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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1987

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	463
Ministers' Statements	
- 13-87(1) Environmental Technology Program	463
- 14-87(1) International Women's Day	464
- 15-87(1) Daylight Saving Time	464
Members' Statements	
- Hon. Michael Ballantyne on Community Development Study For Lot 500	464
Returns to Oral Questions	465
Oral Questions	465,471
Written Questions	467
Returns To Written Questions	467
Replies to Opening Address	
- Mr. Angottitauruq's Reply	467
Petitions	471
Tabling of Documents	471
Motions	471
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-87(1) Appropriation Act, 1987-88	
- Department of Renewable Resources	475
- Department of Personnel	485
- Department of The Executive	
- Women's Secretariat	496
- Equal Employment Directorate	498
- Department of Health	499
Report of Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-87(1) Appropriation Act, 1987-88	500
Orders of the Day	500

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitaurug, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Ms Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erklgo, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Before starting with the orders of the day today, I would like to remind the Assembly that 20 years ago today, March 2nd, John Parker was appointed Deputy Commissioner, some 20 years ago.

---Applause

Orders of the day for Monday, March 2nd. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 13-87(1): Environmental Technology Program

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Environmental technology is a new program which will be offered through the Iqaluit campus of the Arctic College this September. It is similar to the renewable resource technology program offered through Thebacha, but it was developed specifically for the Eastern Arctic. Although it includes a couple of introductory courses in the field of environmental studies, the first year of the program is mainly academic upgrading and compulsory non-academic courses, such as firearms safety and small engine repair.

In the second year, students will begin their general coursework in basic wildlife biology and other areas. The third year is a year of specialization which includes some of the subjects necessary in the Eastern Arctic, such as marine biology. The program includes work experience and it is broken into courses so that it can be delivered in the field. It has been designed so that students can work on courses part time to achieve their diploma.

The program was developed through the recommendations of many individuals, groups and employers involved in environmental technology. I am confident that this will be a successful program. Also, I hope that current discussions with southern universities will result in students being able to transfer credits for this program to encourage them to continue in their education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Pedersen.

Minister's Statement 14-87(1): International Women's Day

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform this House that next Sunday, March 8th, has been proclaimed International Women's Day. It is designed to bring women together all across the country. The Northwest Territories will mark this day with celebrations in several communities including Yellowknife, Inuvik, Coppermine, Hay River and Iqaluit.

The day was originally selected by European women in 1911. For 11 years it was celebrated in February or March and focussed on a variety of social issues affecting women. It was not until the late 1960s and early 1970s that the holiday got into full swing in North America to honour the role of women in society.

Mr. Speaker, this year, March 8th is a Sunday, fittingly "a day of rest". We hope that you will reflect on the work, effort and contribution to our lives made by the women of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to recognize in the gallery the grade eight students from William McDonald Junior High School, with their teacher, Barbara Cook. Welcome.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Sibbeston.

Minister's Statement 15-87(1): Daylight Saving Time

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, now that February is over and spring is in the air, it is time to turn our attention to the increasing amount of daylight in the Northwest Territories. This year daylight saving time will begin on April 5th, three weeks earlier than in previous years. This change is as a result of the United States' decision to change its daylight saving time to the first Sunday in April in order to save money. The provinces which border the United States and have considerable international trade are changing in order to avoid confusion and delay. To date, all but two provinces have decided to follow the United States.

This change will ensure that clocks in various parts of the Territories will coincide with those in provinces to which they are connected by existing transportation links. We are fortunate that we have only three north/south transportation corridors that are in separate time zones and these will not create problems if we follow the provinces directly south of each zone. If we do not follow the provinces south of us, then great difficulties will result in transport scheduling for three weeks each year. Mahsi.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Community Development Study For Lot 500

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express appreciation to the Hon. Bill McKnight, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Hon. Gordon Wray, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for the support recently provided the Yellowknife "B" Band in the way of a contribution for a community development study. I think Members are aware of the historic confusion in Lot 500, whereby its land was reserved for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Some responsibilities and services are undertaken by the GNWT, some by the federal government, and some by the city of Yellowknife. It is within the city limits. The three jurisdictions have been discussing for the last 15 years as to who is actually responsible for what.

This study will enable the residents of Rainbow Valley to study options for improved control and administration of their lives. It is also an opportunity for residents to express concerns on the issues of municipal services, property taxation, recreation, housing and education. It is hoped that the recommendations stemming from this assessment can provide the residents of Rainbow Valley with a plan in the development of a community structure that will respond to their needs and wishes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne.

Item 3, Members' statements. That appears to conclude Members' statements for today. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 035-87(1): Information Officer In Communities Re Government Programs

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a return to a question asked by Mr. Erkloo on February 18th regarding information officers. One of the jobs assigned to Executive staff in communities is to provide information on government programs to the community. As well, individual departments with staff in communities provide information on specific programs in their departments through those staff. For example, information on business loan programs is provided by Economic Development officers. Usually, information is posted or distributed in government offices. For the most part, our employees do a very good job at getting information to the public.

Several problems can arise, however, in providing information to communities about government programs. First, there may be delays in the delivery of material to the communities because of the mail system. Secondly, there may be a lack of co-ordination among community staff in getting the information out. Finally, the method used to tell people about programs may not be effective since it requires that people come to government offices to find out about programs.

I have asked the regional directors in all of the regions to use the most efficient method of getting information to communities, especially when there are time limits on programs. As well, they will be reminding field staff to make sure that they use staff meetings to co-ordinate information flow. Finally, I have asked the Departments of the Executive and Culture and Communications to investigate alternative ways to get information out to the public, possibly through the use of community radio stations. Mr. Speaker, I hope this helps in getting information out to the people, particularly in the small, remote communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 084-87(1): Increase In Property Taxes To Decrease Housing Corporation's Revenue

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister announced in this Assembly a property tax increase for the year 1987, both with respect to property taxes in taxation areas outside of the tax-based municipalities -- an increase of 10 per cent for the coming year -- and also an increase with respect to school taxes in the seven tax-based municipalities other than Yellowknife, and the Minister projected the resulting increase in revenues which would accrue to this government as a result of these 10 per cent increases. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that of the property tax revenue from taxation areas outside of the tax-based municipalities, roughly 25 or 30 per cent are, in fact, payments made by the Housing Corporation and that if the property taxes being paid by the Housing Corporation are going to increase by 10 per cent, this government in its operating subsidy to the Housing Corporation is not in fact going to receive an increase in revenues to the extent indicated by the Minister last Friday. My question, Mr. Speaker, is, would the Minister of Finance agree that the projected increase in revenue in his announcement last week is overstated to the extent of the moneys received from the Housing Corporation annually? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would not agree that the revenues have been overstated but I would be happy to look into the Member's figures with regard to the Housing Corporation and the percentage that the Housing Corporation would contribute.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice. I am sorry, I meant to call the Item 4 again, returns to oral questions. I called it only once. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Fine, there do not appear to be any. Item 5, then, oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 085-87(1): Igloolik Residents' Involvement With Language Centre, Iqaluit

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. I would like to know since there is not going to be a language centre in Igloolik but the language centre in Inuktitut will be in Iqaluit. The Igloolik residents usually help with the curriculum for Inuktitut programs. For these reasons I would like to ask the Minister of Education, although there is not a language centre in Igloolik, perhaps the Igloolik residents or some people from Igloolik could be involved in the language centre by contract or some other way without having to go to Iqaluit to the language centre. Can they be involved in that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 085-87(1): Igloolik Residents' Involvement With Language Centre, Iqaluit

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I believe I informed the honourable Member at the last session of this Assembly, I would act on the recommendation of the Baffin Divisional Board of Education about location of the planned centre for teaching and learning in the Baffin Region and they did recommend that the most appropriate location would be Iqaluit in view of its proximity to the regional resource centre and also in view of its proximity to the Eastern Arctic teacher education program. However, I would agree with the Member that there are a number of very talented people from Igloolik who have developed a lot of experience in the Inuktitut language research and curriculum development areas. I certainly expect that we will be looking to that community and residents of that community when we go to staff the language centre in the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 086-87(1): Office Space In Small Communities

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure who to direct my question to, probably the Government Leader or the Minister of Economic Development. In the small communities, for instance with a population of 500, the government employees do not have any office space. When they want to start up their own business -- I wanted to find out how they go about getting office space for themselves. And what is the policy of the government? For instance, a private business that starts does a lot better than any other business that is in existence right now. I wanted to know what the policy of the government is in that regard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and reply tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 087-87(1): Replies To Minister's Letter Regarding Canol Heritage Trail

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development. In February I received copies of some letters that the Minister wrote to the hunters and trappers and the Metis local and the Shihta Regional Council regarding the Canol Heritage Trail. I would like to know if the Minister has received any replies to these letters.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Reply To Question 087-87(1): Replies To Minister's Letter Regarding Canol Heritage Trail

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, I have not received any replies from one association or the regional council from that region yet.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W20-87(1): GNWT Employee Accommodation Allowance

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel. As I understand it, government employees get accommodation allowance every month if they own their own homes. My question to the Minister responsible for Personnel is whether the different communities in the NWT get different rates of assistance from the government; if, in fact, the communities get different rates of assistance, then I would like to see a breakdown of the different rates. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Appaqaq, that question really cannot be considered as an oral question unless -- I am sorry, we are on written questions. I am just a step behind, I am sorry. Thank you. You are absolutely correct. Are there any further written questions? Mr. T'Seleie.

Question W21-87(1): GNWT Employee Benefits

MR. T'SELEIE: My written question is for the Minister of Personnel. According to the collective agreement between the NWT Public Service Association and the Government of the Northwest Territories, employees are entitled to the following benefits: removals, annual and vacation travel assistance, medical and orthodontic travel assistance. The Government of the Northwest Territories proposes to spend \$10,742,000 for the 1987-88 fiscal year on these benefits. I would like to know how much the Department of Personnel spent on: a) removals; b) annual vacation travel assistance; and c) medical and orthodontic travel assistance, for the 1985-86 fiscal year, which is the last year for which actual figures are known.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. Written questions. That appears to conclude this item for today. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, the following return has been filed: Return to written Question W17-87(1), asked by Mr. Gargan of the Government Leader.

Return To Question W17-87(1): Cruise Missile Testing

Hon. Nick Sibbeston's return to Question W17-87(1), asked by Mr. Gargan on February 25, 1987, regarding cruise missile testing:

The Executive Council supports the motions passed in the Legislative Assembly regarding cruise missile testing. I have written to the Prime Minister on two occasions, most recently in October, 1986, to protest the continuation of this testing. Recently, at a military briefing on the issue, I and other Executive Council Members once again indicated our government's opposition to the use of the North as a weapons testing ground. We will continue to express our views on this issue when the opportunity presents itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further returns to written questions? Item 8, replies to the Opening Address. Mr. Angottitauruq.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Angottitauruq's Reply

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess today is as good a day as any to make a reply, so I might as well make mine, because it will eventually come. I really do not have a lot to talk about but I would just like to make a few little concerns known, that my riding has, and also personally a few of the things that I have concerns about and how the government might be able to do more for those communities. Since I was not here for the Opening Address and opening of this session, I read the Opening Address. There are a lot of good things that are said on what the government is trying to do. I am quite satisfied with many of the things but as a Member, I still have some concerns and some concerns are also expressed by the local people in my constituency, in my communities.

Problems For Small Contractors

One is economic development. I guess there will always continue to be some concerns and issues in economic development. One of the biggest problems that seems to still keep coming up, is the way the contracts are given out. I believe that is one of the things that the communities are trying to develop economically. The way they handle the insurance and things like that, makes a local contractor, we, as beginners -- that is, if you have been a contractor for a number of years, that is quite okay. But a lot of us believe that to have economic development some new businesses have to be created, because people cannot wait for the government to have government jobs to give out. And throughout this budget already, there are Members complaining about PYs, so we really cannot depend on the government for job creation. We believe that economic development through contracts is one of the best ways to develop jobs for the people. For instance, if I wanted to be a contractor and I applied for a contract, if I was successful, and the contract I am requesting is approximately three thousand to five thousand dollars, which is a small one, I would be encouraged to go to higher contracts. But for that small amount I would have to have, at least, about two thousand dollars insurance, I believe, so that I could do my contract. So those are the few things that the small contractors are facing.

Lack Of Broadcasting Of Political News

One of the problems in the Natilikmiot riding is communication. Communication and education are almost the same thing but they are coming out to the people in different ways. There are times that I listen to the radio and I do not very often hear any political news about the Kitikmeot. I can hear it from Inuvik and I can hear it from Iqaluit and I believe that if those communities had broadcasts of the regional meetings and things like that more often, a lot of the residents in those communities would be more educated toward politics. I think that is one of the things that slows down any community in being active and trying to create their settlements and their communities. What I am saying, I guess, is the communications in the North have to be further expanded. I believe that Cambridge Bay might be ready, or Coppermine, which is one of those bigger settlements which have an outlet for radio broadcasting; Iqaluit, Inuvik, these places have broadcasting to the Northwest Territories.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ANGOTTITAUUQ: I believe that if we have broadcasting similar to those, our people would be more active and probably make more complaints about what the government is doing, if they could hear about what is happening in that area.

Along the line of communication, there are local stations in any community that I go to in my region, and when I listen, they usually start at 12 o'clock, at noon, and somewhere around six in the evening. I believe those local radio stations need a lot of government attention to have their announcers educated and to have their society board members educated. That is because a lot of people listen to those radio stations and it is not proper to listen to a local station, when the announcer keeps saying, "If you have any announcements, please call us." I think the government should give them a little more funding and more education so that they could go out into the public, ask more questions and make better reports of what is happening in the community.

Question Of Why Government Officials Are In Communities

One of the biggest questions that I ask of myself is: There are government officials that come into the communities from regional offices. They go into town and they have meetings with local authorities, but not once have I ever heard any announcer asking a question of those government personnel who came in. It may be a superintendent, it may be a district manager for the Housing Corporation. I would prefer to hear an announcer or reporter on the community level ask the question of a district manager for housing or a superintendent, "Now you are here; you are having a meeting with the local authorities. For what reason are you here?" That is one of the questions that people never know in the communities.

So I guess what I am saying is that there should be more money put into those local radio societies. There should be personnel more well-educated in how to carry through giving information to the public. That is what they are there for, I believe; to give information to the public. But they lack the knowledge on how to do this and they also lack funding.

Social Assistance Discourages Self-Sufficiency

One of the biggest obstacles, I believe, and some of the people I have talked to believe, to trying to bring up a community to be more self-sufficient, is the availability of social assistance. That is one of the things that seems to not encourage people to be self-sufficient, especially the younger ones. It is too readily available for them. I know when you are poor you require assistance. But in a way, it is not encouraging those people who are able-bodied, when they can just go today and get assistance. I know there are many good carvers and I know there are many good hunters that could try to reduce their welfare assistance, to get less, to be independent just on what they can do. Some of those people are just not willing to really try to be self-sufficient. Especially the ones that are young, up to about 40 years old. I know people have to get assistance when they have nothing else to do. But before they get it, if they are able to do something, they should at sometime look and say, "Well, I am going to try to do the best I can and do with what I can do myself." A few people, I guess not every last one, sometimes just sit back and relax and wait for their social assistance day. That is one of the concerns I have, because just through receiving welfare, people in the communities cannot really be self-sufficient.

Interpreters At Edmonton Hospitals

Time and time again there is another concern that has been raised by the people that I represent. I am going to say it again. It is the problem of interpreters at the Edmonton hospitals. Recently, just last month, there was an elderly woman sent to Edmonton for work on her heart. While she was in Edmonton she made a call back home. She said, "The doctors are working on me and they are taking care of me, but I do not know what they are trying to do." The next thing we heard was that she had something done with her heart; she had an operation. When those people cannot speak English, I believe that they should communicate in some way with the doctor and the doctor with them. Although I am not a doctor, I know that to prevent problems you have to know what kind of instructions the doctor is giving you. I know the nurses give the doctors some information, but then again in between, there could be some changes before or after the nurse gives the doctor the information. So while they are in the hospital, those people have to be able to communicate. That is what I believe. It may not be so in the eyes of doctors and experts, but it seems that those people are being used as scientific material. When they cannot communicate with the doctor, that is what I believe. So that is still a concern and it will remain, I believe. I guess that is almost as far as I can go today. Those are the major concerns and issues in my communities.

I might as well in my time, while I am addressing the House, speak a little on division of the Northwest Territories. As I have said before, the communities' view toward division, I believe, has changed a lot in almost every community. We could go back to the percentage of people who went to the polls. We know what per cent and how many voted in each community. But people of the right mind today can only believe that the voters list has changed from that day on and some of the people's minds have changed.

Economic Prospects After Division

I had a concern a few years ago and I still have a concern. I am not worried only about how far away the capital might be. With some of the people I represent, the biggest concern we seem to have is, what is the economic development going to do for us? It would be very easy for me to support, Mr. Speaker, the division of the Northwest Territories if we were able to grow and farm. That is one of my concerns and a concern of the people I represent. Since we cannot grow anything, we have some wildlife there that we think we could try to make a few dollars on. If they are not farmed, in time, those animals will reduce in numbers and the government will impose quotas and may even close all the killing of whatever. People may say we have minerals. Minerals are good things to say that we could depend on. But it can take time for companies to come north and develop something. If there is nothing readily available, they could take 10 years, 15 years or however many years it could be.

The people I represent also believed that division was going to occur on a tree line boundary. But with the new boundary line where it is, some people seem to have lost their interest because it is just dividing the Northwest Territories. They know it is a political boundary. I do not think some of those people have forgotten that when they first heard about the division of the Northwest Territories we wanted to keep the people together -- the natives together. So that is the information I gave out to this Assembly.

The other thing that the communities I represent believe is that now we have the elected Members at the Assembly and now the Assembly has been working for a number of years on behalf of the people, with their representatives in the Assembly. They believe times have changed and some of their concerns have been heard by the Assembly and have been answered. It is different, I believe, from the day when they starting talking about division of the Northwest Territories. The leaders who are talking about division of the Northwest Territories, we sometimes talk privately with other people and the strongest point that they say is, "We believe it is not so good to talk about the division of the Northwest Territories. It is making it too different for the people. We want to slip away because we are different. We have different cultures."

Native Needs Jyst Beginning To Be Recognized

But I firmly believe that we just have to work together, if we are different people, and express our concerns so that the government could respond to them. Walking away from something is not the point. The reason I say that is, I believe that to divide, to have fewer numbers of the Northwest Territories population, regardless of what kind of people we are, if we are not going to work together, if we are going to turn our backs because of the division and express that it is because I have a different need, because I have a different culture -- I do not think that would be a good thing further down the line. I guess what I am trying to say is that we have gone this far and we have a majority of natives in the Assembly at this time and I think the native need is just beginning to be fully recognized. I think the people in the communities have been represented regardless of their cultures being different. We are beginning to see more papers and documents that are written in their language and we are beginning to see more educational material written in Inuktitut, even in Dene. We are beginning to see more native people in the offices of government. Those are the few things regarding division that I believe have changed within the few years and after the long time it has been talked about.

I do not think division will be a success for economic development. I do not think division will be any good further down the line in social matters. I think we are the residents of the Northwest Territories, regardless of what and where and what culture we are. I think all we need to do is just work harder together. As they say, scream more for the things we need for our communities. That is all I believe that is necessary to have a better future. I believe any people's arguments are always recognized in a different way but that is one of the ways I feel toward division. I could flick my fingers, as a native, for division, if I knew those things would be ready and available within whichever boundary I am going to be, but this is not the time yet, I do not think. We are still just developing in the Northwest Territories, even technically. If people try to change my mind about division, I do not think my mind would be that easy to change.

Support For Plebiscite

I am not for division but I personally would like to see the plebiscite go through. That is the only way I can bring it to the people, if we want to know how people stand regarding division today. I would like them to freely go to the polls and freely express what they think about division, whether they like the present boundary and if they do not, they will show it on their ballot paper and each person will let us know. I think that one of the best ways of bringing the division to the people is to accept this present boundary division and see where the people go from there. I believe that is the only way.

I really do not want to go back to my communities and express the concerns I have. They know the concerns. But one of the things that the people are trying to push, in the boundary for division, is that whenever they talk about it everything is so peaceful and it is just all laid out nicely, without questioning any difficulties that might occur in the future. I think that is wrong. When we are trying to say something to the people, we never say "something that would hurt a lot of people. I know when they first gave out the word "division", to divide the Northwest Territories, they thought it might have been good, but it is not the way the people see it today, because they have learned in between that time and now they have seen the changes in that time. I guess I have to close my reply to the Opening Address at this time because I have expressed enough of the concerns of my communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Do I have any further replies to the Opening Address? Item 9, petitions. Mr. Erklou.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here from Attagutaluk school in Igloolik, Petition 6-87(1). The petition was signed by 37 people. They request that the capital of Nunavut would be Ikpik, and the reasons for Ikpik being the capital are about 10. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, if I may add, it is very interesting to note that these young people are our future people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Petitions. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested to go back to Item 5, oral questions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? You have the floor, Mr. Erkloo. Oral questions.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 088-87(1): Translation Of Local Government Acts Into Inuktitut

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture and Communications, the Hon. Nick Sibbeston. We sent the bills on local government to the communities and at the present time they are being processed and being reviewed by the communities. I have heard that the communities are still waiting for the Inuktitut translation of the municipal acts. For example, the town council of Iqaluit has a policy not to table any documents unless they are translated into Inuktitut. Just so that they can deal with the municipal acts, we would like to know when they will be translated into Inuktitut. Thank you.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, I agree with the Member that it is important that they are translated. I will take the question as notice and get back to the Member on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That appears to conclude this item.

Item 9, petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the following documents to table: Tabled Document 33-87(1), Policy Respecting Trade Show Assistance; Tabled Document 34-87(1), Policy Respecting Carving Stone Supply; Tabled Document 35-87(1), Policy with Respect to Short-term Employment; and Tabled Document 36-87(1), Policy with Respect to Commercial Renewable Resource Use.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 11, tabling of documents. That appears to conclude this item for today.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions: Motion 6-87(1), Public Housing Rental Scale. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 6-87(1): Public Housing Rental Scale

MS COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS it is the general policy and direction of the NWT government to have programs and services reflect the needs and circumstances of NWT residents;

AND WHEREAS the rules, procedures and policies of the NWT Housing Corporation are influenced and governed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS it is acknowledged that the age expectancy within the Northwest Territories is significantly lower than in southern Canada;

AND WHEREAS within this age group who are functional, a great deal of responsibility and pressure fall upon them as they are the stability of many large families;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Council and the Minister responsible for Housing that the public housing minimum rental scale be adjusted to reflect the qualifying age for minimum rent from 65 to 55 years.

This is seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To your motion, Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the motion speaks for itself. However, in a number of areas where the NWT government does work with other agencies in providing housing programs to NWT residents, I am aware that their policies govern and influence the direction that is given to community housing associations at the community level, for delivery of this housing policy. Mr. Speaker, in relationship to the number of people who are going to be affected by this motion, 50 per cent according to the statistics that we have been able to look at, are already at the minimum rental scale. The people that are most affected in our communities are the age group to whom many of the problem families fall for help to provide the stability to go on with life. There are many people in the regions, in the communities, who are facing a fluctuating economy, from the day when there is some type of employment and to the next day when there is not. The people who are more capable of facing that type of fluctuation generally fall in the age group of 50 years and over.

In looking at the impact that this motion would have on the Housing Corporation, certainly the age group between 50 and 55 would indeed be large. However, between the ages of 55 and 65, in the whole Northwest Territories, approximately 1800 people are in that age category. Given that most of the smaller communities fall in the lower income level, the income of the age group of 55 to 65 is the economy that most people rely on. As you know, many people do go to work. They make a great deal of money and sometimes that is not reflected at home and this age group of people are the people who would have to pick up the pieces. We realize that the Housing Corporation would have to do a certain amount of study to put this into effect. However, in all the communities that are relying on public housing, this age group does not have the capability or the facilities to earn enough money to go into the home-ownership program. So therefore, Mr. Speaker, for the betterment of all our people in the Northwest Territories and in reflecting the respect for this age group and in helping the general public in their contribution to bring stability to families, I feel that by dropping this minimum requirement, the benefits would be felt in a positive way by all Northwest Territories residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. The seconder, Mr. Angottitauruq.

This Age Group Strives For Self-Sufficiency

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the mover has explained and the motion itself explains it; 55 to 65 years, it is recognized that you are taking care of people in that age group. A lot of time you are not fully taken care of and sometimes you intend to take care of yourself at that age with the old age pension. I have seen a number of people at that age that try to pay their rent and that even try to support some of their relatives because the jobs do not go around that easily in the Northwest Territories. Some older people, even when they are getting old age pension, I have seen a lot of them that try to go hunting full-time and with their small amount of old age pension, they pay their rents even at the minimum rent they are paying. I believe that those older people from that age group, are the hardest working people in the North. Because they have learned from their experience, some of them have a lot of adopted kids from their sons and daughters. They try their best, even at that age to be self-sufficient. I think this motion will be supported by Members as the mover has explained it, and the motion explains itself. So I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I understand the sentiments behind the motion. At this point we have not put together the statistics to show how much extra it will cost if we reduced the age limit from 65 to 55 years. That, of course, would have an impact on our decision. But I can say that CMHC, which presently administers the rent scale with us, is already having a problem with the minimum rent that is presently charged to senior citizens. I think we would have a major problem with them agreeing that, at least for their portion of the cost, the age limit should go down from 65 to 55. I guess what it comes down to, is for Members of the Assembly to decide what are their priorities. It is going to be a matter of dollars and cents, ultimately. I do not think anybody can disagree with the sentiment. Presently our rent revenue is only about 10 per cent of the cost of maintaining our units and presently the subsidy that we provide, over the subsidy provided in other provinces is an extra 40 per cent. So our government, right now, is paying a major premium because of the high cost of living in the Northwest Territories. As Minister, I will definitely take this recommendation seriously and as we do our major review with the rent scales, this will be one of the factors that we could consider in that review.

Ultimately, either we are going to have to find more dollars from somewhere outside of the Housing Corporation budget or we are going to have to reallocate from somewhere for some service we are now providing to a new budget area. As I said, the sentiment is good, it is just a matter of where we find the dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the motion. To the motion. Question being called. Do you wish to give the final summation, Ms Cournoyea?

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that this is more than a sentiment. Each day we make decisions on where our priorities are going to be resting and just what programs are going to be the most effective, to benefit the most people at a community level. We talk a lot about our future generations and our children. I would like to say that on the community level, those future generations and those children rely on this age group that I have expressed are in need of being considered for a minimum rental scale. I sincerely hope that in the deliberations of the Minister, in looking at the priorities, that he will look at it in terms of the money that is being paid by this very small group of people, who could use that more effectively in helping out the many foster children and grandchildren that come to them for help and in their time of need. I would hope that perhaps the Minister responsible for Housing would confer with the Minister responsible for Social Services and Health. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that he will find, on analysis, that the cost benefit of moving this rental scale down for that age group would far exceed the small amount of dollars that would be lost to the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 6-87(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: To the question. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 14, motions. Motion 7-87(1), Home-ownership for Government Employees. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the interpreters have a copy.

Motion 7-87(1): Home-Ownership For Government Employees

WHEREAS some government employees are not eligible for the HAP program in some communities because of their salary levels;

AND WHEREAS it is almost impossible to get mortgages, bank loans, or loans from CMHC in small communities where there is no housing market;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for Baffin South, that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that it look into ways of creating a program where government employees could be assisted financially to obtain their own housing, and that this program be similar to the HAP program.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order, Mr. Pudluk. To the motion.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to make a brief comment about the motion. We have a lot of problems with home-ownership for the employees of the government in the communities. For example, when you are trying to get a bank loan or a mortgage from CMHC you have to be able to work for three years, not less than three years. The ship goes up to the communities once a year and it is impossible to get your housing materials by plane, so you have to get them sealifted. The government is able to give you a loan just for the building itself; for the building material, for the frame. There has to be an inspection frequently in order for them to follow a building code so for that reason -- in the smaller communities, there are no banks -- only when CMHC sees fit, that the person is allowed certain amount of money. Only then could they assist that person. Some of the government employees are only working part-time and for this reason they cannot get their own housing. Some of the government employees only want to work part-time for the government, so they could be eligible for HAP housing. I think the government should do something for those employees that are working for the government in smaller communities to assist them because we can only get building materials once a year by sealift. For those reasons I ask the Executive Council to look into ways of creating a program which will be beneficial for the government employees who live in the smaller communities in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. To the seconder, Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also a short comment, as the seconder of the motion. I have not really run across this problem in my community but I will be finding out more about it this coming summer because there are two people that work for the government that are going to be getting their own housing, so I will be finding out from my constituents about the problems in some of the smaller communities. I feel that in the smaller communities there is no housing market and there is no other way for government employees or anybody else to get any housing. It is very expensive for those materials that have to be delivered to the communities by sealift. I am in support of the motion as the seconder, and I would like the Members of the Legislative Assembly to support this motion. I do not have any other comments at the present time and I think the mover has mentioned all the problems that are being created in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. To the motion. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be in support of the motion. I just want to mention that. In some of the communities in the Northwest Territories I think some of the people are allowed to get HAP housing. I heard that in Iqaluit they were all government employees that got HAP housing, but in some of the smaller communities there are a lot of people that would like to get their own housing, although they are not working for the government, and some of the ones who are working for the government.

You see in the small communities that some government employees are able to get HAP housing. We know that some of the government employees cannot get HAP housing because of the higher wage that they are making. I notice in some communities also that, for instance, a government employee or hamlet employee has his own housing and he would be paying for his own housing, but on top of it he would be getting a housing allowance and for some people that have their own businesses in the communities, they have to pay for everything themselves; for fuel and utilities.

Government Employees Do Not Have Adequate Housing Provided

It is a little bit different system that they have for the government employees in the communities and the Personnel employees in the communities, I feel, are not providing adequate housing for their employees. We have to think of the fact that there is not much housing, like public housing, available in the communities and there is a shortage of housing. There are a lot of reasons why I am in support of this motion. I think the government staff should be able to get their HAP housing for the reasons that I have just stated and for the reasons that the mover has just stated and I will not be repeating the comments of the mover, so I will be in support of this motion for those reasons that we just stated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. To the motion. Question being called. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, in the government, are really aware of the problem that Mr. Pudluk has brought to our attention. One of the problems that we are facing is that we are getting more and more government employees in the communities. There is such a demand for public housing and public housing is very, very expensive; staff housing is very, very expensive to provide. In this climate of a deficit, it is hard to rationalize getting even more money for the Housing Corporation or for Personnel to be able to provide it, but we have some ideas that we are working on now. As I mentioned in my response to Mr. Pudluk, because of the fact that CMHC is getting very, very strict now as to the maximum income a family can make and if the family makes more than that, they refuse to cost-share the HAP program. They are very strict and we have some major battles right now. We are in the process of fighting with CMHC over the definition of those incomes. One possibility, as I mentioned, is a partial repayment program, whereby people who make over a certain salary and would not normally be eligible for a HAP house, could pay back a certain percentage of that in the form of a long-term loan. That may possibly make a lot more people eligible.

We are also talking with CMHC now about mortgage insurance and one of the problems is that banks have not wanted to give mortgages to small communities because CMHC would not back them. We are making a strong submission to CMHC that if we are ever going to develop home-ownership in small communities, CMHC has to be prepared to guarantee loans in those small communities. I take the motion very seriously. I realize it is a serious problem and I will try by working in co-operation with fellow Ministers to develop some solutions to the problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the motion. Mr. Pudluk, would you like to close the debate?

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

Motion 7-87(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Motions. Any further motions for today?

Item 15, first reading of bills. First reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88; Bill 7-87(1), Education Act; Bill 6-87(1), Criminal Injuries Compensation Act; Bill 2-87(1), Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act; 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 BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

Department Of Renewable Resources

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with the Department of Renewable Resources. Does the Minister wish to bring in any witnesses before the committee?

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister, would you please identify your witnesses for the record?

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Jim Bourque, the deputy minister of the Department of Renewable Resources. On my right, Dave Brackett, the assistant deputy minister of the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. We are on general comments. Are there any general comments from Members? If there are no general comments, does the committee agree that we go into budget detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Do you wish to do the capital first or O and M first?

AN HON. MEMBER: Capital.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Is it agreed that we do the capital first?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Wildlife Management, Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Under capital, we are on page 9.07, on detail of capital, wildlife management. Wildlife management, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Wildlife management, total capital, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Field Services

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Page 9.09. Field services, equipment acquisition, headquarters. Total headquarters, \$4000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total Fort Smith, \$81,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total Inuvik, \$57,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total Baffin, \$90,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total Keewatin, \$45,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total Kitikmeot, \$78,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total equipment acquisition, \$355,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Field Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total field services, \$355,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. We are back on page 9.05. Total capital expenditures, \$365,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Is the committee agreed that this concludes the capital expenditures?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Now we are dealing with the operations and maintenance, main estimates, Renewable Resources.

Directorate, Total O And M

We are on page 12.10 dealing with the directorate. Total O and M, \$1,248,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question dealing with the directorate. I expect this is where I may ask questions of the Minister regarding the proposed forestry changeover or takeover. I have a question, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that one of the person years in this particular area is an increase of an assistant deputy minister position. Now the position may be there at the present time but I am just concerned as to why the position was evaluated or classified at such a high rate. It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that this position deals solely with the transfer of forestry. I wonder if the Minister could verify that and indicate to me what the purpose is of classifying the position that is dealing with the forestry takeover, at such a high rate, at such a classification.

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

ADM Position With Forestry Transfer

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The position, in fact, is not shown here or anywhere, for that matter. The position will be coming over with the forestry transfer. We do have a person in the position now and we have been funding this person out of available funding within the department. We felt it was necessary to have a person at this level in order to successfully conclude the negotiations of the transfer. It is a very major transfer that will more than double the amount of funds that the new department will handle and although there are some 60 permanent positions involved in it, the total PY funding with the seasonal employees will again, not quite but almost, double the size of the Department of Renewable Resources.

The other reason we felt that we needed an assistant deputy minister to handle that is because it will, as I have mentioned a number of times before, not be operated strictly as a department of forestry but rather integrated into our total renewable resource management scheme. So the short answer is that the position does not appear here; it will be coming across with the forestry transfer. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the Minister is indicating that the position comes as a result of the takeover of the forestry. At the present time they have somebody in it, and do I understand the Minister saying that they have been able to cover the salary, or other O and M for this particular position, out of funds that are within the government? Are they covering those funds from his vacancy rate that he now has within his department?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, yes, we are.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate to me, what is the vacancy rate for the department?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the exact percentage. I can get it in short order. Mr. Chairman, if we could have just a couple of minutes we will have the information if the Member would like to go on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): All right, thank you. Mr. McCallum.

Transfer Of Person Years To Yellowknife And Fort Smith

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I could go away from the vacancy rate within the department. It is my understanding that there are various functions involved with the forestry transfer, not the least of which would be the air operations and forest management. There may be others but these are two that I think stick out in my mind. It is my understanding as well, Mr. Chairman, that positions involved with the forest management will be transferred from Fort Smith, where they are now with the federal department, and moved to headquarters here in Yellowknife. And in return, it is my understanding as well, that the department then proposes to take some people

or, I think, the word that was given to us in the past was an equivalent number of personnel or an approximate trade-off, if you like, of person years, from Yellowknife to Fort Smith. I guess I just have a little difficulty with that, not the least of which would be that with the air operations, I understand, those people involved with the air operations of the planes and the planes themselves will be retained in Yellowknife. Although Fort Smith is not the only area with forests, certainly there are more forests in Smith and that area than there are in Yellowknife.

I wonder if the Minister could confirm to me that, indeed, there is that transfer or that trade-off or an approximate trade-off of positions; that the airplanes used with the air operations will remain in Yellowknife but the people involved with it -- I wonder if I have it wrong, if the Minister could straighten it out and indicate to me at the same time the approximate number of personnel involved with this trade? Thank you.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member is correct in his numbers. There are three management positions presently in Fort Smith -- two of which are staffed, one which is not -- that we intend to transfer to the headquarters operation. There will be two and a half positions in the air operations transferring from Yellowknife to Fort Smith. In addition, there will be two new positions created in the transfer which will also go to Fort Smith -- one clerical position and a district manager position -- which will make four and a half positions transferred to Fort Smith and three positions transferred out of Fort Smith.

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

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there clerical positions involved with the forest management trade-off, coming from Fort Smith to Yellowknife? Are there clerical positions involved?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no secretarial positions. There is a clerk technician position and a forest management technician and a forest management position.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Ms Cournoyea, point of order.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, this is off the subject, but I see that the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services is using a telephone while sitting in this Legislative Assembly. It was my understanding that at one time when I requested such a privilege I was told that it was out of order...

AN HON. MEMBER: New rule.

MS COURNOYEA: ...and, Mr. Chairman, I would wonder why, at this time, the Minister would be using a telephone, otherwise we should all be equipped with them. Is there a ruling that he is allowed to do this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Order, please.

---Laughter

Ms Cournoyea, in regard to your point of order, I would just like to have a moment to check it out.

Ms Cournoyea, in regard to your point of order, the present rules do not cover the use of electronic equipment, more specifically, the use of mobile telephones, which I think is what you are referring to. However, if the Members wish, the matter can be brought up in the form of a motion in formal session, dealing with the exclusion of certain usages of electronic equipment in the sitting, whether it is in committee of the whole or a formal sitting. Thank you.

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

Directorate. \$1,248,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Wildlife Management, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Wildlife management, total O and M, \$3,271,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister will recall, Mr. Chairman, that last year, I think about this time, there was a motion passed by the House, as a result of a discussion, to increase the resident hunter caribou limit. As I recall, the motion was passed. The motion recommended that the Executive "consider increasing the caribou take for resident hunters where possible based on scientific evidence available and after consultation with appropriate institutions and individuals". I was quoting from the Hansard on that, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister can indicate to me what is the status of that recommendation? Is there then an increase contemplated? What has been the consultation with various appropriate institutions and/or individuals? Has there been some consultation with resident hunters, either individually or through a conservation association or whatever? What is the status of the recommendation that was made last year, I think it was on February 17th?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been a considerable amount of consultation both with user groups, sportsmen's organizations, the wildlife federation, individuals -- we have had a lot of representation and a number of meetings. The Bathurst caribou management draft plan will be released this spring and the Beverly/Kaminuriak management plan will be finalized at the next board meeting in April and May. A decision on the recommendation, Mr. Chairman, will be made then and I expect to be able to announce a decision to the House during that portion of this session when we will be dealing with legislation.

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

Bison Management Board

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure whether this is the area I should be asking or whether it should be under field services. Perhaps the Minister could indicate. My concern is in relation to the kind of discussion that was going on in the last day with Mr. Gargan over a bison management group. From my understanding there was a group set up in the Mackenzie sanctuary -- a small group that was there. I wonder if there has been anything done with a bison management board on a larger scale? Has there been any kind of recommendation made to the board? I recognize that a couple of years back this was being touted, to try to get something developed. Perhaps the result of that has been the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary management plan but has there been anything done about this whole concept of a bison management board throughout? Over these last two years has the department received input from various people? Is there a role in this or has there been a role in these discussions for resident hunters? It seems to me that there had been talk of such a board being developed, as I say a couple of years ago, from a group of resident hunters. I would just like to get some kind of an update as to what has gone on with this whole business of a bison management board.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer to the deputy minister, Mr. Bourque.

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

MR. BOURQUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our present status is that there is a bison management committee established in Fort Providence to deal with bison in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary. We have also got a bison management committee established between the Fort Smith group and Fort Res,

to deal with the bison in the Slave River lowlands, Hook Lake area. We anticipate that the renewable resource management board will be in place by April 1st, to deal with renewable resource management matters in the Mackenzie Valley that would include bison and other species that may be of concern.

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

Make-Up Of Renewable Resource Management Board

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the department reacted to a suggestion that there should be resident hunters on these boards? And if they have reacted what is the reaction? Is it a positive or a negative reaction from them? As I understand from whom this idea of a bison management board and the plans came -- I recognize what the Minister had indicated last Friday, in reply to Mr. Gargan, talking about this renewable resource management group that will deal with an overall look at the renewable resources. I would like to get some idea from the Minister about in fact just who will make up this bison management or renewable resource board? Is there a role to be played by the resident hunter not just the holders of general hunting licences and not just the department people. Thank you.

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

HON. RED PIEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is. The renewable resource management board will be set up to have a membership of 10 people. By the agreement we have with the Dene/Metis, they will appoint five of these. I will, as the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources, appoint the other five and at a meeting some time ago in Hay River with the NWT Wildlife Federation, I asked if they would consider nominating one person for an appointment. So there will be five appointed by the Dene/Metis and five by myself and one invitation has been made.

Wildlife Management, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Wildlife management, total O and M, \$3,271,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Field Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Field services, total O and M, \$9,016,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Policy And Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Policy and planning, total O and M, \$613,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Pollution Control, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Pollution control, total O and M, \$805,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Science Institute Of The NWT, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Science Institute of the NWT, total O and M, \$381,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Land Use Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Land use planning, total O and M, \$602,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions

Total Grants

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Detail of grants and contributions. Total grants, \$595,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: At the risk of trying to slow things down to get a question in, I am not sure where I should be asking the question, regardless. It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that there had been proposals made to the department a couple of years back about reinstating, if you like, the guiding option for resident hunters. That is, that resident hunters can be involved with guiding operations. I wonder if I could have some indication from the Minister whether, in fact, the department has reviewed that over the past two years and what the result of that review of the guiding and outfitting opportunities has been and whether there is any move to reinstate that particular option?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask the deputy minister to reply to that.

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

Opportunities For Guiding And Outfitting

MR. BOURQUE: Mr. Chairman, the original intent of the class B guide was to provide individuals with a possible source of livelihood -- to make a few dollars. After extensive consultation and working with class B guides, a decision was made to go into class B outfitters. And at the present time that is the operation that we have around Yellowknife. I suspect that is what the honourable Member's question is referring to. We have a number of outfitters that are allotted a quota of caribou from an overall quota of 200 for sport hunting or non-resident hunting. That is the system that is in place and that is the system which, we had indications from the people working with it, was preferred.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure whether it is specific to the Yellowknife area, maybe it is around the lake, not just specific to the Yellowknife area, but it is my understanding that back a few years -- and I cannot quote you the number of years -- resident hunters could get involved with guiding and outfitting. I am not sure what the classification was. That then was dropped and there had been a request, I believe from conservation groups, to reinstate that particular option, whether they could take out this class B licence to get involved with serving as guides for people coming in -- but they were resident hunters, not non-resident hunters.

It was my understanding that the department was going to look at that and review all the regulations, what possibilities existed to allow them to get back into that business or to get into a business. Some may have had the privilege of getting a licence or having had it in the past, have not been able to get it -- I am not sure of the time frame that was involved here, but I

suspect it is a matter of three or more years ago. I wonder if there has been any move to allow resident hunters, not just GHs, holders of general hunting licences, but resident hunters, to be involved and be able to apply for a class B licence to get into guiding? Thank you.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not a problem that has been brought to my attention until now. I really am not familiar with it. My deputy minister indicates that he could give some additional comments. I would like to refer it to him.

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

MR. BOURQUE: Mr. Chairman, after careful review we reached a conclusion that a class B guide, if he was not an outfitter, could not entertain guests. All he could do was guide, and people that wanted to go hunting were looking for more than just a guide. People that lived in the North and could hunt did not require a guide. So what most of the hunters were looking for was a place to stay, a tent or camp of some kind, with possibly meals provided. So this is the reason why the option was taken to go into class B outfitting, rather than just guiding.

Total Grants, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Details of grants and contributions. Total grants, \$595,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total contributions, \$2,809,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Grants And Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total grants and contributions, \$3,404,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a couple of questions on work performed on behalf of third parties by the Department of Renewable Resources in regard to NOGAP, Northern Oil and Gas Action Program, funding. Regarding the studies that are outlined on pages 12.21 and 12.22, is that the extent of the contributions or are there additional funds available if other work was suggested to be done in this coming year?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I am informed that that is the extent of the contributions as we know them now. There could be some realignment as the projects perhaps change over the year, but this is the extent of it as we know it right now.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Further to third party work performed for implementation of the Western Arctic Inuvialuit land claims, with the question of the issue of offshore development and the northern accord and the compensation under the Western Arctic land claims settlement and the compensation policy for that, does the Department of Renewable Resources play a role in the balance of the negotiations with the federal government on the northern accord?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, the department plays an advisory role in these negotiations.

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

Offshore Development And Compensation Package

MS COURNOYEA: In terms of the negotiations with the federal government and the protection of certain areas of the final agreement of the Inuvialuit claim, what is the status of that protection in those negotiations?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, could the honourable Member clarify which areas we are talking about?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in the negotiations of the final agreement, one of the major sections of concern that was looked at and negotiated with the federal government was the protection of the renewable resources and the offshore. There is a compensation package so that if there were some problems arising that would cause concern, perhaps that the oil and gas or other federal policy would affect the claim and what was in that claim, that in the areas that the territorial government was a party to, such as renewable resources, that these issues would weigh heavily in those negotiations. I am wondering just at what stage that the Department of Renewable Resources and the issue of the protection of those renewable resources in the balance of the federal government policy in removing much of that area in the federal domain, where does that leave us?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I defer to Mr. Brackett, the assistant deputy minister, please?

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

MR. BRACKETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The questions of offshore development and the compensation package that might surround such development in the Inuvialuit area have a large number of players, two of the important ones being the environmental impact screening committee and the environmental impact review board set up under the final agreement. On both of those committees, the department has appointed one of its staff members as a sitting member. The discussions, to the best of my knowledge at this time, are at an early stage and the details of compensation packages and so on, I am not aware of right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. There are a number of pages starting from page 12.19 dealing with the fur marketing service revolving fund, then on to the next page, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties which are all information items. Are there any more questions on work performed on behalf of third parties, which starts on page 12.20? These are information items, if you have any questions.

Total O And M, Agreed

If there are no further questions, we will go back to page 12.09. Total O and M, \$15,936,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Does the committee agree that this department is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank the witnesses. Thank you.

---Applause

We will have a coffee break, 15 minute coffee break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come back to order. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, if the committee might move on to departmental order, number four, Personnel?

Department Of Personnel

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. We are dealing with the Department of Personnel. Mr. Pedersen, do you wish to have any witnesses appear before the committee?

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes, I would like to call two witnesses in.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Minister, for the record, will you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right, Sue Cunningham, the financial officer for our department and on my left is Jake Heron, the deputy minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have any opening remarks at this time?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a few remarks. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the O and M and the capital estimates for the Department of Personnel. The department's O and M estimates of \$18,902,000 include an increase of \$2,792,000 over the 1986-87 revised forecast. The majority of this growth, 10.5 per cent, represents infrastructure costs associated with the overall growth in the public service. The balance of the increase, 6.5 per cent, includes new departmental initiatives, costs associated with the affirmative action program and the price factor. The department's capital budget of \$5,619,000 is a reduction from 1986-87 due to the decline in the construction of staff housing.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform Members of some of the major accomplishments of the department over the past year and of our plans for the coming year.

In the June session of the Legislative Assembly, changes to the Public Service Act were introduced and brought into law, bringing significant powers to the Minister of Personnel in the management of the public service. The Department of Personnel in headquarters was reorganized into operational and policy development units. Our operational organization concentrates on the day to day delivery of personnel services to the general public and to public service employees. Our headquarters functions address the development of policies and directives, as they apply to the entire government. In carrying out such policy developments, the department has moved to strengthen its specialization areas of expertise.

The native employment policy has allowed for the increased representation of native people in the public service and I am encouraged by its success. Overall, 35 per cent of public service vacancies were filled by native people in 1986.

The department has been involved in the second phase of the health transfer in the Baffin zone and the DIAND forestry transfer. The terms and conditions for transfer have been successfully negotiated.

Upcoming initiatives for the department include the negotiation of the two collective agreements. Notice from the two employee associations to commence collective bargaining has been received. The collective agreement with the Northwest Territories Public Service Association expires on the 31st of March, 1987, whereas the agreement with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association expires on August 31, 1987. I have responded to the notices and have directed my officers to commence negotiations with the two associations.

Other initiatives include an increased emphasis on electronic data processing to provide more efficient service and information; funding for the review of marketing and recruitment strategies; funding for an examination of systemic barriers to employment; and the provision of enhanced service through the addition of specialists in the pension and insurance area and the classification audit function.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my remarks and I would be pleased to answer questions on the proposed budget.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Shall we go into the capital first?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We are on page 5.07, detail of capital, staff relations, buildings and works, headquarters. Total headquarters, \$1,330,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total Inuvik, \$853,000. Agreed? Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, on the staff unit purchases in Inuvik, are those the units that were left vacant by the Department of National Defence or was that the Canadian Forces?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these were the federal Department of Public Works houses.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the general direction that was taken a couple of years ago with the Department of Public Works and with the stated objectives of the Housing Corporation of having the Housing Corporation handle most of the housing requirements of all government departments, and not only public housing but all government, where has that general thrust gone? Has that been vacated or put aside? Are we continuing to go along with each department providing their own basic facilities for their various departments?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, that thrust has not changed. Wherever possible when the Housing Corporation is building in the same community, we do buy through the Housing Corporation -- two units in Tuk, the breakdown shows quite clearly, and in the other communities, in some instances, the Housing Corporation is also responsible for the construction of the others.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total Inuvik, \$853,000. Agreed? Mr. T'Seleie.

Staff Housing Needed In Fort Franklin

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if this department is aware that there is concern about staff housing in Fort Franklin. And if the department is aware, I wonder if the department has allocated any staff housing for that community in their five year capital plan and if they have not, then I think that is perhaps something that they should take a look at.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Personnel, Mr. Chairman, does not initiate staff housing requests. We respond to the client department -- if another department of government, an operating department of government, wishes to add to their staff in a community like Fort Franklin, they will come to us and we will respond to it. We do not initiate it so there are no plans within our department to construct in Fort Franklin and the construction you see in these pages is as a result of representation from other government departments.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we get to the Baffin Region, maybe I can ask a question. The government employees are having a problem with a shortage of housing in the communities. I mentioned earlier when that motion was introduced that the public housing -- there is a shortage of public housing and also the government has to have some accommodation available for them. My question is: Are you going to be bringing up more staff housing for the government employees in the future or are you going to be considering the wording of the motion earlier on? Because there is a real problem in some of the communities with the shortage of staff housing. Thank you.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed we will, as a government, be considering the motion that was passed earlier today and considering it very carefully. We are acutely aware of the housing shortages in total, whether they be staff housing shortages, public housing, or home-ownership. As I replied to Mr. T'Seleie earlier, the initiative for starting the process to get a staff house within any given community rests with the client department. As an example, if the Department of Education, because there are more students in the community, have to put one more teacher in, they will initiate the actions to get one more staff house into the community in question. They bring it to us and we arrange to have it constructed. We do not initiate. But in answer to the Member's last question, we definitely will be giving very serious consideration to the motion made earlier today.

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Staff relations, Inuvik, capital, \$853,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Baffin. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recently heard that your department is not the initiator for getting staff housing. In Cape Dorset the teachers have a shortage of housing. I was wondering if your department could consider those teachers to get staff housing in

that community. Dennis Patterson and I received a letter from the Cape Dorset education society and I was wondering what your department would do about this to see whether the teachers in Cape Dorset could get a house from other sources. I wonder what your department could do about those teachers who need housing in Cape Dorset.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that Mr. Patterson will be contacting our department very soon alerting us to the shortage of housing for teachers in Cape Dorset. When that happens, we will take whatever action we are capable of taking within the restraints of our budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total Baffin. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a comment with respect to costs in this section of the budget. I notice that one unit in Hall Beach is estimated at \$224,000; another unit in Lake Harbour at \$230,000; and a unit in Coral Harbour at \$300,000. I am wondering if these are standard costs for housing. How do they compare with, for example, public housing? And if it is the policy of the government to provide basically the same items in these units as the Housing Corporation provides in their public housing units, why could not the costs be closer to the same costs as public housing units?

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

Construction Costs Extremely High

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The costs that you see here reflect, unfortunately, the extremely high costs of constructing in these particular areas. These are the same costs as public housing units in that area. The construction -- we turn the money over to the Housing Corporation to do the contracting and constructing on our behalf, so these costs are similar or identical to public housing for the communities in question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total Baffin. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I just have a hard time believing these costs. I guess, to comment on it, has the government ever -- by comparison, if they were to, say, examine the cost of a Hudson's Bay Company residence in a place like Repulse Bay -- if there is a Bay -- how the cost of a dwelling that the Hudson's Bay Company people would provide for their employees, how would that compare? I do not know if the Minister wants to comment on that but just to say that I find it really hard to believe that there are places in the North that are costing \$300,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you wish to comment?

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, one of the factors that increases the cost in the Eastern Arctic over the West, of course, is the freight factor on the houses. I would like to say that when the department decided not to go to contracting directly, as we used to do in the past, and went with the Housing Corporation's program, it was an attempt to achieve a better cost, a more efficient pricing package. I agree with the Member that it seems to be a very astronomical amount per house. I can only say that it really illustrates very clearly the differences and, as an illustration of that, when eastern Members sometimes complain about costs, it does reflect somewhat to it.

As to the Bay house in Repulse Bay, the only comment I would make on that one is that when I was in Repluse -- as the Member may know, I used to work for the Hudson's Bay Company -- to my recollection it was called a 12DB. It was built in 1949 and I am sure it was a lot cheaper, but I really do not know what their replacement costs would be today. It would be very difficult to compare, though, because they were not well insulated, well sealed, no triple-paned windows or anything of that type. But the costs, unfortunately, reflect the extremely high cost of construction, the extremely high costs of freight, and just the general high costs of operating in the Eastern Arctic.

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total Baffin, \$1,304,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$520,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$402,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before you get into the total for the buildings and works. I note that in headquarters there are \$1.3 million for employee house purchase plan. I expect that is for purchase of houses that the government knows they are going to have now, that are now in the works. Or if that is not so, maybe I will be corrected. Is that for future purchasing of employee houses? I recognize it is all done from the headquarters rather than being a regional responsibility. Could the Minister indicate to me just how many that would be on an average? What is the number of homes that that would purchase back? And could he tell me where these homes are contemplated to be purchased back by the government?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member is absolutely right. This will cover all regions but the money is being held in headquarters. It is an estimate only and it is an estimate we have arrived at based on the actual purchases of this year, which are about one million dollars. We estimate, again based on the average price that we had to pay for these houses last year, the current year as \$1.3 million for an estimate of 20 houses.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That works out to about \$65,000 per unit. Obviously you are not buying back very many units in Yellowknife. I do not know if you would buy a government unit back in Yellowknife for \$65,000. I would expect that that is very difficult. Given the experience the government has had in having to buy back government personnel homes in Yellowknife, I would expect that some of them are in the vicinity of \$150,000. So do you have at the present time a number, in particular communities, that you purchase back? Do you have a number identified as yet, which you are going to have to purchase?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: No, Mr. Chairman, we do not have any indication for this amount of money in the budget where that will be applied. It is an estimate. We may be under that. We may be over that. The Member is right on the average and it appears quite low. As I mentioned earlier, the average was based on the average of last year's figures, which included a number of buy-backs of trailer units in Fort Smith. So that certainly lowers the average but we do not have anything specifically, no houses earmarked and we have had no approaches with specific houses, as yet.

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

Employee House Purchase Plan Procedures

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the purchase plan, is the department consulted by, or is there communication between, your department, who is responsible for this particular plan, and other departments of the government who contemplate some rearrangement or reduction of personnel in particular communities? Let me give an example, Mr. Chairman, if I may, to the Minister. For example, the Department of Education, in rearranging or providing funding to various schools for the employment of staff members, teachers, in holding to the student/teacher ratio, will determine how many teachers, if you like, are being employed in a particular community. If in, let us say, the community of Fort Smith -- I guess there are other communities but I will relate it to Fort Smith. If the Department of Education were contemplating reducing the number of staff members in a community such as Fort Smith, would the department then indicate that to you, that there may be some teachers who would have to move from the community and may be offered positions in other parts of the Territories? But let us say they were going to reduce the number of teachers by four and those four people own their own homes in Fort Smith because that is an area where you must purchase your own home, would the Department of Education, then, let you know that that would be occurring for this coming year? And I guess, what I would be concerned about as well, Mr. Chairman, is, what is the process of an assessment of the value of those homes? How does the department go about trying to determine how much they would require?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes, our department will be advised and they will be consulted by the departments, such as Education. For the assessment, Mr. Chairman, the house has to be listed on the open market for not less than 60 days and the appraised value of the house is set through the regular appraisal methods, calling in a registered, licensed appraiser. The owner of the home, the employee, if he wishes to sell, must accept any offer that is within five per cent of the appraised value. If the house cannot be sold, then the government will purchase the house at 90 per cent of the first \$80,000 and 80 per cent of the balance of the appraised value of the unit up to a maximum of an appraised value of \$200,000.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular plan, could the Minister indicate to me what was the average value of units that you purchased -- houses, excluding trailers? What is the average price that the government has had to pay to repurchase homes in Fort Smith over the last year? What was the average price, excluding trailers?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I cannot give that right offhand because the list I have here does not indicate whether there are some trailers in there but there are three units, one at \$27,000, one at \$29,000 and one at \$36,000, that I would presume would be trailers, but I would have to go back to the department and get a designation for each individual purchase.

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

Number Of Units That Will Have To Be Repurchased

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to the previous question. Has the Department of Education indicated to your department, as of now, whether you will have to purchase any units in Fort Smith, Hay River, Pine Point, Inuvik -- I am not sure what the purchase plan involved in Inuvik is because it is on a highway now -- or in any other community that would be on a highway, where personnel had to buy their units. Has the department received any information as to the number of units that this government will have to purchase back?

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

HON. RED PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, just so I brought my witnesses in for something, I would like to give the answer for this one to Mr. Heron, please.

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

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman, in the formulation of plans with respect to which units are going to be sold and which units are not going to be sold with the Department of Education, for example, in Fort Smith, our Personnel people are working very closely with the regional superintendent in ensuring that we have as much advance notice as possible as to who may or may not necessarily be subject to a plan where we would ultimately buy their homes. So, until we know for sure, definitely, this kind of estimate, if you wish, is based on our experience. It might be interesting to note that 57 per cent of all homes purchased by this plan were actually in Fort Smith proper. But, until the plans are formalized and we know whether or not people are going to be transferred or laid off or whatever, it gets to be very difficult. We do not know who is going to resign, for example. This is a reactionary kind of thing. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I take it then, Mr. Chairman, from the Minister or the deputy minister, that the department has not had any indication of a number of homes either within one department or in another department whether it is Education, Social Services, Economic Development, Municipal and Community Affairs, any of these particular departments, I take it that the government has not received any notification from any of these departments as to the number of houses the government will have to buy back, as of now?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. We have not received any specific numbers, just general talks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total buildings and works. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the provision of new staff housing which would be built in the buildings and works, there are four particular regions indicated where the department will have to build new staff housing. The one region that is not mentioned is the Fort Smith Region. Does the government not intend to build new staff housing or purchase staff housing in any of the communities in the Fort Smith Region?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this moment, that is correct. The department has not been alerted by client departments that there is a need for housing in this region.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I understand, and I do not want to speak for the Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, but I understand that a number of the units that the education society have presently in Rae-Edzo, for example, are being turned over to the federal government is taking these houses back, because I understand they are federal units. I could be wrong, but I would suspect that you are not reducing the number of teachers, Education personnel, in Rae-Edzo. As well, there are particular transfers of personnel to other particular communities. Are you saying that the government now has a sufficient number of staff housing units in these other communities, that it will not have to build new staff housing in any community in the Fort Smith Region?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Fort Smith Region we are meeting the requirement for staff housing through lease of staff houses, as we are in a number of other communities, where the lease option is available to us and it makes economic sense to do so. In the Fort Smith Region for this year there is -- as I said before, we have not been alerted by client departments to a need to construct new houses. There are a substantial number of leased houses and the amount will show up in the Department of Public Works.

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$4,409,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Equipment acquisition, headquarters. Total headquarters. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular item, staff house furniture, there are about \$1.2 million involved here. This staff furniture -- where is the government providing staff furniture? Is it to personnel who live in staff housing off the highway system? Is this staff furniture for these new staff units in Inuvik, Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot? I expect this is new furniture -- or is it replacement? Perhaps I could get an indication of where we are providing this furniture, and is it furniture that is associated with the construction of new staff housing?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is responsible to furnish all the new staff housing units in the communities off the highway, in the so-called level two and three communities. These are completely furnished, and in addition, in the level one communities, which are the highway ones, the units are furnished with appliances. Out of this amount, the department will be purchasing furnishings both for the homes that we construct under our capital budget and also for the lease/built units under the Department of Public Works.

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total headquarters, \$1,210,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total equipment acquisition, \$1,210,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total staff relations, \$5,619,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Back to page 5.05, total capital expenditure. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, before you leave page 5.09, where are you contemplating selling houses next year? You estimate that you are going to get \$200,000 as you sell houses. What houses are you selling? Where are you selling to get \$200,000?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again this amount reflects an estimate which may or may not come to be. Some of the houses we expect to sell will be some of the ones that we expect to buy. They will be turned over. Historically, many of the houses that we do sell have been in Fort Smith, if you want to identify it by community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Page 5.09, capital recoveries. Any further questions? Page 5.10, distribution of budget. Any questions on that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We will return to page 5.05, total capital expenditure, \$5,619,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does committee agree that this capital budget is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Okay we are into O and M, Department of Personnel, directorate on page 8.08. Directorate, total O and M, \$667,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Finance And Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Finance and administration, total O and M, \$233,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staffing And Classification, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Staffing and classification, total O and M, \$669,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Human Resource Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Human resource planning, total O and M, \$332,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Staff relations, total O and M, \$1,636,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Regional Operations, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Regional operations, total O and M, \$15,365,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: In this area, Mr. Chairman, there is an increase, I understand, of slightly over a million dollars due to the increase in the growth of the territorial civil service, or at least the growth that the department anticipates. It is further my understanding, and I would ask the

Minister to verify it, that this money is not just for new growth that is anticipated this coming year, but also for growth in the civil service from last year that was not funded to the department. Could I get a breakdown as to the number of PYs covered by this slightly over one million dollars that is dedicated to new growth this year, in 1987-88, and how much was dedicated to the growth the government took on through supplementary requests in 1986-87?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, offhand I do not -- I would have to split this amount; it would take us a little while to get.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me put it another way and not ask you, then, or just hold off on the business of trying to determine how much of over a million dollars -- let me ask you this. Can you give me an accurate account of how many new PYs have been requested by all departments for the year 1987-88? How many PYs are you being asked to provide your share of, that is, as you pay for the recruitment, as you pay for the finance and administration of these, and for the employee benefits, etc.? How many new PYs have you been requested to provide for this year, 1987-88?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, could I have a minute to just consolidate the figures, please?

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

Funding For Growth In Person Years

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department, based on the PY submission in the original budget documents, budgeted for funding for 251.4 PYs. Later on, through various exercises by the FMB, this was reduced. This was from last year's main estimates to this year's main estimates, the adjustments during the year of 110.3 PYs and the reduction in casual PYs, mainly due to Expo, of 67.2 and the revolving fund decrease of 7.6 -- that is an increase, I am advised, which brings it to 66.3 net. In the original funding, when the department's target was set, \$1,496,000 was given for new person years. When the reduction in PYs was achieved, the FMB was aware that there was a discrepancy in funding of \$433,000 allocated in our budget but in light of the department's deficit in base funding experienced in 1986-87, FMB decided not to reduce the target in this category for the department. I am not sure but I hope that provides some information.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you. Could I just have the final figure then, Mr. Chairman, from the Minister. You have had requests from various departments and the total number of new positions, you said, is 60 what? Is it 66.3?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, that is the figure I am given here, yes.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the \$1.1 million that you have in the growth in other O and M due to the PYs in the GNWT, how much of that is dedicated to the 66.3 new PYs that you are asking for?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, could I turn this question over to our financial officer, please? Ms Sue Cunningham.

MS CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, I think the problem arises in our figures because in the Department of Personnel, for each new PY which arises we should be funded for the services we provide in recruitment and the benefits that we provide to each PY. From the time that the last main

estimates were approved to this year's main estimates, there were 251.4 new PYs. That includes the 1987-88 new PYs, plus PYs that were approved in supps during the year. Therefore the Department of Personnel is given base funding for this total number of PYs, from main estimates to main estimates. And that total number is 251.4.

We do not get funding for casual person years because there are no benefits provided for them and we do not get funding for the NWT Housing Corporation new PYs, because they pay their own benefits. This year we were given \$1,496,000 and that was based on a figure that was then reduced by the board to a total of 251.4 PYs. Now, the discrepancy in funding is \$433,000, but in light of our apparent deficit in base funding the target was not reduced.

Regional Operations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Regional operations, total O and M, \$15,365,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, page 8.14. Any questions? Revenues, recoveries and transfer payments on page 8.15. Any questions? Distribution of budget, page 8.16. Any questions?

Total O And M

Going back to page 8.07, total O and M, \$18,902,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, could I get from the Department of Personnel some kind of figure with some degree of accuracy -- and I do not mean that disparagingly, so do not take it that way -- of the total number of vacant positions this government has over a period of time. It seems to me that when we were in the finance committee, the number that was given to us was over 800. Now I do not believe that for one minute. Can I get an idea from this department? You must have computers or all kinds of machinery that you can punch in and indicate to us how many positions this government has vacant or has had vacant for six months or more. Now I recognize that they have gone through this in the past. Back in January they indicated to us then, I believe, that the number was in the 800 range, but I do not think that that is correct. I think that figure has been changed somewhat, but if I could get some ball park figures, give or take 10 per cent.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government currently has 109 positions that have been vacant for over six months. The departmental breakdown of these positions -- you do not want them? Okay, I have them on my neat little piece of paper.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out and make clear to the Members of the Assembly that the length of time that a position is vacant cannot necessarily be taken as an indication that the position is not required, nor of course should it be taken that a vacancy means that there is any salary funding lapsing. The vacancy level does not reflect on the PY total in the department; it is to a large extent a management tool. There are positions at times created by departments which in fact never are filled. They may remain on the books and simply get struck off. The PY total is the total that has money attached to it. The vacancy rate of positions does not necessarily have any money attached to it. Thank you.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total O and M, \$18,902,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree that this department is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee would like to thank the witnesses and have the Sergeant-at-Arms kindly escort them out of this chamber, please. Thank you.

We will now move to the Status of Women. Am I correct, Mr. Butters?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as provided on the back of the orders of the day, we would proceed to the Status of Women and the Equal Employment Directorate. If we have time we will get into Health.

Department Of The Executive

Women's Secretariat

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Okay, we are under Executive, page 2.18, Women's Secretariat. Mr. Pedersen, do you have any opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have a couple of opening remarks. Mr. Chairman, the budget before this session combines costs for the functioning of both the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Women's Secretariat. The advisory council reflects to this government the concerns of women throughout the NWT and lobbies at the territorial and at the federal levels for changes in legislation, in policies and in programs that relate to women.

The secretariat's and the council's operations and maintenance funds this past year have been used in part for contract work, for casual employees and there has been one summer student. Following the policy set out by this government, the Women's Secretariat have hired employees where supervision and direction was necessary, but where work could be done independently, contracts were used. Research that has been done over the past year has included: a discussion paper on the rights and obligations of cohabiting, also known as common-law, spouses; a brief to the Canadian Universities Association on education for northern women; a brief to the parliamentary task force on child care; a discussion paper on pornography, which was recently released; a contribution to a national paper on unemployment insurance; and a brief to the public task force on broadcasting.

There has been a growing need for research and analysis of issues that concern northern women. A permanent research position is being requested to meet this workload. The second position being requested is that of a community worker. It is a position that we have had on casual up to now which has proved to be invaluable in stimulating and assisting communities to take responsibility and action.

Community liaison activities over the last year have involved travel to communities throughout the NWT and contacts with many community groups. The secretariat has assisted communities in identifying problems and ways in which they can solve them. The secretariat has provided communities and groups with resource materials and referred them to funding sources. They have conducted workshops to assist groups in getting organized, how to run meetings, clarify local needs and become active in solving problems at the community level.

A number of grants have been given out over the last year as well. These vary from a child care program at the transition home in Yellowknife, to editing a film on family violence made in Iqaluit, and for a women's organization in Hay River.

O and M funds cover the cost of the advisory council meetings, of which there have been three in the past year. Advisory council members also attended a midwifery conference, a female offenders conference and the NWT equality rights conference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would now be ready to answer questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Thank you. Any general comments. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At one time for the Women's Secretariat, we submitted several names of different women from the community to sit on boards and committees. I wonder what happened to those names; I wonder if they have forgotten them or if they ever tried to use some of those names to put on boards. Whatever became of that information that we provided to the department? That is one question. The other question is that when we do submit names, and I know a lot of women submitted their names to be considered for boards, what happens to them? Did they send them out to the departments or did they just shelve them and forget about it? Thank you.

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

Talent Bank For Women

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the honourable Member is referring to the talent bank for women which was set up a couple of years back. Whenever a department or a Minister has an opening to make an appointment to a board or an agency, anywhere within the NWT, they obtain information on the talent bank from the Women's Secretariat. There have indeed been many women appointed to an assortment of boards and agencies since this talent bank was compiled. It is an ongoing thing. We would like to get a far greater number of names added to the talent bank, particularly from native communities where there seems to be somewhat of a reluctance on the part of individuals to advance their own names. As I said, it is very active and each Minister is given a copy of the names on the list for possible appointments.

In addition, of course, Ministers in the government use other methods such as direct contact with the MLAs in question to get recommendations for appointments. It is only one of the tools used to decide who gets an appointment to a board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more general comments? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if there are any laws that are discriminatory to women. What I am thinking is that this secretariat has been in operation now for two or three years and by now there must be some idea of the main issue that they are concerned with which is equality of opportunity for women and if there are laws that prohibit, say, the hiring of women, then they must have identified them by now. I guess what I am trying to say is that it is my understanding that everyone has equal opportunity in terms of jobs. If you have the proper qualifications it does not matter whether you are a man or a woman. I guess I want a comment from the Minister on basically, the need for a Women's Secretariat. Are we just responding to popular political concern or is there a real need for something like this?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Do not let Debbie hear that.

Law By Itself Cannot Create Equality

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly think there is a very real need for a Women's Secretariat and an Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The Member is correct in saying that we do have equal opportunity in such things as application on jobs; that is what the law states. But a law by itself cannot create equality. We are not equal, for instance, when we go out to seek a job if we are unable timewise to do so because of lack of day care facilities. As a very clear example of merely having a law to solve the problem, we all very well know that it is against the law to commit spousal assault or any other form of assault and yet it is, in some communities in the North, a very major problem today.

It is in my opinion and in the government's opinion very, very necessary and very, very worth while to have a group such as the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Women's Secretariat encouraging women's groups in communities to get together to analyse their problems, talk about them, bring them out in the open and try to do something about them. The activities that go on within the Women's Secretariat and which are funded through here, are really very minute compared to the activities that are going on in many communities now with women's groups, in such things as community shelters for spousal abuse, for neglected children, day care services and just general counselling and get-togethers. We have had I think a gratifying -- not yet a satisfactory -- but a gratifying number of women and very capable women I might say, appointed to the public service of the NWT and at very meaningful levels too. These are still very much a minority and actually the

women that are quite capable of looking after themselves, the vast majority of women, do not have equality with men for a number of reasons that historically have existed -- probably the greatest one being the fact that women normally raise the children. So on the job market, it is not equality.

We also have the systematic barriers that are created by girls in public school and through high school generally getting channelled into the traditional women's professions rather than being encouraged to take up the more traditional male professions, which women, in most cases, are just as capable of doing. So in answer to the honourable Member's question, I certainly do think that there is a continued great need for this rather small secretariat.

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

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, just to say that my question was an honest one. It just was not clear to me exactly what this secretariat does and I just want to thank the Minister for his explanation. Thank you.

Women's Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any further general comments? We are under the Women's Secretariat, page 2.18, total O and M, \$505,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree that the Women's Secretariat is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equal Employment Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We will now go to Equal Employment Directorate, page 7.08. Mr. Pedersen, would you like to make your opening remarks?

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, could I bring in a witness to the table?

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Do you want to make your opening remarks first, Mr. Minister?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Equal Employment Directorate, Mr. Chairman, is a small special unit which has been assigned a large, high priority task by this government. It is responsible for co-ordinating affirmative action planning for native employment in our organization and for monitoring and reporting progress on achieving our objectives. The directorate is also responsible for providing counselling support services to target group clientele and for the delivery of the cross-cultural orientation program.

The directorate's budget of \$1,116,000 includes an increase of \$232,000 over the 1986-87 revised forecast. This growth represents the addition of two person years for headquarters: an equal employment officer and a statistical programmer; also resources for the delivery of the cross-cultural orientation program and, most importantly, additional funds for travel to support the regional equal employment officers. To facilitate contact with potential native employees, the regional equal employment officers must visit each and every community within their region at least twice a year.

Over the past year, the directorate successfully initiated the development of departmental native employment action plans and consolidated them into a public service plan. This plan was accepted by the Executive Council and, as a result, three million dollars were committed and approved by this House to service the plan. The in-service training program and education leave program in the Department of Education were enhanced significantly. New programs were also added, such as the basic academic upgrading program for native employees, an affirmative action secretarial arts program, an on-the-job training program, and the cross-cultural orientation program.

Mr. Chairman, over all, our public service is responding to our native employment initiative; 35 per cent of all vacancies were filled by native people in 1986. As of December 3, 1986, we had 1255 native employees in permanent positions. That is up 10 per cent from the previous year of 1138. In this coming year, equal employment planning will commence for women and the disabled.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any general comments? If not, Equal Employment Directorate, total O and M, \$1,116,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree that the Equal Employment Directorate is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Butters, could you tell me what department you wish to proceed with?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health is the next one up on the roster. Mr. McLaughlin will make his opening statement.

Department Of Health

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McLaughlin, would you like to make your opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present for your consideration, the 1987-88 budget estimates for the Department of Health. The 1986-87 year was a significant one for my department and this government. The transfer of health services in the Baffin was completed on August 30th and I am most pleased with the co-operation of Health and Welfare Canada and the competence and enthusiasm shown by the Baffin board. In addition, we now have the support of the other regions to proceed with transfer and there is currently much activity in this area. I would hope that this fiscal year will see it all completed. It will be a significant step for this government to deliver one of the major people programs and do so in accordance with its principles of devolution and regional and community participation.

I am pleased to say that we have completed our assessment of the needs and mechanisms for long-term care for the chronically ill and elderly. Health and Social Services will be hosting a major conference this week to discuss all aspects of northern perspectives on aging and long-term care; a topic I am sure will be discussed much in the future. I look forward to active discussions on some of the suggestions in the paper before determining what the government's position is going to be with relation to future programs for the aged and chronically ill and the handicapped.

We have done considerable research into cancer mortality and morbidity from 1950 to 1986 and we will soon be producing more educational material in this area. I am pleased that our tobacco control program is specifically -- sorry, Mr. Chairman, I am having difficulty reading some of my

notes here -- I am pleased that our tobacco cessation program is spreading rapidly -- I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I sent my opening remarks over for changes and I do not have the typewritten changes yet, so I am having difficulty with some of the reading.

Residents of the North are becoming more conscious of the internal effects on their environment, as well as on their personal environment, we know outdoors as well as the indoor environment. One of the major problems identified by us has been the use of chewing tobacco, snuff and the results -- Mr. Chairman, I am going to have to ask for a five minute adjournment, just so I can get some of these notes, because they were not written by myself, on the rewrite.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Okay, we will have a five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MS COURNOYEA: I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): There is a motion on the floor. All those in favour, raise your hands. Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will report.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88, and we wish to report progress, with the Departments of Renewable Resources, and Personnel, and the Equal Employment Directorate being concluded. And further, the Women's Secretariat has also been 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. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: For the record, I wish to advise the House that I have reviewed Petition 5-87(1), filed by Mr. Paniloo on February 26th, 1987. I find that this is not a petition and thus have ordered it withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a caucus meeting at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

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

5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 1-87(1), 7-87(1), 6-87(1), 2-87(1)
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 Tuesday, March 3rd, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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