is that Members rise and read their written questions into the record and then file them with the Clerk, who then provides copies. This has been set by precedent and will be continued or will continue to be followed.

The rule concerning returns to written questions is as follows: Rule 55(2), "Where any written question is directed to a Minister pursuant to Rule 55(1), that Member shall, without any unnecessary delay, file the reply with the Clerk who shall endorse the date of filing thereon." My interpretation of the rule, with the qualification in Rules 55(3) and 55(4), would mean that the Minister provides copies to the Clerk, who would inform the House of the receipt of the returns and provide copies to all Members. But Rule 55(4) does permit the Minister, if he desires, to read the return if it has been filed.

So I believe we were in order the other day. The document in question had been presented to the Clerk and the Minister read the answer or the reply to the written question. I will read it so there is no misunderstanding. This is under "Written Question", Rule 55(4) on page 21 of your rules. "A Minister, if he desires, may read a return which has been filed in accordance with Rule 55(3), under the item Returns to Written Questions." So I take that to indicate that we were in order the other day.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: So we would understand then that if a Minister reads a reply to the House, that he is graciously fulfilling his desires; that is his desire to do that. But it is not necessary for Ministers to read, is that clear?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Only when we need political points.

---Laughter

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Just when it's haying time, Mr. MacQuarrie.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk, do we have any returns to written questions?

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. There do not appear to be any replies today.

Item 9, petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 17-86(2). In accordance with section 39 of the Interpretation Act, I wish to report to the House on the orders, rules and regulations made pursuant to the acts of the Northwest Territories. I am therefore tabling the following document: Tabled Document 17-86(2): Numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Volume VII of Part I of the Northwest Territories Gazette; Numbers 1, 2, 3 and four Extraordinary Editions of Volume VII of Part II of the Northwest Territories Gazette; and indices of all regulations, statutory instruments and non-statutory instruments made pursuant to the acts of the Northwest Territories for the period from 1st February, 1986, to 30th September, 1986. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Leader.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 18-86(2), Regional Council Review Co-ordinating Committee, Terms of Reference, Review of Regional and Tribal Councils within the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude this item for today. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 6-86(2): Management And Services Board Appointment

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice to a motion for which I will seek unanimous consent later today under the orders of the day Item 14. The motion is: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin be appointed to the Management and Services Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 2-86(2): Elections Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 27th, I shall move that Bill 2-86(2), An Act Respecting Elections, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 5-86(2), Child Care Policy. Mrs. Lawrence.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 5-86(2): Child Care Policy

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a motion here.

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has no public child care policy;

AND WHEREAS most Northwest Territories communities lack any proper child care facilities;

AND WHEREAS current economic conditions require that single or both parents work full-time to properly support themselves and their families;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for High Arctic, that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that it consider tabling in this House a child care policy during the next session for public debate and discussion;

FURTHER, that this Assembly recommend the use of older unused buildings in each community to avoid high construction costs in the establishment of child care facilities;

AND FURTHER, that priority be given to the establishment of child care facilities in those communities faced with serious economic problems and conditions.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. You may proceed, Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Up until now the territorial government has not seen child care as an important issue. It is with recognition from the federal government with their parliamentary task force and proper lobbying to our government that it is now an issue. In our now growing society, as a family or as individuals, women have been recognized in the work force. Through this transition the woman, usually for economics' sake, has decided to pursue a career for the betterment of her family. It is with this knowledge that she seeks a proper care giver for her children.

Also in these changing roles are single parent families, either by choice or marriage breakdown. In order to survive in our communities, this single parent has no choice but to work. With this in mind, the single parent needs to feel secure that the child has good care. It is said that you can teach children their values only until they are five years old. In order for this child to be brought up safely and properly, I see an importance in having some sort of child care policy implemented.

We should not be afraid to develop some sort of standards. With proper implementation and guidance at the community level, we could have a policy flexible for all needs. With this as a guideline, the child would not be abused, either by negligence from overcrowding or from someone's ignorance. These children should be brought up with the intent that we are grooming our future leaders at the community, territorial and national level.

In some smaller communities there is already overcrowding of the extended-family homes and/or there is no knowledgeable and reliable person. This overcrowding can be helped by using and restructuring any old, unused building in the community. As cost-efficient northerners, we can restructure these buildings instead of building a new facility which would be redundant or costly.

In some communities the older children are taken out of school so that they can look after their younger brothers and sisters. That causes a lot of hardship for the individual child, because they do not get their education as they should. Also, in these smaller communities reliance on the welfare system is great, and we should promote a self-sufficient society. To do this, these women should be able to keep their jobs without worrying about the care the child is given.

#### "Blue Quills" Child Care Facility

Mr. Speaker, I ask the honourable Members to consider all these factors as I speak on this motion. In my past travelling, I came across a child care facility that was restructured from an unused building. This place was called "Blue Quills" and was native owned and operated. They had several elderly ladies looking after the children, elderly people who were in need of work, and they made some kind of an appointment for them. They even have a traditional style of swings that we used to have in the old days, and the elders were really happy looking after some of these children.

(Translation) It is important that our children and grandchildren be given a proper start in life. For prosperous community growth, we should aid them with a choice that should not be limited. In my home constituency of Snowdrift, families have been neglected long enough. When some people

reach sobriety, after maintaining it they need some incentive to continue. If they knew of a proper child care facility, they would use it to further themselves by schooling, upgrading, or working, with the main purpose being to help their family. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The seconder, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to be seconder to the motion. This is a big problem in the North, and in the smaller communities, especially -- those people who like to get education but then have to be taken out to babysit. Then there are people who would like to be employed, who are husband and wife or single people, and since there is no day care centre or child care facility, there is no way they can go to work. It is so hard to try to make a living right now and they have to go to work to make a living. The man who is going to be the hunter would have to have someone to take care of his child while out hunting. For these reasons, if we can try to get our child care policy implemented I would be very happy, and during the winter we will be able to discuss it further on what kind of measures we are going to take.

The mover did a very good job in explaining and this is my brief comment. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Executive Council I appreciate that we should take direction from the Assembly on motions such as this and, therefore, I will abstain. It is a matter of such great concern in my constituency that I feel impelled to say briefly that I welcome this motion and I am sure that all Members would be happy to see expanded day care opportunities offered in communities in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, many talented family people cannot take job opportunities that are available to them or even go to school to upgrade their skills because of the lack of day care facilities.

#### Day Care Centres Good Business Opportunity

I am also convinced, Mr. Speaker, that with the right encouragement and support, once standards are developed and a policy is developed, running day care centres would be a good business opportunity for many people in the Northwest Territories. I know that co-operation will be required from the federal government and that a number of reports are now being considered by the federal government on this issue. I hope this will lead to federal support so that, together, various levels of government can tackle this very urgent problem.

I just wanted to indicate briefly what a strong priority this is for the constituents of Iqaluit, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I have concurrence of my two colleagues that this has been an ongoing priority for the people in my constituency and for the people in Yellowknife generally. There are a number of people right now who, I think, because there is not an adequate policy in place in the Northwest Territories are suffering some hardship, suffering some difficulty. I welcome this motion because I think up until now the perception has been that it has been a problem only in the larger communities. I think with this motion we can dispel that notion. In fact, it is a problem that is prevalent through the whole Northwest Territories. There is a need through the whole Northwest Territories to provide that option for parents who want to or, in many cases, have to work. I think it is important for us to be part of that process. As everyone knows, we have been waiting for some years, and it was brought up in our latest constituency meeting, for a federal government program. I think Mr. Richard quite rightly said that we could be waiting for a number of more years. There always has been a problem with trying to decide priorities for this government and, I guess, all governments with limited resources. Some of the things that we have tackled as a government have been, for instance, safe shelters for victims of spousal assault. We have seen a lot of emphasis on assistance to elders but I think this particular subject is now getting the sort of recognition that it deserves. I think the motion is very timely and the motion is very important.

Private Sector Has Responsibility

Another factor I would like to bring in is that, besides the involvement of governments, the private sector has a responsibility in this area. In many countries of the world and many places in Canada, in fact, the private sector does take some responsibility in child care. So I think that in developing this policy we should look at a number of options. Look at how we can deal as a government with the federal government, how we can deal as a government with the private sector and put together a comprehensive package in the Northwest Territories that will look after our needs. I think that we in the Territories have to make a case very, very strongly that the situation in the North is very different from that in many areas in the South. In the North, because of the extremely high cost of living, in many cases, it is imperative that both parents work, just to survive. I think that this is not the case in many places in southern Canada.

Lack Of Day Care Facilities Decreases Talent Pool

I think, also, in the Northwest Territories, with limited population, that many times it is women who have to stay at home and what we are doing is cutting into our talent pool. We cannot afford, the Northwest Territories, to cut into that talent pool of women. We need all the good people that we can get in leadership positions in the Northwest Territories and we need to have, I think, a policy that can facilitate that end. So, again, as a Member of the government, I will not be voting on the motion. But I just want to make it clear, as an MLA, an MLA representing a Yellowknife constituency, that I fully support the spirit of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had not indicated that I would speak, but seeing as the Executive are making political statements, I thought the opposition might. Firstly, let me say to the Members in this House, that a motion has to recognize not only the ability of two people in the family to work, but the reality that in many communities one person out of a family is unable to work. Unable to work because of lack of access to employment or unable to work because of the lack of educational skills. The other important factor is that the communities have never had the opportunity to participate in any kind of child care services. That is the reality. The reality is that the larger centres, at least, have had that access. Let me also, Mr. Speaker, indicate that while presently there is access for larger centres, the process for accessing funds is such that it is done on an ad hoc basis, that there are no criteria, no guidelines, that it causes confusion and problems for people that are participating in these child care services. I would also indicate that the intent of the motion, I believe, is to get some ideas from government and from the public as to the type of policy that would best serve the interests of the people, including the idea of considering the manner in which we will use public funds and private funds, if that is possible. Just let me indicate, Mr. Speaker, my support for the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure this motion will receive the unanimous support of the House. In recognizing that, I would just like to thank the Minister and his department for the manner in which they responded to my requests of them for the second part of the motion. I found them very receptive and forthcoming when approached by a Member of this House to effect the objective that is indicated in that particular section. So, I would just like to use this opportunity to thank the department and the Minister for attempting to meet, at least, the concerns of my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the motion. Mrs. Lawrence, do you wish to close debate? You have the floor. Ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 5-86(2), Carried

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

---Carried

---Applause



MR. SPEAKER: Motions. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to proceed with Motion 6-86(2).

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested by Mr. Butters to proceed with his motion. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Butters.

Motion 6-86(2): Management And Services Board Appointment, Carried

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the Hon. Michael Ballantyne has resigned from the Management and Services Board;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council Act requires that there be two Ministers of the Executive Council on the Management and Services Board;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that the Hon. Bruce McLaughlin be appointed to the Management and Services Board.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 14, motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. 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 Languages, with Mr. Wah-Shee 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. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. We are still continuing with Tabled Document 13-86(2), Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Recommendations of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages. Yesterday, we were on recommendation 23, identification of bilingual positions. Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, we were just at the conclusion of the report and I would be pleased to answer any questions that I can with respect to the remaining recommendations. In the event that I do find that I need staff, I will call them in, but if we can avoid that, I will just see if I can deal with it myself.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister, there is no need to refer to me as k'aowe, I am chairman. Comments on recommendation 23. There are none.

Recommendation 24, Provision Of Airline Services

Recommendation 24, provision of airline services, schedules and other flight information in aboriginal languages; provision of flight safety and flight-attendant information in aboriginal languages. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Government Leader how he intends to implement a policy like that for flight attendants.

I just want to ask the Minister how he intends to implement such a policy for most of the airlines which are under private enterprise and I am just curious on how they intend to implement it.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, as the response to this recommendation indicates, I have written a letter to all of the airline companies operating in the North with a view to urging them to see if they could provide information to their passengers in any of the aboriginal languages common in the area that they serve. I have not had a response from any of the operators since writing the letters, so I do not know what the reaction is. I am hoping that my request will be responded to positively and that it would be done on a voluntary basis.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I indicated in this regard that our government would be pleased to be of whatever assistance we could in providing written materials or any audio voiced messages that could be used on airlines or airplanes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Recommendation 24. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, not concerning recommendation 24, but I would like to know if I might be able to go back to recommendation 18. I was not here when that particular recommendation was addressed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Request to go back to recommendation 18. Do committee Members agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Gargan, to recommendation 18.

#### Further Discussion Of Recommendation 18

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On recommendation 18, the recommendation is to provide interpreters as soon as possible on arrest, search or seizure, or apprehension of a child or mentally incompetent person. This is one area I have quite a bit of concern over because of the experiences I have had with regard to arrest and seizure and apprehension. In most cases I think it is more of a formality -- although a person's right has been read to him, whether he understands that right or not is not something that has ever been explained. Myself, about 12 years ago I was arrested and I was kept for 48 hours without a charge being laid against me. I had the experience of staying in jail for 48 hours without a charge being laid. Although my rights were read to me, I was never given the opportunity to practise that right so I ended up just about making a confession to a crime I never committed. This is the situation you experience in a lot of the communities where a person would not be given the opportunity to seek a lawyer because there is no lawyer in most communities. In most cases the individual, although you have a judicial system, confesses to a crime. So what you have is a court party that travels along to the communities on chartered air services that wait for them in the communities and they go through a formality because there is no trial. It is more a formality than anything else. What happens is that the person admits to his guilt and is never tried. So you come up with a situation where the individual will plead guilty to a charge and that is it. Then the magistrate goes through the process of sentencing the person.

Again, there are cases where aboriginal people who do not understand the English language are forced or admit to guilt by putting an "X" on a piece of paper. A lot of times I watch TV, the American network, where the judicial system is such that the enforcer has to properly do his job or else most cases are not brought to trial because of error on the part of the person that is arresting. So this is one area that I am concerned about. This particular issue about providing interpreters is something that is rarely practised. Again, the whole issue of a court circuit is really just a formality and it is costing the taxpayers quite a bit of money. I would like to see if they are going to be providing that kind of interpreting service. I think it has to be an educational thing, too, because a lot of people in the communities do not realize what their rights are. Ignorance is preyed on by the authorities. They use that to get a confession out of people. Thank you.

MR. RICHARD: (Inaudible comment)...my conflict.

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

Justice System Has Improved

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate what the Member says. The report has certainly given attention to this problem and our response is that the Department of Justice is holding discussions with the RCMP to deal with the system and procedures that can be set up to deal with a situation where interpreters are needed. I can note from my own experiences that the system of justice in the North over the past several years has been improved considerably by the institution and provision of courtworkers.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: And in my experience I have found that the courtworkers, who are generally native people who speak the language of the accused, are made available to the lawyers and to the court system. This has aided the judicial system greatly. I do find that the whole court system has improved considerably and, in my own experience, for the most part justice is done. People are provided with opportunities to see lawyers and to be dealt with in their own language as much as possible. So whereas I have some sympathy for what the Member is saying, I do know that the system has increased and improved considerably, particularly from the time that he mentions when he was dealt with seemingly severely.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I think the comments of the Member will need more than a single solution. What we are looking at, as a government, is a package of solutions to try to deal with a serious problem. I would like to outline a number of things that have been done, are being done, and will be done to try to deal with the problem outlined by the Members.

Obviously, in the area of legal aid, we have been able to get more resources in legal aid. We are putting in legal aid centres in some areas where there was not access, as you said, to lawyers before. Now that is only a beginning. There are still other communities that have a problem but we have been able to begin. I think the fact that a judge, for instance, is going to the Baffin is a beginning. Sometime in the future, we would like to see each region have their own judges, and also at some time in the future, we would like to see aboriginal judges in the various regions of the Northwest Territories.

Recruitment And Training Of Justices Of The Peace

A major priority of our government is the recruitment and training of JPs. I will be making a ministerial statement at this session as to a process that we will be putting into place for the recruitment and training of JPs throughout the Northwest Territories. Since JPs deal with approximately 50 per cent of the crimes in the Northwest Territories, I think that is a very critical part of our justice system and we have made that a priority.

I think the Member made a very valid comment when he talked about the education of the public and that in many small communities -- in fact, in many of the larger communities, including Yellowknife -- people are not aware of their rights. There is the legal public education process that we have really just started in the last year which we, along with the federal government, support. You might have seen some of the ads that are on television now. They are an independent organization but they have our full support and are getting out to the communities and letting people know what their rights are. So again, it is a small step but I think it is a step in the right direction.

The recruitment of special constables is something which is a priority. We have had some problem in the past, as you know, with a reluctance on the part of certain individuals to serve, for instance, as special constables within their own community because of family ties, because of friends. It is a problem that we are trying to deal with right now. Sometimes it is very difficult for somebody to have to act as a policeman when family and friends are involved. But it is something that we have made a priority of the department, that is, the recruitment of special constables.

### Training And Use Of Interpreters In Justice System

I think the whole area of interpreters in the courts and the interpreters throughout government is critical to the success of the task force. As I said yesterday, we are in the process of doing a study right now to see exactly what resources we will need and what sort of technical skills interpreters within the justice system will have to acquire and the best way for us to make those skills available to them. What we envision in the future is, whether or not it is under the auspices of the Department of Justice or government, that there is a network of interpreters throughout the Northwest Territories and that the police are required to use those interpreters if they do not have, for instance, a special constable, so that people are aware of their rights.

Some of these we can do immediately, some will take longer. We are beginning negotiations on the RCMP agreement and some of the considerations right now that we are considering as we renegotiate is to incorporate, in our agreement with the RCMP, some of these realities of policing in the Northwest Territories. So I think that the Member has brought up a good point.

I quite agree with the Government Leader that the system of justice has improved but we still have a way to go. I think that what we are trying to do on a number of fronts over the next few months and years is actually to in fact improve that system and have a justice system that people in the Northwest Territories are comfortable with, understand and feel is fair and relevant to their needs. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This recommendation 18 has to do with providing interpreters when a person is arrested, seized, searched or apprehended. I agree with the Minister that there was something on CBC by the Department of Justice regarding what happens if you are arrested. It is as the Minister said as far as the judicial system goes, the court circuit. That is not the point that I am trying to get across.

### Rights Not Properly Understood

The point that I am trying to get across is that once a person is arrested, although he is given the opportunity by a little piece of paper saying his rights -- to remain quiet and all that stuff -- is that explained to him? In a lot of cases, it is not the law enforcers, the RCMP negotiate as lawyers by saying if you confess, you will get a lesser sentence or lesser fines. I do not know what the purpose of reading a statement on their rights is if they are going to contradict it by trying to force them to make a confession. This is where I have problems. And then you have a court circuit that is going into communities and you have an assembly line of people pleading guilty.

I went to a court circuit that was in Fort Providence about a month ago, and in two hours time they went through 20 people and there was no trial. There was just a guilty plea all the way and the sentence was brought down. So it is all a formality, and I do not know why they call it a trial. There is no trial, there is no contest. This is what I am trying to get at, and whether the department is doing something in the area of bringing to the attention of the public that they do have rights and that those rights have to be respected. I think the law enforcers should use that with the utmost discretion. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I understand the Member's concerns. Yes, we are attempting to do just that. I will be sitting down with the RCMP to see what sort of immediate steps we can take to alleviate some of the Member's concerns. I will be talking with the legal public education people about better ways that they can get the rights of people across to the public. We are aware of the problem and we are attempting to deal with it with some immediate responses and also some long-term permanent responses and hopefully we will not have the same problem five years from now. I take the Member's concerns seriously and we are looking into it.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Concerning the judge -- this has been a big problem in our community, that they come to the community by a charter and right away they leave the community as soon as they are through with the courts, even though some of them do not finish

their court cases. The people that are waiting to be tried have appeared three or four times. They have waited three or four times before the judge comes into the community and they wait a long time for that. The judge comes into the community by charter. They should be given time to stay a little bit longer in the community, for this reason. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I thank the Member for his comments. We are aware of the problems that the Member has brought forward. I think people also have to keep in context the cost of trying to service such a huge area and those costs are going up and up and up all the time and we are trying to find some balance in the system. Now, hopefully, by having a judge in the Baffin, some of the problems in the Baffin will be alleviated. In years to come, as I said, by putting judges in regions we might not have quite the same problems we have right now with the circuits but I think we are all aware of the problems the Member has brought forward and we are doing our best to try to deal with those problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Recommendation 25, Use Of Aboriginal Languages By Federal Government Departments

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Now we turn to recommendation 25. Just for the record I will read recommendation 25. The Government should encourage federal government departments active in the North to use aboriginal languages, as well as English and French, when dealing with people living in primarily aboriginal communities and regions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Recommendation 26, Training Programs In Journalism

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Recommendation 26, training programs in journalism are required for native language broadcasters. A formal communications training program should be developed by the government in order to train more northern residents in communications skills. Any comments? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does committee agree that this tabled document is now concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I shall now call progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

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. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 13-86(2), Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Recommendations of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages, and Mr. Speaker I wish to report this matter concluded.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance immediately after adjournment today.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, October 24th at 10:00 a.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
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 24th at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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