



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

9th Session

10th Assembly

HANSARD  
Official Report  
DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1987

Pages 1 to 15

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

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SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Would the chaplain please lead us in prayer?

ITEM 1: PRAYER

VEN. CHRIS WILLIAMS: O God, if Your Spirit be in us; if our minds be ready; our hands strong; we will work together, leaving behind every small and selfish motive, to care for this good land and to build a just and peaceful society to Thy glory.

(Repeats prayer in Inuktitut) Amen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, chaplain. Please be seated. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to address this House?

ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly. It is my pleasure to welcome you to this ninth session of the 10th Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Since the last sitting of this Legislature in the fall of 1986 there have been many important developments that will likely focus much of the debate in this session.

Division

Perhaps the most exciting of these is the recent signing of an historic document that outlines a proposed boundary for the division of the NWT. This agreement between the Western Constitutional Forum and Nunavut Constitutional Forum recommends to this House that the boundary proposal be ratified by the people of the NWT in a territorial-wide plebiscite. Your government continues to support this important initiative in the constitutional development of the North, and urges that the boundary agreement be placed before the people of the Territories at the earliest possible occasion.

Comprehensive Claims

Another important step was taken in December when the federal government announced its long awaited policy on comprehensive claims. This document embodies many of the positive principles enunciated by the Coolican report and as well, is reflective of many of the recommendations put forward by this government and by the native organizations of the North. The government is supportive of this federal policy and sees in it an opportunity for the native peoples of the NWT to conclude a fair settlement of their outstanding claims. It is expected that the federal government will soon be releasing policy guidelines that will define the process for early agreement on the outstanding issues specific to the TFN and Dene/Metis comprehensive claims. Your government continues to urge

the federal government to get on with this exercise so that a settlement can be reached that will ensure justice for native northerners and at the same time provide an environment of certainty for the development of the economy of the North to the benefit of all northerners.

#### Aboriginal Rights And The Constitution

Your government continues to be actively involved in the ongoing process leading up to the final First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights and the Constitution, to be held March 26 and 27. While many of the provincial governments appear to be opposed to the constitutional entrenchment of the right of aboriginal peoples to self-government, your government is continuing in its efforts to play the "honest broker" role in this process. We strongly support the essential demands of the native people of Canada for an entrenched right to self-government and we will continue to intervene with the provinces and the federal government in an effort to build bridges between the seemingly irreconcilable positions of provincial and aboriginal participants at these meetings.

#### Canadian Sovereignty In The Arctic

At the First Ministers' Conference in November, the Government Leader made the point that "nothing could lay a stronger claim over the North for Canada, than the simple day-to-day existence of Canadians living and working there, and the quiet, effective management of the North by our government." However, your government has been involved as well in more direct initiatives to secure Canadians' claim to the Arctic. In particular a recent proposal of the United States authorities to grant hydrocarbon exploration permits for exploration in the Beaufort Sea has caused concern. This government responded by sending letters expressing that concern to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Your Minister of Justice has raised this issue with the federal Minister of Justice and with the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is our understanding that the United States authorities have now agreed to postpone granting of such exploration permits.

While this is not a final resolution of the matter, over the coming weeks your government will continue to pursue this matter with the appropriate federal authorities to ensure that Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort Sea is finally confirmed.

#### Devolution

Since the last session of this Legislature the process of devolution has continued. In all cases these initiatives have proceeded with the participation and helpful co-operation of the relevant native organizations in order to ensure that the constitutional evolution of this territory does not in any way compromise the ongoing and parallel processes of claims settlement and division.

The transfer of forestry from the federal government is proceeding on schedule and should be completed by April 1, 1987. In conjunction with this transfer the Department of Renewable Resources is preparing appropriate legislation and a policy for the management regime.

The transfer of health services is now complete in the Baffin Region. These services are now under the direction of the Baffin Regional Health Board, which is composed of representatives from each of the Baffin communities and from the native organizations in the region. Work is continuing on the transfer of health services from medical services branch of the federal government to the Department of Health in the remainder of the NWT. While a final transfer date has not been set, it is expected that this work will be completed sometime this fall. As was the case in the Baffin Region, when transfer does take place, our government intends to turn over the administration of the health services to regional health boards, made up of representatives of the people from each community as well as regional councils and native associations.

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs will be reporting to this House during the session on the outcome of discussions with the Hon. John Crosbie, Minister of Transport, on this government's proposals for the devolution of the Arctic B and C airports program. As well, I am pleased to report that the federal cabinet will be considering soon a proposal for a special one-time funding envelope for the construction and upgrading of 11 airports in NWT communities that were left undeveloped with the expiry date of the last Arctic B and C airports policy in 1984.

In 1987-88 the Department of Public Works and Highways will take over from the federal government responsibility for the interterritorial highway reconstruction program. Combined with its existing jurisdiction for the reconstruction of intraterritorial highways, Public Works and Highways will then have a mandate for the reconstruction of all territorial highways. As well, the Department of Public Works and Highways continues to work toward the finalization of a community access roads policy with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, which will lead to the availability of increased project funding and eventually to the transfer of this program to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The federal government released its long awaited northern mineral policy in December 1986, and the GNWT was offered a role in the implementation of the policy. Work is under way to determine the extent of the role that can be accepted by this government. It is anticipated that this will ultimately lead to the transfer of these powers to northern governments.

Another area where talks are continuing with respect to transfer of federal powers to the North is that of NCPC. Progress is being made here and the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources will be making a statement on this matter later on during the session.

### Economic Prospects

Most Members are fully aware of the serious economic problems faced by the Northwest Territories in the past few years. The first and in some ways the most devastating blow to our economic well-being was the rapid decline in the price of sealskins, precipitated by well intentioned but wrong-headed campaigns on the part of a number of animal rights and anti-trapping lobbies. While this downturn was not as dramatic as the 1986 decisions of the major oil companies to cease operations in the Beaufort Sea, the fall of the seal economy has had a profound impact on virtually every community in the Eastern Arctic -- an impact that was all the more severe because the local economies there are dependent almost solely on the sale of sealskins for their cash income.

But the downturn in the Beaufort, culminated by the announcement of Gulf in the fall that they were pulling out of the region entirely, was a second body blow to the territorial economy that was felt all the more because it came on top of the preceding collapse of the sealskin market. Moreover, the reduction of exploration activity in the Beaufort and in the Delta was felt even in more stable and diversified economies such as those in the larger communities of Inuvik and Hay River. The high levels of unemployment in such normally prosperous regions is eloquent testimony to the extent of the crisis we are facing.

Finally, in this same period of economic difficulties, we have also seen the closure of one mine, and most recently the anticipated announcement that the Pine Point Mine will be closing permanently in the coming summer. While clearly such events are serious for the economy of the entire Northwest Territories, they are devastating for the people in the communities directly involved. Closures such as the one in Tungsten and in Pine Point mean not just high unemployment, but potentially the death of entire communities as well.

### The Action Force

Drastic circumstances often require creative responses. The federal government's creation of an action force on arctic initiatives was welcomed heartily by this government and we responded by establishing a counterpart ministerial action force. After much discussion and numerous meetings of officials from both governments, a joint meeting of the two ministerial action forces was held in Ottawa in December and a long list of announcements of federal and territorial initiatives to ease the impact of the downturn in the northern economy were made. However, the federal government had made it clear from the outset that there was to be no new federal money, and the bottom line is that there will be little new federal money expended on the North even during the current phase of the action force exercise, slated to wind up this May.

### A Budget For Economic Recovery

We do appreciate the efforts of Mr. McKnight and his colleagues, and this government will continue to participate with the federal action force in the interest of co-ordinating federal and territorial initiatives in the future. However, it is clear that the federal government is not about to bail us out, nor should we always expect it to. Responsible government and growing territorial independence are two-edged swords; if we want independence from federal control we have

to take the responsibility that independence carries with it. If we are to pull through this period of economic difficulty, we will have to do it ourselves, and the budget that will be presented to this Assembly later on in the session is very much a reflection of that fact.

As the Members will soon see, this is not a budget that will appeal to the weak-kneed or the timid.

---Applause

MR. MacQUARRIE: It will appeal to the extravagant.

---Laughter

COMMISSIONER PARKER: This is a budget that takes bold and creative initiatives as a response to the economic crisis that we are facing. It is designed to stimulate economic activity and economic growth throughout the NWT. It is designed to provide jobs and economic opportunities for northerners in all parts of the NWT. It is a budget that very much addresses itself to the future of this territory and not simply to the narrow circumstances of today. It is designed, as are other policy measures that I will discuss in a few moments, to pave the way for the long-term recovery of our economy.

Indeed, there are indications that our economy has already "bottomed out" and that some of our efforts have already begun to bear fruit. One encouraging sign is that after discussions with both federal and territorial governments Gulf has been convinced not only to continue its exploration activities through the coming summer but also to bring one well into production. Another good sign is that discussions are beginning between the two levels of government and with native organizations respecting a northern accord on the sharing of oil and gas revenues and territorial participation in resource management.

There are as well some optimistic signs in the renewable resources area. It appears that with some encouragement from this government the NWT may see the development of a small but effective agricultural sector. Also in the renewable sector, the combination of high prices and good yields -- particularly for lynx and marten pelts -- indicates a significant recovery of the fur trade in the Mackenzie and Liard valleys in the current year.

#### A New Northern Vision

Your government recognizes that the budget and the boundary plebiscite will form the major focus for this session. However, the Ministers have not been idle in other areas and have developed a policy framework that will complement the budgetary measures and set the stage for the many specific pieces of legislation that are to be introduced during this session.

At the First Ministers' Conference in Vancouver, the Government Leader laid the foundation for this integrated approach when he stated on national television that northern development should be a cornerstone of the Canadian economy. He said, "What Canada needs today is a new northern vision -- a vision that will focus our energies to unlock northern resources for the benefit of all Canadians." By this he was saying not that the North should continue to be a storehouse of resource wealth to be exploited at the whim of non-northerners, but that "there must be a commitment on the part of Canada to integrate the North into the national economy" in such a way that the resulting economic growth benefits northerners specifically as well as Canadians generally.

While the Government Leader's words in Vancouver were addressed to the role the North must be allowed to play in the overall development of Canada, what is implicit here is that we must get our own house in order. It is clear to your Ministers that the new northern vision must be extended to matters internal to the North as well. The Government of the Northwest Territories must seek to achieve a society that can be put forward as an example to other jurisdictions in Canada. Hence, in determining the specific measures to be introduced in this session, your Ministers sought to maximize four broad policy goals, as follows:

1) Stable economic growth and equal economic opportunity. Economic development policies must not only foster the stable growth of the northern economy, but they must do so in an equitable manner -- in a manner whereby all northerners have an opportunity to share equally in the benefits of that growth.

2) Social development and social justice. Social development and health policies must address the unique problems of the North in a manner that is sensitive to the cultural diversity and contrasting value systems of the Northwest Territories. The goal must be social development hand in hand with social justice.

3) Cultural development and cultural survival. Cultural policies must protect existing cultures as well as nurturing the development of the cultural diversity that is the hallmark of northern society.

4) Effective government and responsive government. Political and constitutional development initiatives must protect and foster the aspirations of northerners to make decisions about their own lives not only efficiently but in governments that they control. At the same time northern governments must seek ways of involving northern peoples and communities in the political process in a manner that is sensitive to the multicultural, multilingual and regional nature of our society.

In describing to this Legislature the recent accomplishments of your government and the various measures to be considered in this session, I would like to place them in the context of the four broad policy sectors -- economic development, social development and health, cultural development and political development.

#### Economic Development Policy Sector

The first policy sector is economic development. We are most pleased with the progress made on the new economic development agreement negotiations. At present the six proposed subsidiary agreements are with the federal government and we are expecting an early decision regarding final approvals. We are hopeful that we will have the new EDA in place by April. The new EDA will run for four years and have a total value of \$39 million. Seventy per cent of the cost of the agreement will be provided by Canada.

Since the last session there are several policy initiatives and events that may be of interest to Members. These include the passage of STEP, short-term employment policy, designed to provide funding for job creation in the higher unemployment communities. A key distinction of the program is that it now provides funding to encourage the private sector, along with other community groups, to hire chronically unemployed people.

The recently approved trade show assistance policy will likely stimulate a greater southern interest in some of our northern businesses and investment opportunities here. Similarly, the new NWT tourism marketing strategy will provide the impetus for further penetration of northern tourism in the national and international market places. I should note that the tourism strategy is a result of co-operative efforts between the department and our Travel Industry Association.

The cornerstone of our economic development strategy is the enhancement of the renewable resource sector. Here, while your government is pursuing initiatives to foster the overall development of this important part of the northern economy, our long-range goal is to create secondary and tertiary industries that utilize the renewable raw materials of the NWT. This "finished product" approach to the renewable sector will generate stable growth and at the same time provide greater opportunities for native northerners to participate in a meaningful way in the wage economy.

The commercial renewable resource use policy passed by the Executive Council will make available additional assistance for developing opportunities in the forestry, fisheries and fur sectors. Under the policy, financial assistance is also available for enhancements to existing operations where plant and equipment require upgrading or replacement. Through the budget, the government proposes that about \$3.5 million be made available to assist businesses in utilizing our resources.

Efforts are being directed to re-establish markets for marine mammal products manufactured by Inuit and Inuvialuit of the Northwest Territories and to ensure an active fur market for aboriginal peoples in the international fur trade.

Your government is also taking steps to ensure that northerners get a bigger share of the economic opportunities in the NWT. In order to better monitor the extent of local and northern involvement achieved by our contractors, the Department of Public Works and Highways now requires government



contractors to report regularly on the actual levels of local and northern business and labour utilized on the project. Also, the Department of Public Works and Highways implemented a new directive which increased the number of northern publications in which their tender advertisements are placed.

These new departmental initiatives in support of northern economic development are in addition to important government policies and departmental directives previously established regarding business incentive, privatization, the selection of architectural and engineering consultants and the use of commercial accommodation in communities by contractors.

In addition, the Executive Council approved in December 1986 the Public Works and Highways lease policy, which formalizes this government's leasing policies and practices. Thus, in support of privatization and the development of our northern business sector, future office space, staff housing and social services group home requirements will continue to be fulfilled, wherever possible, by leasing space from northern entrepreneurs as opposed to constructing additional government-owned facilities.

Collectively, these initiatives have allowed the Department of Public Works and Highways to achieve significant increases in the number and dollar values of contracts being awarded to northern firms and, we believe, to increase the number of jobs going to northern residents. Further, the department intends in 1987-88 to implement several new approaches in the way in which construction projects are managed. These approaches will be geared to providing local community residents with greater employment opportunities on government construction projects.

This year, the Housing Corporation will separately tender contracts for material supply and for construction on public housing projects throughout the Northwest Territories. This initiative should foster the development of local business, encourage employment of community residents and contribute to the economic health of the North.

But it is not enough to simply ensure that northern businesses get a fair shake when it comes to contracting and tendering projects. We must also foster an economic milieu where all northerners are able to participate. The government will be looking at ways of creating a more adaptable work place -- at ways of providing job opportunities for native people that find a "good fit" with their culture and lifestyle.

Naturally, training and development is another important area where the opportunities in the work place can be opened up to all northern peoples. The training of people in general is being emphasized in all program areas of the Department of Education. An accredited training program for principals is being developed through Arctic College to ensure the effective administration of NWT schools and to provide greater opportunities for our teachers to obtain the qualifications necessary to become school principals.

College training programs are also being developed to provide residents with the skills to enable them to take advantage of the employment opportunities that arise. In addition, short courses are being delivered by the department in support of affirmative action.

The adoption of the native employment policy and creation of the equal employment directorate reflected the wishes of this House for decisive action, backed up by the needed resources to ensure that our public service fully reflects our northern population. As we move into the second full year of equal employment and affirmative action, the equal employment directorate is helping the departments achieve the goals they have set for themselves, monitoring affirmative action and equal employment achievements across the public service, and examining territorial-wide systems in order to eliminate barriers to equal employment. New publicity programs will be developed this year to encourage widespread public understanding and support for equal employment in the Northwest Territories.

As well, progress is being made on a majority of recommendations in the five year plan of action for women to ensure equality of opportunity for women in the NWT.

## Social And Health Policy Sector

The second broad policy sector deals with social development and social justice. In the general area of health services and occupational safety your government can cite a wide range of important initiatives and accomplishments.

The new 135-bed Stanton Yellowknife Hospital will replace the existing 72 bed facility. A great deal of progress on the new facility has taken place in 1986-87. Construction, furnishing and testing will continue in 1987-88 with tentative occupancy in March, 1988. This new facility will provide expanded specialized services, laboratory, X-ray, and physiotherapy services, in addition to the increase in the number of beds. It will be possible to treat and care for more NWT residents in the North rather than referring them to southern institutions.

The NWT school health program guide will be available for the Department of Education to begin developing strategies for implementation in the fall of 1987. Final printing of the materials should take place early in 1988. Pilot testing of the family life and dental health strands should begin shortly. Because of its sensitive nature, the optional status of the family life strand will be guaranteed. Development of orientation and in-servicing packages is ongoing.

The government has a responsibility to provide and maintain a safe work place for its employees. The territorial government believes that this responsibility includes providing a smoke-free work environment. I am sure that you will agree that we cannot be devoting energies to a territorial perspective without also addressing the problem of smoking in the work place.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the GNWT will be phasing in, over the next several months, a smoke-free work place policy.

---Applause

The Department of Justice will continue to increase its emphasis on safety education and training both in the mining industry and in the general industrial sector. Courses aimed at specific safety skills will be offered to workers in all regions of the Northwest Territories. A great deal of activity is planned in fire safety and, in particular, firefighter training. There will also be an enhancement in the mine safety inspection program with great emphasis placed on the importance of the mine occupational health and safety committees.

The ministerial review committee has completed its study of all aspects of workers' compensation and has submitted its final report to the Minister responsible. This report will be tabled by the end of the session. The initial phase of the report provided the basis for changes in legislation in October 1986, which resulted in a higher yearly maximum insurable remuneration or YMIR. A detailed examination is being made of the final recommendations submitted by the committee with the possible aim of amending either the present legislation or procedures in order to improve the benefits for workers and their dependants and reduce the cost of service to employers.

In the area of social services, a number of communities have received funding from the Department of Social Services to address the issue of family violence. Funding has been provided for four new transition/emergency homes -- Iqaluit, Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Tuktoyaktuk. As well, the three year plan of action to address the problem of spousal assault has realized great progress toward community awareness. The Women's Secretariat has provided contribution funding to many community groups throughout the NWT.

A major initiative has commenced on policy development in child day care. In addition, work has commenced on drafting legislation which will provide for standards for the provision of day care services in the NWT. Foster care rates have also increased to more appropriately reflect the cost of caring for children.

A Northerners Against Impaired Driving group has been established in an effort to reduce accidents and fatalities related to alcohol and drug abuse. The Minister of Justice will also be tabling legislation to meet the needs of victims of crime in the proposed Victims of Crime Act. This act will ensure support and assistance to individuals who have suffered injury or damage as a result of a crime. The proposed statute will work in conjunction with the present Criminal Injuries Compensation Act to ensure that such matters as victim impact statements and victim assistance programs are available for the courts to consider.

### Cultural Development Policy Sector

The third policy sector is concerned with fostering and protecting the cultural diversity of the NWT. In the area of culture, your government has made progress on a number of fronts respecting the development of language services. The Ministers of Culture and Communications and Education are presently finalizing arrangements to have an interpreter/translator course established in the Arctic College system. This program should be in place by next September. Work is also proceeding on amendments to the NWT Official Languages Act that will guarantee certain northern native language rights. These amendments will be brought before this Assembly before the mandate of this government is complete.

On the same front a study has been initiated by the Minister of Justice to review the impact of providing translating and interpreting services of aboriginal languages in the courts. The study will assist in implementing the Jury Act amendments and create a forum where all the citizens of the Northwest Territories may participate fully in our legal system.

The Department of Culture and Communications is also forging ahead with the development of French language services. Recruitment of interpreter/translators for the department's new French language section will soon take place. Your government is presently negotiating a multiyear budget with the Secretary of State to support the further development of this initiative. Our immediate objectives in this area are to begin publishing French language informational materials and to develop the processes and departmental work plans that are necessary for the implementation of official bilingualism in 1989. The Department of Justice is already working toward this goal by ensuring that work now under way on the Northwest Territories Revised Statutes results in the production of both English and French versions of the statutes.

Discussions are now under way to examine the possibility of establishing a public educational broadcasting system for northern Canada. These discussions involve the territorial and federal governments, the CBC and all three NWT native broadcasting societies, as well as representatives of similar societies from Yukon, Arctic Quebec and Alaska.

### Political Development Policy Sector

The fourth policy sector involves the complementary goals of effective and responsive government. One year ago I announced the handing over of the chairmanship of the Executive Council to the Government Leader. On a personal note, I am pleased to observe that this important constitutional change proceeded smoothly and that the government's business has been conducted effectively under the direction of the Government Leader.

There are measures that the government will be introducing that are aimed at improving and upgrading our political and administrative institutions in the interest of greater efficiency and the provision of higher levels of service to the people of the North.

One of the major pieces of legislation to be reviewed this session is the proposed Financial Administration Act developed under the guidance of the Minister of Finance. This act which establishes the responsibilities and processes for financial management of the government, includes major revisions. These revisions, which represent a significant step toward responsible government, include the formal establishment of the Minister of Finance and comptroller general, as well as defining the responsibilities of the Financial Management Board and Ministers in the financial affairs of the government.

In keeping with the need to streamline the administration of justice, the Department of Justice will begin automating the court system this year. Computers will increase the efficiency of the courts and permit them to increase their level of service to the public. As well, the law reform committee of the Northwest Territories has now been functioning for several months. It is considering many improvements to our existing legislation and is expected to make periodic reports to the Minister.

While such measures are important and necessary, by far the greatest emphasis in the area of political and administrative development in the coming year will be with respect to the devolution of authority from the territorial headquarters to the regions and communities.

This year the government began its review of regional and tribal councils. As Members are aware, the expectations and structure of regional and tribal councils vary significantly. To assist the Executive Council in defining their evolution, a committee has been appointed to examine alternative approaches. The report is expected to be complete by June, 1987, and will be tabled for discussion at the next session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs will be tabling during this session the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, which consolidates and rationalizes the rules for assessment and taxation of property under one new act. This legislation will go a long way to affirming and clarifying the role and powers of municipalities in the NWT.

With the tabling of this act, the government will have tabled the complete program of six bills of new local government legislation -- the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Hamlets Act, the Charter Communities Act, the Settlements Act, the Local Authorities Elections Act and the Property Assessment and Taxation Act -- which municipal governments, regional and tribal councils, groups such as the Dene Nation and the Association of Municipalities and the general public have awaited.

As well, in order to further enhance the effectiveness of local participation, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs will be developing in the coming year a community works training program, and the development of a training program for locally based community planning technicians has already commenced. These and other programs under design are intended to improve the capability of community governments to take fuller control of the planning and management of the future development of their communities. Since the fall session, two new hamlets have been established -- Fort McPherson in November and Fort Providence in January. The communities of Fort Liard, Grise Fiord, Resolute and Paulatuk have applied for hamlet status.

One of the priorities of the Department of Education is to devolve the responsibility and control of school and continuing education programs to public agencies and to do so, where possible, within a legislative framework. That priority was first expressed in the Education Act, approved by the Eighth Assembly in 1977, and expanded by amendments over the years. During the last session, the Arctic College Act was approved and the board of governors will assume its policy and management role with the college on April 1, 1987. An amendment to the Education Act to establish boards of secondary education was tabled in October, and will be introduced this session. But perhaps the initiative which contributes the most toward the increase of local control is the plan to establish additional divisional boards of education. The Baffin divisional board was established in 1985 and it is anticipated that the Dogrib divisional board will be established this coming April.

The Housing Corporation is also taking important steps to involve the communities in the decision-making process. By increasing opportunities for community participation in the planning process and carrying out an active, locally based construction program, the corporation is gradually attaining the goal of providing adequate housing in a manner which supports the broader objectives of this government. Extensive community and individual input has and will be sought on matters such as house design, community planning and the development of housing organizations that will be able to improve the overall quality of life for northern residents.

Because the justices of the peace represent the "grass roots" of our justice system, the Minister of Justice has recently initiated a justices of the peace and coroners task force. It is envisioned that the task force's recommendations will improve the justice of the peace system on a community level throughout the Northwest Territories. The task force is currently conducting meetings in various communities and is expected to make a report to the Minister by April, 1987.

It is also the government's intention to undertake a complete review of the Department of Culture and Communications with a view to placing additional cultural and communications responsibilities at the regional management level.

#### Passing Of Distinguished Northerners

At this time I would ask this House to observe with regret the passing of some elders whose wisdom, teaching and service to the North is remembered with gratitude.

The people of the Mackenzie Delta were saddened January 29 by the passing of Annie G. Robert who lived for 106 years in the Fort McPherson area. As evidence of the respect in which her people held her, the Fort McPherson community centre was named in her honour when she and then Prime Minister Trudeau opened it in 1983.

Fort Smith lost its oldest citizen on January 3 when Mary Jane Tourangeau, aged 99, passed peacefully away in the Fort Smith Health Centre. On Christmas Day, family members including grandchildren and great-grandchildren had gathered at the hospital for a special holiday celebration with Mrs. Tourangeau.

Otto Romeike, who first came north to Inuvik in 1963, passed away in November at the age of 81. He moved to Pine Point in 1965 to work on constructing the mine and then continued employment with Cominco. He served the town of Pine Point as mayor until 1985 when failing health forced him to retire.

The first settler to move to Paradise Gardens on the Hay River, Joseph Krause, died in October at the age of 90. He will be remembered as an agricultural and gardening pioneer.

The residents of Rae-Lac la Martre were saddened last week by the death of Louis MacKenzie at the age of 75. A respected elder and trapper, he is survived by his wife, Elizabeth.

Born in 1906, Philipushie Novalinga, the elder statesman of Grise Fiord, passed away in January. He was one of the original inhabitants of the community and provided wise counsel for many years to the people of Grise Fiord.

Members of this House will want to join with me in expressing condolences at the death in November of Allie Appaqaq, the father of the Member from Sanikiluaq. Mr. Appaqaq, Senior, passed away at the age of 71 and was one of the carvers who helped Sanikiluaq gain its international reputation for Inuit sculpture.

Residents of the Northwest Territories were shocked by the tragic air crash last November at Rankin Inlet which claimed five lives, including Bishop Omer Robidoux, Father Theophile Didier and Keith Rawlings. As Bishop of the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay since 1970, Bishop Robidoux travelled extensively throughout the Eastern Arctic providing strong and dedicated leadership to clergy and lay people alike.

The passing of each of these elders will leave a void in their home communities. To their families we extend our sympathies and we are thankful for the values and traditions which they have passed on to a younger generation.

#### Commissioner's Awards

Through the medium of the Commissioner's Awards, individuals may be recognized who have distinguished themselves by acts of bravery or through exceptional service.

In October, a tragic accident which claimed two lives by drowning occurred close to Aklavik when a fishing party returning by skidoo in the darkness, hit thin ice and open water on the Peel River. Four lives were saved by young Abraham Stewart of Aklavik, who risked his own life in rescuing other people from the water. For his courage and disregard for personal safety, the Commissioner's Award for bravery at the highest level is being awarded to Mr. Stewart.

Also at Aklavik, last September, Moses Gordon and James Richard Edwards took prompt action in rescuing Stan Tyrell from a burning house. Letters of commendation will be given to Mr. Gordon and Mr. Edwards for their roles in saving the life of Stan Tyrell.

I am pleased to announce that the Commissioner's Award for public service at the highest level is being awarded to Bertha Allen of Inuvik in recognition of her extensive public involvement in so many important activities, and in particular, her work with the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories. Bertha was one of the founding members of the association and served as president for seven years until 1984. During this time she contributed to the development of many Native Women's Association programs, and particularly the arts and crafts program in 1980. Much more will be said about her contribution at the presentation of the award.

#### Sessional Legislation

During this session a legislative program of 28 bills will be introduced for your consideration. Amendments to the following acts will be advanced: Education Act; Insurance Act; Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1986-87; Home Owners' Property Tax Rebate Act; Advisory Council on the Status

of Women Act; Criminal Injuries Compensation Act; Mechanics' Lien Act; Revolving Funds Act; Territorial Parks Act; Student Financial Assistance Act; Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act; and Elections Act.

New bills include: Charter Communities Act; Cities, Towns and Villages Act; Hamlets Act; Local Authorities Elections Act; Settlements Act; Residential Tenancies Act; Financial Administration Act; Statute Law (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms) Amendment Act; Vehicles Act; Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act; Statute Revision Act; and Property Assessment and Taxation Act. Four financial bills will be presented: Appropriation Act, 1987-88; Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1986-87; Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1987-88; and Loan Authorization Act, 1987-88.

The government considers these bills essential to the good conduct of government business. I recommend the passage of each of these acts.

I now commend to you for your earnest consideration and wise judgment the business of this House as I declare open the ninth session of the 10th Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. At this time I would like to recognize in the House, the Member of Parliament for Nunatsiaq, Mr. Thomas Suluk.

---Applause

We also have some former colleagues of the Legislative Assembly: Mr. Peter Ernerk and Mr. Mark Evaluarjuk.

---Applause

At this time I would recess the House for one half hour for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

I call the House back to order. Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 11th.

Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. McCallum.

#### ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

##### Member's Statement On The Budget

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems, Mr. Speaker, that the opening shots have been fired in this battle that we are about to embark upon. We ordinary MLAs, I guess, have been a little bit too nice -- we have tipped off the government as to maybe what we were going to do. But come the day of the budget speech, we will rectify that -- no more Mr. Nice Guys.

I wanted to call, "Author, author!" when I heard the opening speech, but I doubt very much if anybody would have jumped to the call.

The government is correct, I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that the proposed budget is not for the weak-kneed or the timid. We will see who is weak or timid when we pull over the actual expenditures. I agree the proposed budget takes bold steps. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would say it takes downright arrogant steps. It could be a budget that not only addresses the future, I think this budget is going to knock the future citizens and governments of these territories right between the eyes.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Hey!

MR. MCCALLUM: If the economy has bottomed out, it will be because the government has cleaned out the cupboard -- it is now bare, and I await with bated breath, Mr. Speaker, the results of the hard

work and efforts of the Executive as they tell us ordinary MLAs of their policy framework that will complement these budgetary measures. It ought to be really illuminating -- in fact, I will bet there is another star in the East. That is what happened with the first original birth.

---Laughter

---Applause

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Election speech.

MR. SPEAKER: Perfect timing on two minutes exactly, Mr. McCallum. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Richard.

Member's Statement On The Budget

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As one who is neither timid nor weak-kneed -- in fact, Mr. Speaker, I admit to being bold and strong-legged. I look forward, Mr. Speaker, with anticipation to the 1987-88 budget. As one, seriously, who is neither timid nor weak-kneed, I will not hesitate to question the Members of the Executive Council on the proposed expenditures for the coming year. And while I agree, Mr. Speaker, with the remark in the opening address that we cannot expect to rely forever on the Government of Canada to provide the funds to promote economic development, and I agree that we must do this on our own, I look forward to hearing the Executive Council explain how we are going to raise the revenues on our own and how our children are going to raise the revenues on their own.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, look forward to hearing of the new policies which will accompany this enhanced budget that will be proposed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. That appears to conclude this item for today.

Item 5, oral questions.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, petitions. Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 8: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Third Report Of Special Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, the special committee on rules, procedures and privileges has asked me to submit today for the second time the committee's third report, which was first presented to this Assembly during last session last fall. There was, Mr. Speaker, Members will recall, a motion to defer discussion of the committee's third report to this session. This report, Mr. Speaker, deals with matters which the committee has considered since providing its second report in June of last year. In fact, Mr. Speaker, this third report deals with all outstanding items, with one exception, which will be before the committee for its consideration.

Among the items in this third report, Mr. Speaker, is a recommendation to create two additional standing committees of this Assembly. Also recommendations regarding motions of nonconfidence -- certainly timely, actually, this report -- a recommendation regarding motion of censure, recommendations regarding issues of privilege and conflict of interest and a number of recommendations which deal with miscellaneous rule changes.

Mr. Speaker, this report of the committee is a written report of some 15 pages in length and an additional appendix which is Professor Eglinton's report. It has been translated -- the report has, and summaries of Professor Eglinton's paper have been translated now as well and distributed to Members.

Motion To Refer The Third Report Of The Special Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I wish to move at this time, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that the third report of the special committee on rules, procedures and privileges be referred to the committee of the whole. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. I have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, just to ask, and I am quite sure that the honourable Member would agree, that the item would fall into a less significant category than some of the bills we have. I would hope that it is not going to be the first item on the agenda for tomorrow's agenda.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. We will look up making up of the orders of the day and see that there is work to be done, and we realize the importance of some matters over others. We will sort them out. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

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

ITEM 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 1-87(1), Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the Northwest Territories between the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I would like to table Tabled Document 2-87(1), Government of the Northwest Territories 1986 Annual Report. I would like to present this document today. It is a document that was published for 1986 on the annual report and I would like you to take a good look at it to see how much the government has accomplished.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude that item. Item 10, notices of motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 1-87(1): Tabled Document 1-87(1) To Committee Of The Whole

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Friday, February 13th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for the High Arctic, that Tabled Document 1-87(1), Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the Northwest Territories between the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion only as the first item of business on Tuesday, February 24th; and further, that Mr. Steve Kakfwī and Mr. John Amagoalik be invited to appear as witnesses in committee of the whole when the document is discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Notices of motion. Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 1-87(1): Appropriation Act, 1987-88

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 13th, I shall move that Bill 1-87(1), An Act Respecting Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1988, be read for the first time.



MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 7-87(1): Education Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, February 13th, 1987, I shall move that Bill 7-87(1), An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 9-87(1): Financial Administration Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 13th, 1987, I shall move that Bill 9-87(1), An Act Respecting the Financial Administration of the Government of the Northwest Territories and Public Agencies, be read for the first time.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 13-87(1): Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 13, 1987, I shall move that Bill 13-87(1), An Act To Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 24-87(1): Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, February 13, 1987, I shall move that Bill 24-87(1), An Act To Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. That appears to conclude this matter for today.

Item 12, motions.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

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

ITEM 15: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 12th.

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: Third Report of the Special Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 12th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
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Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
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