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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

The Hon. Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1877
Hay River, N.W.T., X0E 0R0
Office (403) 874-2324
Home (403) 874-6560
Office (403) 873-7629 (Yellowknife)
(Hay River)

Angottitauruq, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.
Gjoa Haven, N.W.T.
X0E 1J0
Office (403) 360-6600
(Natilikmiot)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
X0A 0W0
Home (819) 266-8808
(Hudson Bay)

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.
X0A 0N0
Home (819) 939-2363
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, The Hon. Michael, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1091
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N8
Office (403) 873-7658
Home (403) 920-2968
(Yellowknife North)
Minister of Justice and Housing

Butters, The Hon. Thomas H., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 908
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N7
Office (403) 873-7128
Home (403) 920-4411 (Yellowknife)
(403) 979-2373 (Inuvik)
(Inuvik)
Minister of Finance

Cournoyey, Ms Nellie J., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 156
Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T.
X0E 1C0
Office (403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)
Home (403) 977-2405
(Nunakput)

Curley, The Hon. Tagak E.C., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 36
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
X0C 0G0
Office (403) 873-7139
Home (819) 645-2951
(Aivilik)
Minister of Economic Development
& Tourism and Government Services

Erkloo, Mr. Elijah, M.L.A.
Pond Inlet, N.W.T.
X0A 0S0
Office (819) 899-8903
Home (819) 899-8845
(Amittuq)
Deputy Chairman, Committee of the
Whole

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2131
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P6
Office (403) 873-7999
Home (403) 699-3171
(Deh Cho)
Deputy Chairman, Committee of the
Whole

Lawrence, Mrs. Eliza, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2053
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 1W9
Office (403) 920-8052
Home (403) 873-2457
(Tu Nedhe)

MacQuarrie, Mr. Robert, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2895
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2R2
Office (403) 873-7918
Home (403) 873-8857
(Yellowknife Centre)

McCallum, Mr. Arnold, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 454
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
X0E 0P0
Office (403) 872-3224
Home (403) 872-2246
(Slave River)

McLaughlin, The Hon. Bruce, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2637
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P9
Office (403) 873-7113
Home (403) 873-6200 (Yellowknife)
(403) 393-2939 (Pine Point)
(Pine Point)
Minister of Health and Social Services

Nerysoo, Mr. Richard W., M.L.A.
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.
X0E 0J0
Office (403) 979-7112 (Inuvik)
Home (403) 979-2668 (Inuvik)
(Mackenzie Delta)

Paniloo, Mr. Pauloosie, M.L.A.
Clyde River, N.W.T.
X0A 0E0
Office (819) 924-6336
Home (819) 924-6340
(Baffin Centrai)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 310
Iqaluit, N.W.T.
X0A 0H0
Office (819) 979-5993 (Iqaluit)
(403) 873-7123
Home (819) 979-6618
(Iqaluit)
Minister of Education

Pedersen, The Hon. Red, M.L.A.
Coppermine, N.W.T.
X0E 0E0
Office (403) 873-7959
Home (403) 982-5221
(Kitikmeot West)
Minister of Renewable Resources and
Personnel

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 240
Resolute, N.W.T.
X0A 0V0
Home (819) 252-3719
(High Arctic)

Richard, Mr. Ted, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
Office (403) 873-7920
Home (403) 873-3667
(Yellowknife South)

Sibbeston, The Hon. Nick G., M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
X0E 0N0
Office (403) 873-7112
Home (403) 695-2565
(Nahendeh)
Government Leader, Chairman of
Executive Council and Minister
of Culture & Communications

T'Seleie, Mr. John, M.L.A.
Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.
X0E 0H0
Home (403) 598-2325
(Sahtu)

Wah-Shee, Mr. James, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 471
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2N4
Office (403) 873-8099
Home (403) 873-8012
(Rae-Lac la Martre)
Deputy Speaker and Chairman,
Committee of the Whole

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
X0C 0AG
Office (403) 873-7962
Home (819) 793-2700
(Kivallivik)
Minister of Municipal &
Community Affairs and
Public Works & Highways

Officers

Clerk
Mr. David M. Hamilton
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant
Mr. Henry Zoe
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk
Mr. Joel Fournier
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard
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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Ms Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Thursday, March 12th. Mr. Curley.

Point Of Privilege

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of privilege. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement of privilege regarding an incident in the House yesterday. Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the honourable Member for Deh Cho for sending him a note that he believes is threatening. I regret my action; it was a mistake. I have written to him offering my sincere apologies. The note was not at all intended to give an impression that unless Mr. Gargan supported projects in my region, I would not support those in his region. I am sensitive to the fact Ministers must not abuse their responsibility and would like to make it clear that I had no intention of doing so. In my zeal to promote privatization I find it difficult to see how a Member could support initiatives in one region but not in another. I was trying to make my point as one MLA to another. But I stress that it was a mistake; I should not have made my views known.

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for Deh Cho made reference to a Special ARDA application from his region which has been turned down. I feel it is important to say that the Special ARDA committee deferred the original proposal until it was rewritten and resubmitted. As a Minister I have no influence over the committee. Once a project has received approval, it has my whole-hearted support, regardless of which region or riding it falls in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hours Of Sitting

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before I go into the orders of the day, at the request of the acting government House Leader, Mr. Sibbeston, I wish to advise the House that I will set sitting hours for today as 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. I wish to advise Members, however, that if you are in committee of the whole, you can report progress at any time during these hours and that will be up to the committee. Now, although the hours have been set at 5:30, that does not mean that a person cannot move to sit beyond 5:30 to complete some document and then report progress. So, we have a full understanding, I hope, of the rules.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 31-87(1): Labour Funding For The Home-Ownership Assistance Program

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Assembly are aware of the difficulties that have arisen from the lack of sufficient and timely labour funding for the home-ownership assistance program. Although the corporation does not provide any funding for labour, clients have come to depend upon various programs offered to them through the federal Departments of Employment and Immigration, Indian Affairs and GNWT STEP program.

With the tremendous expansion of the HAP program, these sources can no longer support the required labour component. As well, there has always been a problem with the timing of labour funding. Often the availability of labour funding has been too late and misses the short northern construction season. Other restrictions on eligibility and wages have limited the usefulness of the funding that has been available. Although the Housing Corporation has constantly tried to secure a level of federal labour funding consistent with the program, they have not been successful to date.

I have come to believe that a certain level of labour funding is necessary for the home-ownership assistance program. While it is important to maintain the active participation of the client in the construction of the house, it is unrealistic to assume that one man or one woman can build an entire house without help.

Included in the Housing Corporation budget for 1987-88 is a HAP support budget which is intended to provide approximately \$4000 per unit for labour assistance. This funding will provide the necessary labour funding to enable a client to hire labour to assist him or her with the building of the unit. It is not intended to provide the level of assistance necessary to have the house built for the client.

This funding has been made available for this season only, to ensure that the building program will not be hampered by a lack of labour funding. We still require a long-term solution and I will continue to pursue the issue with the federal government. This interim funding source will ensure that labour assistance is available at the right time and is free from restrictions which limit its effectiveness. At the same time, the provision of this funding assumes that a client will still take an active role in the construction of the unit, which is a very necessary element to maintain the integrity of the program.

Other funding for labour may still be available from the traditional sources and many communities may still wish to utilize this funding in the construction of HAP units. That will, of course, be up to the community or to individuals. I am confident that this funding will provide a degree of labour that will enable clients to build units effectively without relinquishing the responsibility that clients have to provide some of their own money or energy toward the provision of their own shelter. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 32-87(1): RCMP Bravery Awards

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, this past weekend six members of the RCMP were recognized for their bravery above and beyond the call of duty in a ceremony here in Yellowknife.

Const. D. Taylor received a commendation from the Commissioner of the RCMP and Constables Graham and McManaman received commendations from the commanding officer of "G" Division, Chief Superintendent Robert Head. These awards were all connected to an incident last July in Tuktoyaktuk.

A man was holding a group of people at gunpoint in a house. When the police arrived, he escaped through a bedroom window. During the chase the man was carrying a loaded semi-automatic .308 rifle with his finger on the trigger. He was eventually calmed down and disarmed by Const. Taylor.

In another incident in Cape Dorset last May, Const. Johnson and Special Const. Akavak, who is now in Iqaluit, were at the scene of a domestic dispute. A man was taking shots at a woman on the street. When the police arrived, he shot into the snowbank next to them. The man was finally talked into throwing down his gun and was arrested.

Mr. Speaker, two more members of the RCMP received commendations from the commanding officer. Sgt. Bergman and Const. Logan were at a house fire in Fort Smith last November. Both men attempted to rescue a small child in an upstairs bedroom but were forced back by dense smoke. A fireman, Bill Gow, managed to enter the house with an air pack and rescued the child. Sgt. Bergman, with the help of another fireman, Ed Kokoszka, began mouth to mouth resuscitation. The child began breathing on its own and later recovered. Firemen Ed Kokoszka and Bill Gow will receive commendations for their actions later in Fort Smith.

Mr. Speaker, while we are aware of the work RCMP officers carry out for our safety and our security, we often do not realize the difficult and frightening aspects of their duties. The courageous acts carried out by these men should make us all proud to have such people in our communities throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair would like to recognize, in the House, former colleagues Mrs. Sorensen and Mr. Ernerk.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude Ministers' statements for today. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Rights To Soapstone Deposits

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, carvers and boat owners in Iqaluit are concerned that some people in the communities of Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset are talking about exclusive rights to soapstone deposits. A number of my constituents have approached me and they tell me that Inuit are not used to owning land; that Inuit do not believe in exclusive rights and that in every Baffin settlement, stone is accessible to all. There is a large deposit at Markham Bay. It is very hard work to dig the stone between tides. It is a very costly investment to travel there, the farther away you have to go to the deposit. People in Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset already have a significant advantage because they are close to the deposit. Since the supply of soapstone is critical to survival of the carving industry and the whole region, myself and my constituents hope this matter can be worked out co-operatively among the people of South Baffin without people from one community trying to prevent access by people from another community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Lack Of Confidence In Minister

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with a feeling of deep regret to report to this Assembly that a Minister of our government has used his position as a means of intimidating me as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I was led to believe that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism treats all requests for funding with objectivity but it appears from the note I received from the Minister that this is not the case. Mr. Speaker, it appears that if I was not to support projects for funding in the Minister's riding that any request for funding for my constituency would not be reviewed with objectivity. I feel that I am elected to represent my constituency and I do that to the best of my ability in a fair and open manner. If the only way an MLA can get things accomplished for his constituency is through entering into secret deals with Ministers, then I question the integrity of this government and this Minister in particular. Mr. Speaker, if our political system is to mean anything at all and if we, as MLAs, are to be able to carry out our responsibility as representatives of the people of the entire North, then it is imperative that our Executive Council and Ministers, acting individually, carry out their respective duties in an open, forthright and honest manner. As MLAs, we must have confidence in the Executive and the Ministers. Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances, I, for one, do not have confidence in the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Member's Statement On Inuit First Right To Soapstone

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to argue but the MLA for Iqaluit, I would like to inform him that the South Baffin people are not trying to restrict people from other communities from trying to get some soapstone. We are just trying to do best, what we want to do; we are trying to plan for Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour. If the co-op of Iqaluit wants to be involved, they could be involved in our venture. Some of the people might misunderstand, saying that we are trying to restrict people from coming to our area to get soapstone. We are not trying to restrict anyone. I want my constituents to do a lot more in soapstone and things like that. That was my intention.

But for those non-native people that have their own businesses we just do not want to have all our soapstone taken away by the non-native people. A lot of people who are not Inuit come to our place from Iqaluit to get soapstone. I feel that the right of the native people should come first. That is what I was trying to do and I would like it to be understood that we are not restricting anyone from getting soapstone from our area. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. I have had a request from the CBC to use television cameras in this House today. Inasmuch as this request has come in so late, I put it to the House. By a show of hands, do you wish the CBC cameras in this chamber today? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, you can advise the CBC that the majority of the Members granted permission to film here today. Item 3, Members' statements.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 0125-87(1): Plans For Reforestation Program

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. I heard yesterday, Mr. Minister, on the radio, that the Department of Economic Development, quite rightly in my opinion, wishes to encourage the development of the forestry industry as quickly as possible following the transfer. But, Mr. Minister, I have always had the concern, and expressed that when we were dealing with legislation on forestry transfer, that we ought not to start a program of forestry at high speed without having at the same time a program of reforestation. So could I ask the Minister whether his department has that concern in mind and whether there are initiatives under way to make sure that one accompanies the other?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0125-87(1): Plans For Reforestation Program

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have on a number of occasions in this House stated to Members the philosophy in management of renewable resources which I have and which the government shares, that philosophy being that harvesting must be within sustainable yields. This goes to setting quotas for harvesting of any renewable resource which we now manage and I want to assure the honourable Member that this will be applied as firmly to forestry, when we take over the forestry responsibility. The management of forests will be integrated with the overall renewable resource management policy. The document should be ready for public discussion by May of this year. I want to assure the Member that I consider reforestation to be the single most important management tool that we could apply to the policy of sustainable yield harvesting in the forestry sector. Thank you.

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

Question 0126-87(1): Possibility Of Government-Built Hotel, Pangnirtung

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development. I would like to make a comment first before I ask a question. The Pangnirtung hotel has been inadequate for a long time. The hotel is owned by the private sector. I was wondering if the government can build a hotel themselves in Pangnirtung. The people wanted to know. The private hotel is inadequate. Does Economic Development have any plans to build a hotel in the community?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0126-87(1): Possibility Of Government-Built Hotel, Pangnirtung

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What you say is true and that hotel has been quite a concern to the residents of Pangnirtung. A year or so ago we tried to make plans for replacing the hotel. The person who owns the hotel did not agree to our building a hotel. So we did not start it. I was wondering if there are some people in Pangnirtung who want to build a hotel privately. We would be able to assist the private sector in Pangnirtung to start their own business. There is a new owner, along with shareholders, residents of Pangnirtung. The hotel owner and those investors and shareholders have started their own hotel business and bought out the hotel. So we will not be building a new hotel in that community.

MR. SPEAKER: Do Members find the volume low on that...

MR. RICHARD: Pardon?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: I was not directing this question toward the deaf -- but impaired of hearing. Is the volume down or do I have a bad recorder? That is what I am trying to find out. I can hardly hear the person. I wonder if the interpreters booth then can boost up the volume on channel one. We are just barely receiving. Mr. Appaqaq.

Question 0127-87(1): Fence Around Lake Beside School, Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Education. Three years ago we had a concern about the lake by the school. The lake is right beside the school. In eight years there have been two students who have drowned in that lake. We would like to build a fence. We have been requesting that a fence be built around the lake for two years. Also, last fall when the school was opened, I was asked by the people again to request that a fence be built. They wanted to have a stable fence so that the kids will not be going to the lake. I think the Minister is aware of this. I would like to ask the Minister if he has any plans for the fence around the lake in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0127-87(1): Fence Around Lake Beside School, Sanikiluaq

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have had a chance recently to visit Sanikiluaq and to take a first-hand look myself at the new school and the lake in question. Mr. Speaker, I observed that the present fence, constructed by the hamlet around the lake, is inadequate. It has openings in order to permit people to get ice in the winter. It seems to me that if there are to be openings in any fence that the fence would not serve the purpose that would be intended, namely to keep children from being able to have access to the water. However, Mr. Speaker, I was impressed that near the entrance to the school there is a large bluff, a tall bluff, from which children might fall and which adjoins on deep water. I have asked my department, therefore, to look at fencing that particular area near the school entrance and near the school playground. I have determined, however, that fencing large parts of the east and south shore of the lake would be too costly, firstly, and secondly, difficult to do because of the poor ground and thirdly, would have openings or would require to be opened by the community for ice access, in any event.

So, Mr. Speaker, to answer the Member's question, I have suggested that there be fencing in the immediate area of the entrance to cover that large bluff area, which I feel is a hazard, that children might fall off but I remain to be persuaded that we can either technically or otherwise

justify fencing the whole area. Sanikiluaq is an island. It is surrounded by water and I think we have to work with parents and children to ensure that they are aware of the dangers associated with the lake, particularly at freeze-up and then during break-up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Appaqaq, supplementary, or a new question?

Supplementary To Question 0127-87(1): Fence Around Lake Beside School, Sanikiluaq

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want the Minister to be aware of the fact that I was told by the hamlet council if the government has any plans to build the fence, would they be able to allocate some funding to Sanikiluaq? It is not a question, it is more of an information item to the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not really information item time, so, Mr. Minister, do you care to answer the question?

Further Return To Question 0127-87(1): Fence Around Lake Beside School, Sanikiluaq

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, yes, Mr. Speaker, to make it clear to the Member, I have asked my department to identify funds to carry out more limited fencing than the hamlet and the Member had suggested and the funds will come from the capital budget of the Department of Education. The hamlet will not be expected to bear that burden although we would welcome a contribution from them if they wish. Thank you.

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

Question 0128-87(1): Assistance With Utility Costs For Non-Government Employees

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. We know the government employees who have bought their own homes are given a housing allowance for them to pay for the utilities. The self-employed people or the employees of the co-op are not aware that they can be assisted by the Housing Corporation because they have been given different types of information. There are some communities that can be assisted and there are some communities that do not get any assistance. Maybe you could perhaps give me adequate information for non-government employees, whether they can be assisted with the utilities or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I will provide that information to the Member.

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

Question 0129-87(1): Additional Funding For HAP Houses, Baffin

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. My question concerns the document that he tabled. Those people who are building their own homes in Baffin Region have not completed their homes and have run out of funding, although they are using their own money in Pangnirtung and Clyde River. My question is, if they were to apply for the additional funding to complete their houses, would this apply to 1987-88? Can they apply for the funding now? I am also asking whether those people who are building their own homes, who have been funded from the fiscal year 1985-86, are eligible for this also? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0129-87(1): Additional Funding For HAP Houses, Baffin

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new fund that the Housing Corporation is going to provide in 1987-88 is the first time the Housing Corporation has ever provided HAP labour funding. In the past, the Housing Corporation has never provided funding. It has been up to

individuals or the communities to seek their own sources of funding and the intention is, because this is the first year of the program, that the money, this \$850,000, will go for people who are building in the 1987-88 year. As for possible assistance for people who have had problems in the past, I cannot answer you right now. We will look into it, but it becomes very difficult because everybody in the Territories had the same sort of opportunities. We are prepared to look at it but I cannot give any kind of commitment at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 0130-87(1): Training Opportunities For North Warning System

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. Yesterday the federal Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Perrin Beatty, met with the Executive. One of the items I referred to back a couple of weeks ago was this whole aspect of training for the north warning system. I wonder if the Minister could inform the House whether that was a topic on the agenda of the meeting with the Minister yesterday. Has there been any commitment from the federal Minister to the Minister of Education or to the GNWT Executive Council regarding training opportunities for northern youth and northern citizens in the construction or whole operation of this north warning system?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0130-87(1): Training Opportunities For North Warning System

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member not only for notice of this question but also for his support over the past several years for having north warning system training located in the North. I can tell the House that the subject was indeed upfront on the agenda of the Executive Council with the Minister of National Defence, and I was very encouraged by the National Defence Minister's response. His response basically was, that provided it would not cost a great deal more, he was entirely in support of offering north warning system training in the North.

Mr. Speaker, I informed him that we had begun discussions, both with the consortium that is installing the equipment and doing the training, and with the Ministry of Employment and Immigration Canada about arrangements to cover the capital costs of equipment. The Minister agreed that if those capital costs could be absorbed by the company and by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and the facilities provided by our government at the Thebacha Campus of the Arctic College, that the cost problem might well be overcome.

The next step, Mr. Speaker, is a high level meeting of my officials, the deputy project manager for the north warning system, the company and perhaps CEIC, later on this month, at which, I understand, a decision will likely be made about moving ahead. I also agreed with the Minister that we would have to take some time to prepare for this training and that it might take up to a year to manufacture or clone the necessary high tech equipment to be installed at Thebacha Campus.

Subject to those negotiations, Mr. Speaker, which I am going to vigorously pursue, I am encouraged that we can proceed to locate this training in the North and we will also work to piggyback the necessary equipment on that north warning system equipment, so we can also provide telephone servicing and maintenance training for the first time in the North. So it looks promising and I will continue to keep the House informed, perhaps after we resume after our adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Do we have any written questions for today? Mr. T'Seleie.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W28-87(1): Renewable Resources Project Funding

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. In the department's 1987-88 capital/main estimates there is a sum of three million dollars identified for renewable resource projects. I have the following questions:

1) Are there any projects that the government is already considering or funding? If so, can the government provide a list of such projects?

- 2) What types of specific projects will be eligible for funding?
- 3) Is there an Executive policy or directive to cover this funding?
- 4) Has information been sent to communities to let them know what this funding is for and how they can apply for it?
- 5) When does the government expect to begin allocating these funds?
- 6) Who will be responsible for allocating these funds?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. Written questions. That appears to conclude written questions for today.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to the Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 46-87(1): A Model for Mental Health Services in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 47-87(1): A letter from the mayor of Sanikiluaq, addressed to Hon. Dennis Patterson, concerning the fencing around the lake at the school.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 48-87(1): A note that I received yesterday from the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

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

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 20-87(1): Removal Of Minister Of Economic Development And Tourism

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 16th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Assembly recommend to the Commissioner that the Hon. Tagak Curley be removed as a Member of the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories forthwith. And, Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions: Motion 13-87(1), Approval of Tabled Document 1-87(1). Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 13-87(1): Approval Of Tabled Document 1-87(1)

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. MacQuarrie, that this Assembly approve Tabled Document 1-87(1), entitled "Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the Northwest Territories between the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum." Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. The attire was not.

---Laughter

You may proceed with your motion.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make it very brief. The areas we represent are waiting to hear the progress on this. We will have to approve the boundary agreement that was signed so that we can deal with it in the future. The boundary issue is not satisfactory to some of the communities, but the agreement has already been signed. It is obvious that in the future if this boundary issue is not resolved, there will be further problems arising from this. It is certain many communities have supported a great deal of this boundary. I am happy that I have a document from the Keewatin Inuit Association and they have made a resolution on March 4, 1987 in support of the boundary division. The agreement that was signed is a very important issue for our area and it was not just an agreement -- it was agreed for the residents of the North. After it has been approved by this House, then there will be another opportunity for the people to decide whether they should go for it or not. We have already had discussions on this. That is all for now, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. MacQuarrie, as seconder.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to second the motion that is before the House. That motion, of course, is asking this House to approve an agreement that has been the culmination of a series of events over the past several years. Those events perhaps began with the travel and inquiry of the special committee on unity, which indirectly resulted in a plebiscite in 1982 in which the majority of voters expressed their will that the Northwest Territories should be divided. Following that, of course, the Assembly in Inuvik in May, 1982, agreed to support division in principle and at the same time associated itself with the Constitutional Alliance of the Northwest Territories and the two forums that make up that alliance.

It has been clear in the ensuing years, Mr. Speaker, that the main job of the two forums vis-a-vis one another was to negotiate a boundary that would serve as a boundary line to divide the Northwest Territories. The main job of the two forums individually and internally was to work on constitutional development for the governments that would be established in the two new territories if the Northwest Territories were to be divided. As I said, Mr. Speaker, the agreement that is before the Members in this House and the subject of this motion reflects the work that has been done over those years.

Assembly Approval Not The Definitive Statement

In seeking approval today, Mr. Speaker, we who have moved the motion are asking this House to play its role as one of the parties to the Constitutional Alliance of the Northwest Territories inasmuch as each party is required to approve the agreement before any of the other steps are proceeded with. The idea being, of course, that if any party, that is the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, the Dene Nation, the Metis Association of the NWT or the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories were to not approve the agreement, then of course the agreement would not stand.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that if the Assembly expresses approval in a majority vote today that this is not, and it is not intended to be, the definitive statement on the matter inasmuch as it is clear that it is necessary to wait for a limited period of time to determine whether the leaderships of the other parties to the agreement will endorse the agreement. It is not a definitive statement, Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the agreement calls for a reference to the people of the Northwest Territories in a plebiscite. And, of course, only after the results of that plebiscite are known, would the Legislative Assembly reconvene and make a definitive statement on the matter in its capacity then, not merely as a party to the alliance, but as the elected Assembly of all of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of substance connected with this agreement have already been discussed and debated in this House and I do not intend to repeat any of those arguments. I ask Members to support this motion, Mr. Speaker, and I will close my remarks by asking that when the vote is taken, that it be a recorded vote.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to support this motion. If we support this motion, the people would be able to vote on the plebiscite. If it is not approved, we would have to come back and start all over again from the time in 1982 when they started. I think we would have to go through the whole procedure again. For this reason, I think it would be a lot easier to vote on this and support this motion.

Compromise To Reach Boundary Decision

I know when you see the boundary line, some people at first start thinking that it is too close to our communities and we start asking questions why it goes up to the North Pole. We have concerns for our families but I think we have to decide, even though I think we all want to get a bigger area. For instance, Nunavut would like to get a bigger area from the division. ITC had proposed at the beginning that they wanted a tree line boundary and we have been supporting this boundary, but I think we also have to ask ourselves why the signatories had decided to go with another plan. I think they have thought about this very carefully and I think they have thought whether this would be approved by their people. Also, Steve Kakfwi probably asked himself, too, whether he is doing the right thing when he made an agreement to the boundary. I think we all know that they had to agree on something -- they had to compromise to each other and try to agree on something, so that is why the boundary was put where it is.

That is why we, the people, from Nunavut, are against each other now. Some want to support it and some of us do not want to support it. Also, the Western Arctic people have those concerns too. Are they going to go for it and others will not go for it? For that reason I think our spots are finally appearing; our individual personalities are coming out.

I would like to state too, that some people seem to be afraid that Nunavut might come into reality. The Ministers say, for instance, if Nunavut comes into reality, they are going to be able to speak their own language but some of the Ministers are afraid that they might not be Ministers any longer. I do not think they should be worried about this because the people that we represent have wanted this for a long time and the agreement that they have wanted for so long is what we are going to be dealing with right now. I know that for myself I would like to say that the people in the NWT should be able to decide for themselves.

Both Points Of View Should Be Presented

I represent three communities, Pond Inlet, Hall Beach and Igloolik. If I say this I would be sure to say that they really want division and they want that boundary. Even so, I would say that I could support this, that some people come over to my communities and talk to my people about it. I feel that the people that do not agree with the boundary should be informed as to why they should agree on it so they could understand clearly why they should vote, "Yes", or they should vote, "No" -- give them all the reasons. I am saying this because some of the communities do not know what is going on any more. They have many reasons why they do not understand this clearly and I feel that some of the people do not understand because they have been told by their MLAs to say, "Do not say yes to the boundary agreement." I feel that this is not part of my job as an MLA, representing the people, to tell them to say yes or no. I have been elected by the people that I represent to bring out the thoughts of the people that I represent. For that reason, I feel, before the plebiscite takes place, the people -- Inuit, Dene and non-native -- in the East and West should be told why they should vote "Yes" and why they should vote "No". I think they should all be informed because a lot of people are confused about this. As I said, in my constituency they are not confused; the communities that I represent have already agreed to the boundary because I talked to them periodically by phone. Even then, I would invite anyone to my constituency to tell them to say "No". People have the right to hear from both sides. I am happy that I am going to be supporting this motion. Thank you.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak in support of this motion. Some people, as I stated before, maybe are not feeling that I am supporting the motion and especially the mayors in my constituency. I work with the mayors in my constituency and those others who are leaders in the communities but I would like to put my vote to support this motion in the hope that the people in my constituency would have more benefit, other than just those few leaders. We could respect the leaders when they try to say, "I do not support this, I support that," but there are times when they seem to make a mistake and this is one time where it will be the majority of the people that will decide when there seems to be some mistake that is going on. This boundary and constitutional agreement has been coming for a long time and I do not think it is going to die. If it is not going to die, it is about time now that MLAs should support it. I truly will support it; I support the motion in the hope that it will be the people that will decide and I would like to be on the people's side when a long dream is to come true.

Small Numbers Can Be Represented Faithfully

We could say that if we divide, if we have less people, we can be weak but let us look at ourselves as MLAs. How many people do we represent as MLAs and we work for the whole Northwest Territories? I believe the smallest amount of population that any one of the MLAs has is approximately less than 300 people. If that person is given a seat, he does his duty well and I believe it is the same thing, even if division goes through and the population is decreased. If those people do their work well, they can be recognized as Canadians. For those reasons, I will support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Mr. Richard.

Appreciation Of Work Of Constitutional Alliance

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to speak in favour of Mr. Pudluk's motion. I did not speak to the boundary agreement when it was in committee of the whole last month and I want to, for the record today, express my appreciation to all members of the Constitutional Alliance for their years of hard work which led to this agreement in January of this year. I want to thank the Members of this Assembly who have served as this Assembly's representatives on the Constitutional Alliance, particularly my colleague from Yellowknife, Mr. MacQuarrie and also Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Pudluk, and in earlier years, Mr. Dennis Patterson and Mr. Nick Sibbeston.

Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that this task has not been an easy one for our representatives on that alliance, and for the representatives of the native organizations. It has been very difficult for all of them, and it continues to be very difficult for them. I believe that those representatives were sincere in their efforts to come up with a fair and reasonable boundary to put to the people of the NWT on the second of what will probably be three or more plebiscites. I believe in their sincerity, the sincerity of these northern leaders and representatives who have produced this document for our approval. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of a great deal of the details of their deliberations during the past year or so and I believe that they did make every effort to accommodate the wishes of the Inuvialuit, both the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum.

There has been much debate already about the contents of this agreement. I see the document as saying simply this: "Given the results of the 1982 plebiscite, we, the representatives of the Assembly and the other groups, have considered at some length" -- and I might say at some expense to the Government of Canada -- "where the appropriate location of the boundary might be, in order to divide the NWT, as the majority of the voters called for in 1982." I see those representatives saying, after deliberation, after much frustration, after much negotiation, after much compromise, "We, your representatives believe that this boundary is an appropriate boundary for you to consider putting to the people for their opinion." And I hear our representatives in this document saying: "We also believe that this is the ratification process that we believe is appropriate." That is, getting the approval of the constituent groups, including this Assembly, and then put it to a plebiscite as a question to be answered by all of the voters in the NWT.

That is what I believe our representatives are saying in this document, and no more than that. It sounds entirely reasonable to me. I want to support our representatives who did all of that work, because I believe the agreement they have reached is reasonable and also because I believe that the process that they recommend is fair, reasonable and democratic. In casting my vote for this motion, I want to support our representatives who crafted the document. I believe it would be an affront to our representatives and to the native leaders, if we did not do so. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to say that I am going to be in support of the motion. I am going to be in support of the people of my constituency and support the motion. The people I represent are waiting to vote on the boundary in a plebiscite. This has been under discussion for quite some time here and I am willing to have a plebiscite now. We have a copy of Nunatsiag News; there is a cartoon and they are happy to see that. When I heard that they had made an agreement on the boundary, I was happy to see that. Coming from Baffin South and representing my people, I am going to be voting for the plebiscite and in support of the motion. I want to be clear as to what I am going to do.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: For the record, I would like to say that I do support Tabled Document 1-87(1) on the boundary and constitutional agreement. I would also like to congratulate the people who made this agreement possible. It took long hours of travel and negotiations. And further I want to say for the record that I am not a wimp.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Wray.

Support For Plebiscite But Not For Boundary

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I have to be the first one to break the happy family. I will not support the motion. I cannot support the motion, very simply because I cannot support the boundary that is contained within that agreement. I would find it hypocritical to stand up in this House and support an agreement and then one week or two weeks from now, go into my constituency and not support the boundary which was part of the agreement that I supported. However, I find myself in an extremely difficult position in this issue because I do support the fact that this issue must go to plebiscite. Nobody endowed 24 MLAs with all the brains in the world and nobody said we are right all the time. It could very well be that the majority of my constituents do support this agreement. I do not want to deny them the opportunity to have their say. Many of my constituents have told me that they do not support the boundary and they will vote "No" in a plebiscite, but they do want to vote in a plebiscite. They do not want me or anybody else making that decision for them.

I also, having read the agreement -- and I do read things that are tabled -- can see why people are confused, because we have representatives of this Legislature signing an agreement which denies the existence of this Legislature. If you read through the document on page seven of the agreement, you will see under principles of implementation, paragraph 2(a), the statement, "Nunavut as the first native majority jurisdiction within the Canadian federation". Well, that simply is just an erroneous statement. This Assembly is and was the first native majority jurisdiction in Canada. And how you can deny your own existence, I will never understand that.

Because I am placed in the position of not being able to support this agreement, but supporting the principle that a plebiscite must be held, because on a weighty matter such as this, ultimately, it is the people in the communities who must decide, I am forced, therefore, not through any action that I undertook, to abstain from voting on this motion. Because that is the only way that I can achieve my objectives and, with a clear conscience, say to my constituents, "No, I do not support this agreement, but, yes, I do support your right to vote on this agreement." I have no choice but to abstain on this motion. It is not a choice that I particularly relish. Most Members in this House know me, they know that I am not one given to not saying what I think and I do like to be able to vote, yes or no, and very rarely have I ever abstained on any matter that has come within this House. However, I have no choice this time. I must abstain, it is the only way in which I can do it.

Many Positive Statements In Agreement

It is rather sad that so much was thrown together in one agreement, because there are many statements within this agreement which are good statements, which are positive statements. The agreement is a result of extremely hard work by our representatives who were really given a no-win task. No matter what our representatives came up with, it was not going to satisfy people. I commend them for the work. They did as well as anybody else could have done. But I think that I have to say that, regardless of what happens in the plebiscite, whether it is a "Yes" vote or a "No" vote, many of the statements particularly relating to constitutional development should go

ahead anyway. Even if there was a "No" vote, many of the constitutional recommendations should go ahead even within this present jurisdiction. I do not think the Northwest Territories will be the same again after the plebiscite, because we must move ahead; the status quo is not good enough.

So, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I have to stand here today and tell you that I am going to abstain from this motion. I just hope that the reasons I have given you and this House clarify my position on this matter. Thank you.

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

Now Is The Time To Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise to support this motion. Mr. Speaker, in the debate on the agreement in this House earlier in this session, some Members said, "We have a lot of time. We have 10, we have 20, we have 50 years to achieve Nunavut." Mr. Speaker, if you believe as I do that this agreement on which we are voting today permits us to establish in the Northwest Territories aboriginal self-government, not ethnic states, but governments which will be designed to respect the traditions, the values and the reality of the history and culture of aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories, then I would respectfully suggest that we do not have a lot of time.

Mr. Speaker, the latest census figures are not out, but I believe there is a good possibility that the current census will show that non-native people in the Northwest Territories are now in a majority. Now, that is not necessarily a bad thing but, Mr. Speaker, if we believe that in the North we can forge new forms of government which will respect for all time the founding peoples of this land, then now is the time to act.

I am leaving tonight to represent this government at the First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights. Politicians from across the country have been working hard for the past three years hoping to entrench, to define aboriginal rights and to entrench the right of self-government for aboriginal people in the Constitution of Canada. It is going to be a very difficult process to achieve that amendment. The prospects are not terribly good. But, Mr. Speaker, whether the amendment passes on March 26th and 27th or not, we have the means through this agreement to take the steps within our own jurisdiction to establish new forms of government, with or without a constitutional amendment. As Mr. Kakfwil pointed out in the Assembly when he addressed us recently, this is a chance aboriginal people across Canada, across the circumpolar world, would love to have. Let us not throw it aside lightly.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure the people of the West, who may well be concerned about what this might cost, and will there be enough money, will services continue at the same level, will we be able to still go to school and have health services? This is not the time to worry unduly about these questions.

We are only today in this agreement taking the first step. We will take the time. We will have the time from here on to work out the design of the new government. The agreement aims at 1991, but it may well take much longer. We will take the necessary time to ensure that it is done properly, to ensure that there are adequate resources. That is the next step. Mr. Speaker, if we can agree that the boundary line is as fair as possible under the circumstances, although it will not please everyone, we can go forward into the 11th Assembly with the course set, the path clear, with our final direction in sight, leaving I hope behind us, the days of geopolitical conflict between East and West, and working together toward a common cause. I think if we can approve this agreement today and if the people of the Northwest Territories can approve this boundary line in May, this will augur very well for the future of the 10th Assembly.

Economic Potential As Yet Unknown

Mr. Speaker, there has been a great concern about the question of resources and resource revenue for the new territories. But let us be realistic. First of all in the Beaufort Sea we are talking about revenues we now do not have. They are owned by the federal government. Secondly, we are talking about unknowns. And I say that the Minister of Economic Development does not know what resource potential there is in the Eastern Arctic any better than I do. I find it very significant that since the agreement was introduced, there has been a major gold find announced in the Keewatin at Fat Lake, 125 kilometres southwest of Rankin Inlet, near Whale Cove. The find has yet to be

delineated but preliminary indications are very positive. Assays show a phenomenal 10 ounces of gold per ton. This compares with 0.3 ounces of gold per ton at Lupin Mine and even less at Yellowknife. The promoter of the mine, albeit a promoter, says he firmly believes the mine will form the economic basis of the Eastern Arctic.

The future for Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, is not necessarily gloom and doom and bleakness. The point I wish to make was made in that announcement. No one knows what the economic potential of the Eastern Arctic is. The surface of our fishery, our oil and gas potential, our mineral potential has yet to be scratched. I think it is also significant, Mr. Speaker, that since the agreement was signed, an application has been filed by an Eastern Arctic airline to provide an east/west service, which will link up in a much better way the Keewatin, Kitikmeot and Baffin Regions and at fare savings of up to 50 per cent. I think our future is bright, Mr. Speaker, and I am pleased to support this agreement for that reason.

I also think this division question has been good for the North, although it has brought conflict and sometimes uncertainty. I would like to quote the same author who called us a bunch of wimps in a recent issue of Native Press. In a more positive statement made in that article, "Every community and person has been forced to dream a little bit about what they want for the future of their children and what this monster called the Northwest Territories means to them." Mr. Speaker, we are taking a significant step today and I believe we are taking a positive step for our future and the future of our children. Thank you.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think anybody is expecting me to say anything but what I am going to say. I will not be able to support this motion. I have spoken extensively on why. The communities within my constituency do not agree with the boundary as proposed in this. I have been in daily contact with all communities in my constituency since this debate started and the instructions are very clear. The motion that we are considering is very short and very straight-forward and I will not stray from it but we are here to approve a document that is entitled "Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the Northwest Territories". I cannot approve this boundary for division of the Northwest Territories and I will not be supporting the motion, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking in support of the motion I, too, would like to congratulate members of the Constitutional Alliance, the co-chairmen and especially Mr. Kakfwi, with whom I have had more dealings over the last two or three years than with Mr. Amagoalik. I would like to thank Members of the Legislative Assembly who over a number of years have served very ably on the Constitutional Alliance. It has been very difficult. We have had heated debates in this House and I think it has been a very difficult time for those Members and they are to be congratulated on their perseverance and the fact that they did come up with what is probably the best agreement possible. They not only came up with that agreement once, they essentially came up with that agreement twice. I think for that they are to be congratulated. Again, I would like to thank the representative of the western non-native MLAs, Mr. MacQuarrie, who kept in very close touch with us, the non-native MLAs from the West, over the course of the discussions. We were aware every step of the way. We supported Mr. MacQuarrie every step of the way.

Wishes Of Constituents Expressed

In conversations and in public meetings that my colleagues and I, Mr. Richard and Mr. MacQuarrie, had in our constituencies in Yellowknife, there were certain very strong messages given to us. I think a certain mandate was given to us, expressed to us, by the city council, by the chamber of commerce, by individuals at innumerable meetings and the basic consensus was that if there was to be division, they asked us to stick to some very strong principles: one, that the tree line boundary would not be acceptable, the Beaufort would be in the West; that if there was a boundary chosen, it would go to plebiscite so that everybody in the Northwest Territories would have an opportunity to vote on that boundary; and thirdly, that if there was to be a new constitution after a division vote that that, too, would go to plebiscite so that everybody in the new western territory would have an opportunity to vote on a new constitution. Mr. MacQuarrie and the Western Constitutional Forum achieved our objectives.

There are still people and there will be people in the Western Arctic who will not be 100 per cent satisfied with the agreement. There are people -- it has been indicated here in the House -- in the Eastern Arctic who are not satisfied with the agreement. But no matter what the agreement was, that would be the case. I think, realistically, that if we look at this agreement, if there is to be division, this is as close to an acceptable boundary as we are going to get. I think people should recognize that if, for whatever reason, this agreement does not go forward in this House, that there is not a plebiscite or that if this boundary is turned down, the chances of finding another acceptable boundary, I would say, are almost nil. I think people should look at this as possibly the last chance in our generation to achieve division. I think that is the reality. Some people may not like it but I think that is a reality. I, for one, have been involved in this for too many years. I think it is time to bring this question to a head. It is time to take it to the people of the Northwest Territories. If they say, "Divide", let us divide and let us get at it, let us work it out the best way possible. If they say, "No", let us forget division for the next 10 years, then let us try to solve the hundreds of other problems we have as the Northwest Territories. I support this agreement right now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mahsi cho. (Translation) This person that is working very hard that the people who have been working on the papers. I cannot really support the motion now. I am not going to be talking very much about it. (Translation ends)

Boundary Line Cuts Off Traditional Hunting Area

In the document on page one it states in paragraph 1(b) the line that is put in the agreement, and the line is very near my constituency not to mention that they even cut part of it off and they expect me to sit here and approve that. I am not able to do that. The people that elected me have spoken to me, just about every one of them and also at the meeting of the South Slave regional council and unless that has changed I am going to have a hard time supporting this. I did give my reasons in the past, so I do not want to repeat myself over again but my people, my parents, my grandfather, have hunted in that area and I am not talking about just flying over that area for the sake of saying that they have been there. They have lived there and they hunt and trap in that area. With all due respect to the members of the two forums for their hard work, I am not going to be able to support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to support the agreement on the boundary for division. It is my view that the division issue and the present debate has been widely misunderstood. I believe that it has been made to appear that only the Legislative Assembly can approve or reject the agreement. The fact is, according to the agreement, the native organizations have equal say in the approval or rejection of this agreement. It is my understanding that whether or not we approve it today, the native organizations can still reject the agreement, in which case there is not going to be a plebiscite. I want to point that out too because I read the article in the Native Press which accused us of being wimps, and I would like to state that I am really not a wimp. In fact in describing myself, that is the last thing I would call myself.

Constitutional Development Provisions Of Agreement

Mr. Speaker, a large part of my agreement with this boundary agreement has to do with the provisions that the agreement provides for the constitutional development of the NWT. I believe that the guts of the agreement have to do with the provisions in the agreement in terms of setting up of regional governments. I believe that regardless of whether or not the plebiscite is a "No" vote, the issue of regional government is a reality that any future government is going to deal with. I believe that I pointed that out in one of the earlier discussions on the boundary agreement, that the North is such a vast area with many different groups of people and many different regions that want to achieve greater measures of control of their affairs. So I am happy to support the motion.

I also want to say that a part of the difficulty in supporting the agreement is the difficulty with the process. I think that many people would feel more comfortable in supporting an agreement that was more specific, an agreement that outlined the kinds of governments that the different regions in different parts of the North could expect. So I am happy to support the motion. I think I am

anxious to get on with the work of a constitution for a western territory. I think as leaders in the North, we need to start focusing more of our attention to that area and once we have a "Yes" vote on the plebiscite, I think we can all start to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. T'Seleie. To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to rise again and indicate to the mover and seconder of the motion that I am in support of the motion. I think it is only right that we do approve the work of the representatives that we placed on the Constitutional Alliance. They were given a task; the task by and large is complete. They have reached agreement with their colleagues on the NCF -- that is, the WCF people have. They have agreed to issues that are required to implement division, to establish two distinct political jurisdictions. I believe that the work will continue as they work toward the development of constitutions for both the East and the West. I know that we are only one of the areas that must ratify this particular process, but I would want to do so and show that I do agree and approve of the agreement as being a Member of one of the groups that must go through the ratification.

I do not want to go on too long. I simply want to say, Mr. Speaker, that because the word "wimp" has arisen, perhaps it is better defined, not as MLAs who want to do something, but it could better be defined as a newspaper writer who writes under an assumed name.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

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

Agreement Allows Negotiating Processes To Continue

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to rise to indicate that I will be supporting the motion as proposed by the mover and seconder. Secondly, I think that it is important to note that the agreement allows processes to run their course, such as enabling the aboriginal people to negotiate a conclusion to a boundary and to address those concerns that are still outstanding between the two native organizations that are involved. I think in that case I would have to trust the integrity of those people that are involved in those native organizations and the ability of those people to recognize the interest and to protect the interest of all the aboriginal people in ways of either making amendments or coming to agreements that will protect the rights of the aboriginal people of the Territories in those areas that overlap in the boundary areas. So in that sense I am going to support the elements that are in the agreement and the motion that is being proposed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. To the motion. Mr. Wah-Shee.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, in regard to this particular motion, before I indicate exactly how I feel about it, I would like to commend my associates who sit on that particular committee, Mr. MacQuarrie and Mr. Pudluk, also from the native organizations, Steve Kakfwi, representing the Dene, Larry Tourangeau from the Metis Association and John Amagoalik for the Inuit, ITC, and also the leaders of TFN. I think we have spent a great deal of time talking about division, not only in the last four years but I dare say that this particular issue has been debated on and off, I believe, for the last 15 years. So, I would like to commend the Members who participated in the Constitutional Alliance. Some say that we have come up with the best possible position in regard to reaching an agreement, either to put this issue on hold for the next 10 to 20 years or the other alternative is to have it supported and ratified.

I do support the notion that we cannot have this political cloud continuing to prevail over the constitutional efforts of the Northwest Territories. I, as a Member of the Constitutional Alliance who participated in this agreement, am very proud of the contents of that agreement. There has been a great deal of money spent on it. I believe we spent a lot of time not only in meetings but meeting with various regions and so on. The agreement itself, I think, is one that I believe has a lot of good ideas in it.

Concerns Of Dogrib Tribal Council

Now, as far as the boundary is concerned, I personally have a problem with the location of the boundary. At a recent Dogrib Tribal Council meeting in Rae Lakes, we had an opportunity to discuss the contents of the agreement, also to take a look at the boundary as outlined. The outcome of the Dogrib Tribal Council meeting specifically indicated that they had some deep reservations and some problems with the boundary as outlined and, as their representative from this Legislature, I have the duty to represent the concerns that the leaders of my region have indicated. I, in turn, have conveyed those concerns to the powers that be in TFN and ITC, that the only way that the Dogrib Tribal Council and the members of the council will support the upcoming plebiscite is that the political boundary has to be flexible; not only the political boundary but also the claims associated with the Dene and Metis.

As of now, I have received information of the meetings that are taking place right now between TFN, the Metis and the Dene representatives, particularly the regional negotiators that represent not only the Dogrib region but also the Chipewyan region. The reaction to the concerns that we have conveyed to TFN -- they have not been received with any type of flexibility on their part. The information conveyed to our negotiators at this date is that TFN is not prepared to even consider discussing flexibility in regard to the political boundary, nor the Dene/Metis interests in the overlap.

Now, it seems to me that if we are going to have a majority support on a plebiscite, that the concerns of the Dene and the Metis have to be addressed. This particular agreement specifically indicates that if there is no agreement, then this particular agreement that we are discussing will go down the tube. I personally feel that I would prefer to see some flexibility on the part of both parties, particularly on the part of TFN and if they are not prepared to be flexible, then I say that we on the other side of the territory will not be as accommodating and how this issue will be dealt with, will be dealt with on the day of the plebiscite. But between now and then I would convey, very strongly, to the leaders of TFN that I would like to see them sit down and deal with the issue at hand. It is not an issue that they can avoid. It is not an issue that they can just term as a land grab on the part of the Dene and Metis because we, in turn, can term the leadership of TFN in the same light.

Role Of MLAs

As for the role of the MLAs in this Assembly in representing the interests of our constituents, it is not so much that as individuals we can just go ahead and say whatever we want. If our constituents who have elected us say one thing, it is impossible for us to say something else. I think we are elected and we have to be accountable. We are not accountable to this Legislature; we are accountable to our region that has elected us. If it means that, as elected representatives, we disagree with the majority of the Members of this House, then the majority has to appreciate the circumstances upon which an individual casts support, pro or con, positive or negative, particularly in dealing with this particular issue.

I do support having a plebiscite. I do support having all the residents of the Northwest Territories indicate whether they support division or not, whether they support the boundary as outlined. I do not think any of us in this House disagree with that. I think we all support the fact that it is not an issue that will not be concluded -- all 24 of us. I think it is an issue that should have a broad base of support and it should be an issue that should be decided by all the population of the Northwest Territories.

Economic Implications Of Division

In regard to the implications of the division, I think some Members of this House indicated that we should not be overly concerned about the implications of division. However, that is not an issue that you can just give blind support to, without giving any type of assurance as to how one is going to first of all be self-sufficient economically and what type of support or ongoing support we can rely on the federal government for. I think at this point in time, while we are one territory, the federal government pays the major portion of our budget. We, as residents of the Northwest Territories, contribute a very small portion to our overall budget of \$800 million and I dare say that with a heavy federal deficit in the billions, I am not sure that Canadians across Canada will be prepared to support another territory that will be even more expensive, beyond \$800 million.

So, in looking at division in strictly financial terms, you are talking about the pockets of taxpayers right across Canada and it is not something that I think the taxpayers in Canada are prepared to do on behalf of only 51,000 people. There are 23 million other people that are contributing to the coffers of their own provincial jurisdiction, plus they are contributing to the federal coffers. And we, as 51,000 people, cannot even contribute totally to our own administration here. I think we are dealing with this particular issue at the good will, if you like, on the part of all the taxpayers in Canada.

In terms of the territory, it is fundamental, I think to any jurisdiction, particularly new jurisdictions that are being created, that they should be self-sufficient. A jurisdiction that cannot pay its way, which will continue to be the ward of the federal government, I think will be very difficult to sell. The Maritime Provinces were created long before Saskatchewan, Alberta and the present Northwest Territories were carved out. I might also add that we did not participate in the creation of this country called Dominion of Canada. We did not participate as the founding fathers of Canada. I think the other provinces in Eastern Canada had a head start on us. But keeping in mind that we are not a province, we are a territory, I think that we will remain a territory for some time to come, until we can convey to and convince the federal government and the other provinces that, yes, we are ready to take responsibility for our administration costs, the cost of governing ourselves. And I think it is a very key element and it is one that cannot just be brushed aside in the interests of aboriginal people.

Executive Council Has Done A Superb Job

I think we as a territory are unique. We have come a long way. And I may add that some of the Members of the Executive who were so strongly in support of the division, now have second thoughts about it. I do not think the second thoughts are in terms of their lack of support for division but it is just a matter of timing and also the location of the boundary. I do believe that we have come a long way and I think the very strongest supporters of division from the other side of the table have really turned the table upon themselves. Because they said this government is isolated, it does not meet the concerns of the far-flung communities, what has happened is that once they got on the Executive they did one hell of a superb job. So their constituents are now having second thoughts because the quality of services has gone up. There is better communication and so forth.

---Applause

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: You should have said that yesterday.

---Laughter

MR. WAH-SHEE: I think compliments are due where they are earned. In any case, Mr. Speaker, I will not vote against this motion mainly because I participated with my honourable colleague from Yellowknife and the leaders of the native organizations. However, I will abstain because of the fact that I do believe that the contents of the agreement are good, but I think the boundary which I had hoped would be flexible -- it is my understanding that it was going to be flexible, that there were going to be ongoing discussions and it will be negotiated between the Dene/Metis and TFN and I still hope that it will. However, if they do not and they do not come to an agreement to the satisfaction of the Dene and Metis, then you may find that on the plebiscite they will not be so excited to support this particular agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few things to bring up. I think people know my ideas on this motion. I think we have to think of other things besides the boundary. If we are going to just think about the boundary, we would not be thinking of a lot of people in the Northwest Territories. I know that this has to be put to a plebiscite because in that way the Legislative Assembly can go on after there has been a plebiscite held -- if there was to be a majority voting "Yes" in the plebiscite. The reason I wanted to talk about this is that in the news not too long ago -- in 1985 the people met in Coppermine and we all agreed that the boundary of 1984 was rejected because we wanted to get a little bit more power to the people of the NWT. Not for power but we wanted to be able to be with the other Inuit. If we were all to be in one territory it would be a lot better because we would be more. I know it is not like this right now and we can recognize that and they are in a hurry to do it. We cannot wait for this.

Many Different Viewpoints To Be Considered

A lot of people today in the NWT feel that there are different views on this issue. When there are different views on issues I feel happy about it because I learn a lot more of what is going on in the world or in the NWT. There are a lot of things now in the Northwest Territories that are being done by the residents of the Northwest Territories and by the NWT government. Up to today, there are all kinds of opinions that are coming out in the Northwest Territories and they are not strange to the residents of the Northwest Territories. All the elected bodies are starting to be recognized for voicing their opinions from their communities. All those things we have done in the past, if we were to throw them out, I think we all should feel that today in this House -- what are we doing in this House? Just like my colleague said, "Who wants to be able to go to Yellowknife and who wants to go and meet in the Legislative Assembly and who would be a Member?" It is up to you. If you do not want to, you can stay at home. He is not here because I want him to be here -- he wants to be here so that is why he is here.

If the NWT is going to divide with that boundary that is drawn, if it is going to go ahead and if the majority votes for it to go ahead, some of the things that are written here in this agreement have to be rectified. I know to a lot of people in the Baffin Region, this is a rush, but in my constituency and region a lot of people will be in support of this. But there are still a lot of people who do not have the same idea. They want to do it in such a rush. What are we going to be doing in the future?

We all know that in Yellowknife there are a lot of people who think the Territories should be divided. There are all kinds of people who have different views about division. When we met in 1982 there were a lot of Yellowknife people who did not want the Territories divided. I wonder who is taking care of those people now? We are concerned. It is not just a choice of two things, whether the Territories should or should not be divided, there is also the rest of the people who have a different idea on that.

For that reason I wanted to say that if the Territories is going to divide, and I said this in the Legislative Assembly before, I cannot support Iqaluit as the headquarters. I have stated this in this House before. Keewatin is right in the middle and that is why I did not support Iqaluit to be the capital. I said this to John Amagoalik. I think Kitikmeot and Kivallivik would have the same thought. But we did not put it in this agreement because we, the leaders will have to try to decide in a reasonable manner where the headquarters will be. Not just because I want the capital in Rankin Inlet. We are going to have to decide a reasonable location for the best of all the people in the territories, the divided territories.

Support For Plebiscite But Not For Motion

I am not saying that only if this agreement is changed am I going to support it. I am not saying that. The reason that I have is that there are a lot of people who have changed their minds. I have not changed my mind. I would have been a lot happier if it was possible to divide not just by a majority because there are a lot of different thoughts in this House now about non-native people who are for it and who are not for it. I feel that this should be talked about it. For that reason I am not going to try to stop it, we cannot go back on the agreement because it has already been signed. I am not going to support that motion, but I am going to be in support of the plebiscite so that the people of the Territories can vote on the plebiscite. I am not going to try to stop it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. The honourable Member for Inuvik, for your information, we are on Item 14, Motion 13-87(1), Approval of Tabled Document 1-87(1). I believe almost everybody has spoken, so you are just about at the end of the line. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak briefly in favour of the motion. When this Legislative Assembly joined the Constitutional Alliance to undertake this task, some people then and some people now, say that we gave up some of our authority. I do not really agree with that and I think if we did, we did it knowingly, because we knew that this was a difficult task, that no matter what you tried to do, when you started drawing a political boundary on a map, you ended up involving yourself in constitutional development, aboriginal rights and land claims negotiations. So we knew it was not something that the Legislative Assembly could deal with in a reasonable fashion in its own committees. We also knew that it could not be dealt with by the Executive Council, because the Members were divided on the issue there.

Support For Process Initiated By Legislative Assembly

So I think it was with some intelligence that the Ninth Assembly agreed to participate in this process with the other organizations. It was a difficult task. Everyone who has spoken so far has pretty well said that no matter where you draw a line for a boundary for the plebiscite, some people are not going to be happy. I would like to add to what my colleagues have said, that in undertaking this task the MLAs who are presently involved, and those formerly involved, plus the aboriginal organizations and their present and former executives, have done a lot of work and at times difficult work that they got a lot of criticism for. They had to do this, and especially myself, and I believe the other MLAs representing the city of Yellowknife and the four towns in the Western Arctic -- our consultation was continuous with Mr. MacQuarrie on all of these issues -- we appreciate the efforts he made on our behalf and the continuous updating he did in this period, for us.

So, Mr. Speaker, very briefly I would just like to say that I want to support the motion. I want this to go to a plebiscite and despite what some Members say about the process or where the boundary is -- it was a difficult process, that is why we removed it from this Assembly in the first place -- and some Members are complaining that the motion and the document are tied intricately together and intertwined with a bunch of things, but that is understandable because that is the very reason why we had to go outside this Assembly in order to accomplish this task. So now it is back here again. It is contingent, not just on our approval, but other organizations' approval and subsequently the approval of all the people of the NWT. So I support the process we initiated, I congratulate the participants for coming back to us with something which some Members cannot support and which some Members fervently support, and I will support this, in order that this gets to the people of the NWT so that they can give their verdict on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not spoken on the motion yet. I am going to be in support of the motion. The agreement that was signed in Iqaluit, I did not like it because it did not go with that original 1982 boundary line. It was not the same as the 1982 proposed boundary. We wanted to get division on the tree line. I was not really in support of this but I felt that this had to go back to the people of the communities. So I am in support of a plebiscite. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I approve Tabled Document 1-87(1), Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the NWT between the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. And I recommend that the proposed boundary question go to plebiscite at the earliest appropriate time. While I personally, and many of my constituents may have grave concerns related to the fiscal and political implications of sundering a political entity of a mere 51,000 souls, it is the course we are embarked upon today and which we must pursue. If the proposed boundary receives substantial support from the people of the Northwest Territories, the challenge for the next Assembly has been cast. If the proposed boundary does not receive substantial support, the people of the North and the Members of the next Assembly must find the will, the confidence and the understanding to manage our existing territory with wisdom, humanity and efficiency. I wish our successors all such attributes no matter how the die is cast today. Thank you, sir.

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

People Forgotten In The Negotiations.

MS COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although on this motion, on matters of the content of the Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the Northwest Territories between the Western Constitutional Forum and Nunavut Constitutional Forum which comes before us, although I feel the question should go to the people, on behalf of the Beaufort Sea communities, the Inuvialuit and for the well-being of all Inuit in the Northwest Territories, I cannot support this agreement.

The agreement falls far short of what was envisaged to build Nunavut. The disregard that was shown to the original concept and the negotiating of this agreement is unacceptable to me, who was a representative on the Nunavut Constitutional Forum. This agreement -- the same as in 1985 -- did not meet the acceptance of the people who elected me to come and work for them within the Government of the Northwest Territories. I have always supported Nunavut and I always will but I will not support half a Nunavut. It appears that while the negotiations proceeded and the discussions took place on how an agreement could be made between two disciples of this wonderful Northwest Territories, one thing was forgotten, and what was forgotten were the people.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that I have gone on record many times in my feelings toward the 1985 agreement, and people I represent also have gone on record about this agreement and as well various missives have been sent down stating the disapproval of the people that make up the Beaufort Sea region. Mr. Speaker, when we decided to build Nunavut, it was an idea, an objective to build an identity for Inuit all across the North. The Inuvialuit cannot survive in a western territory that has not made provisions realizing how and to what extent their minority would be respected in a western forum. I realize that the people who were involved in the negotiating of this agreement perhaps got tired and decided that something had to be given up but, Mr. Speaker, surely if an objective was set and a pace to do something was in place, surely people could not get that tired.

Inuvialuit Bargained Away For Expediency

The Inuvialuit were bargained away for the sake of expediency. I realize that people were under a great deal of pressure in terms of funding requirements to continue the process and I realize that people did do their best but, Mr. Speaker, their best is just not good enough because right now we are not talking about a Nunavut, we are not talking about the protection of people's rights, we are talking about dividing the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, with this agreement, I wish that I could say that I had some semblance of hope that one person at home would say, "Nellie, support the agreement for the sake of putting it to the people, so the people, once and for all, can come and say what they think of it." But, Mr. Speaker, when we set out to do something, I do not believe that we should put something forth to the people that we know is going to fail. This agreement will fail when the people go to the voting polls and put their "X". It will fail.

We have asked for people's patience in the negotiation of this document that the Legislative Assembly is being asked to endorse. Surely, we could have had something on the table that could have succeeded. It might have taken longer or perhaps a solution to this issue could have been a suggestion that at this point in time that the maturity to deal with issues and people's rights was not up to dealing at this level and in this process. Perhaps what should have come back was a recommendation, "Yes, build Nunavut, build Denendeh, but build it in one territory," because the process that we have chosen to go on is not going to allow us to do that.

The Inuit in the Beaufort, in order to build many of the things that are important to them, realize their close ties to the Central Arctic, Keewatin and Baffin. These ties are very strong in terms of commonality of interest and in a strength to recognize Inuit as a whole. It is also very important to know that the area we live in has not the most hospitable climate, that it demands a great deal of zealotness for people to go and live there. It is very difficult to get people to understand some of the priorities that have to be set in the Arctic communities. The Mackenzie Valley holds many of the luxuries that the South has in terms of environment, in terms of warmth, in terms of living conditions that appear to be more appealing to many people who would live up here.

Mr. Speaker, alone, without the Inuit of the other parts of the Arctic to be with us, we do not have the numbers of people to challenge the future in a climate where we will have more difficulty in being understood. I do not know and I cannot explain to the people who elected me, what went wrong. I believe we dedicated a great deal of time and effort on our part, perhaps more than most other areas, because we were in a particular area that was bargained back and forth for a long time. Perhaps it was an area that both forums felt was necessary for some reason to be within Nunavut and then within the Western Constitutional Forum. It was important, but what has to be understood is that there are people up there too and that this is not the time to be bargaining off a group of people for the sake of expediency. I hope that when people are going out that the "Yes" vote delegation will not try to blackmail people, saying that the Inuvialuit opted out of Nunavut when they settled their land claims. I understand that is some of the rationale why the Nunavut Constitutional Forum representatives feel that it is all right to bargain off this part of the

world. When that claim was settled, it was to keep people together because other groups wanted to take more time to settle their claim and we did not feel, as a group of people in the particular circumstances that we were in, we should push people into a predicament that they were not ready to take hold of.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the content of this agreement because it does not fulfil the objective of what Nunavut was set to build. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. To the motion. Mr. Pudluk, you will finalize the debate.

Location Of Capital Not Discussed

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a clarification to some of the Members and I thank the Members for clarifying themselves to me about the motion. I would like to make clear to them, as Members of constitutional forums we were not allowed to talk about where the capital was going to be. Myself and other members of the constitutional forums did not even want to chose a community for the capital. I still do not believe even up to today we should try to say which community is going to be the capital. For these reasons I just wanted to clarify that to the other Members.

Also I know that the Inuit wanted to be united. However, we have other problems. I am very sorry the Inuvialuit are not within Nunavut. We had problems arising from that because they already settled their land claims with Ottawa. We wanted to be with the Kitikmeot Region because we have less problems with them. Also it is evident now -- in the past the Alaskans were a part of the Inuit people too, before they became part of the United States. We know that Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan used to be called part of the Northwest Territories. However, in 1905 they made provinces and they fixed the boundary between the two provinces. It is now evident that Inuit people and the Dene were not consulted at that time when they made those provinces. As Inuit and Dene people we were not even part of the political people who made the provinces. We were not consulted or they did not inform us then.

Today I am very happy with the fact that we can take part in such a thing. We came up with an agreement -- I know that some Members feel that it is too early right now, but we are worried about our future and our younger generation. We want them to have a better place to live in and more opportunities for them. I do not think that we should be thinking about the economic resources for the future and as to how we will be governing ourselves. However, I think that we are just trying to make it easier for our younger generation to live. It is now evident once we start, in the beginning, it is going to be hard to keep on going. I do not think the Canadian government will just forget about the people who live within Canada. If one of the territories is lacking funding I am sure the federal government can support them too, because in agriculture the farmers have to get assistance from the Canadian government all the time. These economic resources -- I know that we should not even be worried about that right now because, as we are all aware, even though we get those two territories I am sure that we could support ourselves.

Agreement Possible On Traditional Hunting Grounds

Also there is a concern about traditional hunting grounds. I do not think that we should even be worried about that today, because aboriginal people have lived off the land up to today from generation to generation. I am sure the leaders for the Dene and TFN could come up with an agreement. I am sure they have come up with an agreement about the overlap hunting grounds. As aboriginal people, because we live off the land, I do not think this boundary is going to separate us. As aboriginal people we have to fix the future and make the future better and also include the non-natives. We have to treat everybody equally, especially when we are in the planning stages of self-government. I do not think that we will be leaving anybody alone because we are going to be treating everybody equally.

This proposed boundary is meant for our younger generation so that it will be better for them. Also, I have been a Member of the Legislative Assembly for a long time and sometimes it gets frustrating when we are dealing with legislation. Everybody cannot agree about one certain piece of legislation because I think that would not be right for our younger generation. I will conclude now and I would like to ask for a recorded vote, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Motion 13-87(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Clerk, a recorded vote has been requested. Will all those in favour of the motion, please stand?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Paniloo, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Gargan, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. McGallum, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Richard, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Butters, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. SPEAKER: Will all those opposed, please stand?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Pedersen, Ms Cournoyea.

MR. SPEAKER: Will all those that abstain, please stand?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Wray, Mr. Curley.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is carried with 17 in favour; three opposed; three abstentions.

---Carried

---Applause

This House will recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

The House will come to order. The Chair recognizes a quorum. We are on Item 14, motions. Motion 14, Plebiscite on Proposed Boundary. Mr. Curley.

Motion 14-87(1): Plebiscite On Proposed Boundary

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Butters, that this Assembly recommend to the Commissioner that a plebiscite be held on the question of the proposed boundary as contained in Tabled Document 1-87(1);

AND FURTHER that the date for the plebiscite be Wednesday, May 20, 1987;

AND FURTHER that the question to be asked be substantially in the form suggested in Tabled Document 1-87(1);

AND FURTHER that the plebiscite not take place if Tabled Document 1-87(1) is not ratified in the manner contemplated therein and formal notification of such ratification conveyed to the Commissioner prior to April 1, 1987, by the appropriate parties.

Thank you.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, very briefly. The Members of the House have just approved the proposed agreement on Tabled Document 1-87(1) and in that agreement it is suggested that the plebiscite should be held to deal with the issue of the boundary question and take it directly to the people of the Northwest Territories. So in that regard, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that the plebiscite be held prior to the spring session of the Legislative Assembly in order that the question can be dealt with during the recess of this Assembly.

At the same time, I think it is important to note that Members of the Assembly and their families will wish to spend time with their families and school kids during the spring and summer and therefore it is important to many of us that the plebiscite takes place as early as possible. Apparently, members of the Assembly staff have looked into that issue and recommend to the caucus of the Assembly that May 20th would be the earliest that they can hold the plebiscite. So, I am recommending that this particular date proposed in my motion be approved. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Secunder, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the passage of Motion 13-87(1) there is an urgency to move on the plebiscite initiative. The government has already given notice of motion to put before this House the legislation required to ensure that that occurs with all possible dispatch. I urge Members to give this motion their full support.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Question being called. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Procedure Must Be Followed Implicitly

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the opportunity to note a couple of matters of procedure that I believe are very important and since neither the mover nor secunder commented on them, I would like to take the opportunity to do that. That is, it must be clear that since the plebiscite must be held prior to the last session of this Assembly, that meant that various approvals had to be made by April 1st, 1987. And, I note, Mr. Speaker, that the Assembly will not likely be in session at that time and that it will be in the hands of the Commissioner to determine whether the plebiscite will move ahead or not. It seems to me, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that it is critical that all parties understand precisely what is required in order for that plebiscite to move ahead or not to move ahead.

I would note that part of what must be in the Commissioner's hands is a notification by the appropriate organizations in the form of a detailed map and description of a ratified land claims boundary, authorized by those who have reached such an agreement. Because if that is not in the hands of the Commissioner on March 31st, there will not be a definitive line that he would be able to include in a plebiscite. Mr. Speaker, he would also have to have in hand from the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, from the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, from the Dene Nation and from the Metis Association of the NWT letters indicating that these organizations formally have approved the boundary and constitutional agreement. These are required by ratification as well. I do believe it is critical that this procedure be followed implicitly, as the Assembly will not be sitting.

With the motions that have been passed in this House, or the one that has been passed and it appears that this one will be, Mr. Speaker, I personally believe that the Assembly has acted honourably and correctly in trying to advance political and constitutional development in the NWT, in co-operation with the major native associations and by referring all, in the final analysis, to the people of the NWT.

So with the passage of these motions, Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for further progress lies in the hands of those in whose hands it ought to lie and that is with the major native associations, who are very much interested in advancing politically and constitutionally. So I would urge you, Mr. Speaker, if these motions pass, to convey to the Commissioner and to the other parties precisely what is expected by way of notification and ratification, so there is no mistake on anybody's part.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to restate my position because I signed the agreement. I will know whether we made the right decision in signing the agreement and the only way I will know is by seeing whether in the plebiscite the residents of the NWT are for it or not. I will not campaign as to whether they should vote "Yes" or "No". I just wanted to restate this and make myself understood.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For me this motion is an integral part of the total package. I think it is key; that it is important right now to bring this whole issue to a head. It has dragged on for years. It is time for a decision. Take it out there to the people and I, for one, will abide by that decision.

Responsibility Now With Other Groups In Ratification Process

The second important aspect of this motion is there are now clearly set out time limits within which the other parties must ratify. I think what we are doing here in the Legislative Assembly is that we are fulfilling our responsibility. We have dealt with the agreement. We have taken it from this Assembly; we have said we will take it to the people. Now I think the responsibility is for the other groups involved in the ratification process to do their work and to undertake their responsibility. I think this is very important. We as an Assembly have essentially fulfilled our responsibility and I support this motion, Mr. Speaker.

Motion 14-87(1): Plebiscite On Proposed Boundary, Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. To the motion. Question is being called. Do you wish to finalize the debate, Mr. Curley? Question. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

AN HON. MEMBER: Unanimously.

MR. SPEAKER: No, not unanimously. Item 14, motions: Motion 15-87(1), Plebiscite Act Amendment. Mr. Wray.

Motion 15-87(1): Plebiscite Act Amendment

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, Mr. Pedersen, that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that a bill incorporating amendments to the Plebiscite Act that will facilitate the holding of the plebiscite, as contemplated in Tabled Document 1-87(1), be introduced to this Assembly prior to the recess of this sitting;

AND FURTHER that the bill include the text of the question to be asked in the plebiscite.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your motion is in order. To your motion, Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion is only to facilitate the process that was passed by the last two motions. Other than that, I have nothing else to say. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: As seconder, Mr. Pedersen, do you have any comments on the motion?

HON. RED PEDERSEN: No, Mr. Speaker, it is a consequential motion to the others. I have nothing to add to it.

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

Amendment To Motion 15-87(1), Carried

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move an amendment to Mr. Wray's motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that Motion 15-87(1) be amended by adding immediately after the second paragraph the words, "And further that the bill include the period of residency required to enable a person to vote in this particular plebiscite." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The amendment is in order. To the amendment, Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, the intent of the amendment is that when we pass the amendment to the Plebiscite Act that Mr. Wray's motion calls for, I believe we should have an opportunity at that time to discuss what the residency requirements should be. I would ask Members to support the motion. That is all it does; it gives us an opportunity, when we debate that bill, perhaps next week, to discuss what the residency requirements should be. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the amendment. Mr. McCallum. Ready for the question on the amendment? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I fail to understand the purpose of this amendment. The plebiscite bill that was passed by this House previously had a residency requirement and the bill that will be passed to deal with the motion before this House will also have a residency requirement. I fail to understand why we are stating the obvious with this amendment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Unfortunately, the obvious is not always the obvious. The motion is in order. Question to the amendment. All those in favour?

MR. RICHARD: Can I wrap up?

MR. SPEAKER: You can summarize if you wish; I thought we were through. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker...

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. Richard, I am incorrect. You cannot summarize on an amendment. You had your kick at the cat. I suppose it proves one thing: one has a mind if it is able to be changed.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Ooooooh!

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? Question being called. All those in favour of the amendment? Opposed, if any? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

Motion 15-87(1), Carried As Amended

Motion as amended. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion as amended has been carried.

---Carried

We are still on motions. Motion 16-87(1), First Air Licensing for Scheduled Service. Mr. Angotittauruq.

Motion 16-87(1): First Air Licensing For Scheduled Service

MR. ANGOTITTAURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS First Air has applied to the Air Transport Committee of the Canadian Transport Commission for a licence to enable it to offer a scheduled airline service on the route: Iqaluit - Igloodik - Pelly Bay - Spence Bay - Gjoa Haven - Cambridge Bay - Yellowknife;

AND WHEREAS this route would operate with the turbo-prop, pressurized Hawker Siddeley 748 aircraft, which is capable of carrying 44 passengers and flies at approximately 250 miles per hour;

AND WHEREAS this service would offer a very convenient schedule with passenger fares and cargo rates up to one half of the existing services;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for High Arctic, that this House support the efforts of First Air in obtaining the required licence;

AND FURTHER, that this House request that the Government Leader, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, communicate this support to the secretary of the Air Transport Committee, Canadian Transport Commission, in Ottawa.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. To your motion.

MR. ANGOTITTAURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I guess the motion is being written so as to speak for itself. But since it is my motion, I have to speak to it. We already have a scheduled air service, which is NWT Air, and First Air is applying for a licence. We have the highest airline freight rates and air fares in the Northwest Territories. I know that some people would

think that to have a competition like that, one would have to have a problem. But, if the existing airline that is serving those communities were to lower their fares as in the rest of the Northwest Territories, it would not make any other airline try to intervene in that area. I guess the airline that is trying to intervene has a good sense of trying to help the people in those communities.

Reduced Airfares And Freight Rates

I would like the other Members to support the motion, for I have one community that is served only by air, that does not get searift, and with this new airline that is trying to get a licence, the freight rates would go down by half. The rest of the communities there would also benefit from this new airline service and not only that, but it would bring transportation closer to people. Not to mention the division of the Northwest Territories. Even without the division, we require connections in the Northwest Territories to be able to travel from one end in one day to the other end. The existing airline service has a connection but in a different route. As I said, the air fares would go down approximately 50 per cent. That is a big change, so for that reason I would like the support of the Members if possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Mr. Pudluk, as seconder.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to second this motion. Where there are no highways in the communities and where there is only service by air, we cannot find any other way to travel which is cheaper. First Air would like to get a licence so that we could travel cheaper. The mover of the motion knows how expensive it is to travel. So I would like to support this motion. Maybe there will be another application for a licence which would give competition and I think we would support this. So I am happy to second this motion. Thank you.

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

Cheaper And More Convenient Travel

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to say that I will support the motion because Igloolik would be on the route. People from Hall Beach and Igloolik have relatives in other regions around the Central Arctic area and it would be very convenient for people in these communities to travel. For instance, if there are people that would like to go to Iqaluit, it would be cheaper and more convenient. It was a lot harder to travel before, and right now it is easier to travel, but I think there should be other flights to travel. For instance in the Baffin Region -- they should have access to different airlines in our community. Also, it is going to be more convenient for us to travel. Say, for instance, if we get Nunavut, especially, the airline that is going to be flying will be already in place. I will support the motion and encourage the other Members to support the motion. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this motion basically is directed at the government, I will be abstaining on the motion. But as the MLA for Iqaluit, I would like to make some comments on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I believe competition in the air industry generally is healthy. Competition in my constituency from First Air has been healthy; it has resulted in reduced air fares and better service between Iqaluit and the South. This proposed service obviously will result in improved fares and cargo rates and service.

I would like to note that service from Pelly Bay to Hall Beach has not been offered for almost a year, although the current licence holder has been entitled to fly that route. The new route would give Kitikmeot passengers much improved connections to Eastern Canada at significantly reduced fares and it would, incidently, provide Yellowknife-Baffin or Yellowknife-Iqaluit passengers another option to travelling east, whereas at the moment there are only two territorial east-west options a week. The 748 aircraft is pressurized, faster and has more capacity than the DC-3.

Mr. Speaker, First Air is a company that has its northern base in my constituency and therefore if this application were approved, I think it would mean more employment opportunities and more economic benefits to my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the motion. Question being called. Mr. Angottitauruq, do you wish to finalize the debate?

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: I will just wait for the vote.

Motion 16-87(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Item 14, Motion 17-87(1), Gasoline Dispensing Shed at Gjoa Haven. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Motion 17-87(1): Gasoline Dispensing Shed At Gjoa Haven

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the gasoline and fuel dispensing shed at Gjoa Haven is too close to the residential area;

AND WHEREAS the dispensing shed is right on one of the main roads that children use on their way to school;

AND WHEREAS it has been identified by the regional director of the Kitikmeot Region that it should be moved;

AND WHEREAS the present location has the potential of serious injury to residents of Gjoa Haven;

AND WHEREAS funds have not been allocated for this shed to be moved;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for Baffin Central, that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that it allocate funds to move the gasoline dispensing shed in Gjoa Haven.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The gasoline shed and the fuel dispensing shed are in one building. This has been a problem a long time in the community. The government can say that it is not a health hazard, especially the health inspector, or the fire marshal may say that it is not a fire hazard. But the closest residential building to that one is approximately 60 feet away. It is used for fuelling the vehicles and it is used every day. If by accident someone filling up a truck that uses gasoline -- if there should be some accident and it caught on fire, it would immediately travel to the tanks and with those tanks right next to it, I am sure there would be some danger to the community. The worst thing is that it is right on the way where the children go to school. It is in the springtime that they carry this fuel under their soles. That may have some health hazard. To people who live there, there seems to be some health hazard.

Odour Penetrates Meat And Causes Headaches

I mentioned before, we have a different culture and we keep meat outside in wintertime or summertime. The odour of the fuel oil and the gas can penetrate to the meat that people consume. That could be a health hazard. The people who live close to that tank farm have infants, children. It is quite unbelievable. I live three or four houses away from those closest houses and I can even sometimes in the summertime smell the fuel oil. Those residents who live closest to the tank farm there, the dispensing shed, when they have children -- those children may get headaches, just as the adults themselves who live close to them complain about headaches from the smell. That may not be a health hazard, but to smell something and to get headaches from it, when you can identify where it is coming from, that seems to be a health hazard. The experts may say there is no health hazard.

I do not think any Member in this House, smelling fuel oil and gas mixed together, would keep quiet too much about it. They would probably want to progress and let somebody remove the smell. That is how it is in the community. And not only those people who live closest to the area but also the

residents who have children who walk by to school are touched by the smell of fuel oil when kids take it even from one end of the community to the other end. It goes into the houses. I guess that is all I would like to say, to identify the problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Mr. Paniloo, as seconder.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) The reason I have to support the motion is that the people that have the problem of the shed too close to their houses -- whenever there is a problem in the community, it is really hard because they tend to get colds all the time and even though it is not in the way of some other thing, it is a problem for the people for their health, in catching colds, very often, and getting headaches. It is a real health hazard and I am going to be in support of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Paniloo. To the motion. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 17-87(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. Angotittauruq, do you wish to summarize? Calling the question. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

That concludes motions for today. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested to proceed with Mr. Gargan's motion today relative to the removal of the Hon. Tagak Curley as Member of the Executive Council.

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Nay. That concludes the unanimous consent. It will have to be held over until the appropriate time. We move then to Item 15, first reading of bills. Bill 14-87(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1987-88. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 14-87(1): Loan Authorization Act, 1987-88

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that Bill 14-87(1), An Act to Authorize the Making of Loans to Municipalities During the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1988, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 14-87(1) has had first reading. Bill 25-87(1). Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 25-87(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1986-87

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 25-87(1), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1987, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 25-87(1) has had first reading. Bill 26-87(1). Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 26-87(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1987-88

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, that Bill 26-87(1), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1988, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a motion on the floor. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 26-87(1) has had first reading. Bill 29-87(1). Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 29-87(1): Write-Off Of Assets And Debts Act, 1986-87

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 29-87(1), An Act to Amend the Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1986-87, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

The bill has had first reading, Bill 29-87(1). Bill 24-87(1). Mr. Patterson.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 24-87(1), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I have a motion on the floor. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 24-87(1) has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. Bill 17-87(1). Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 17-87(1): Mechanics' Lien Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 17-87(1), An Act to Amend the Mechanics' Lien Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Mechanics' Lien Act to extend the time for holding back 10 per cent of the contract price and for filing claims of lien; and to clarify the date in which the filing period begins in various circumstances.

MR. SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 17-87(1) has had second reading. 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; and Bill 2-87(1), Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act, with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair. I will remind you of the new hours that have been set for today: At 5:30 p.m. adjourn for supper until 7:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday evening the committee concluded the review of Economic Development and Tourism. The Department of Education is up next in the rotation. The Minister, as Members realize, is required to travel to Ottawa to attend the preparatory meeting for the First Ministers' Conference regarding aboriginal rights and self-government issues. But I wondered if I could have the committee's approval for him to proceed with his opening statement and move into general comments before he leaves this morning; to get the department started, if that is acceptable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Butters. If that is the case, which department will follow the Department of Education then, after general comments? Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Sibbeston will be ready to bring forward the Executive budget. Oh, I beg your pardon. Culture and Communications, sorry.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Patterson, the Department of Education. Just before I recognize Mr. Patterson, Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. Just with regard to a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the government intending to allow the Minister to make introductory remarks with regard to the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, in light of the meetings that he is going to attend dealing with that particular issue, so that we are brought up to date on the presentations that are going to be made and the position that is being brought forward on the part of the government, so that we are made aware of that at this particular time?

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

Tabling Of Position Paper On Aboriginal Rights

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member had earlier obtained a commitment from me that we would present to this House a position paper on the government's strategy with respect to the First Ministers' Conference on aboriginal rights. My thinking on it, although we have prepared a position paper, and the thinking on it from the Executive Council was that since the preparatory meeting tomorrow may well change directions with respect to this conference substantially, that we would propose to present our position recommended for the March 26th and 27th meeting after the preparatory meeting tomorrow. So while I am prepared to follow the wishes of the committee, it seemed to the Executive Council, in discussing it, to get the most up-to-date report to the Assembly, we should table our paper immediately after the meeting tomorrow rather than before, since things could change substantially tomorrow.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no problem with that at all as long as we have an opportunity to hear the position of the government and express our concerns or our opinions with regard to that particular position paper. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Patterson, do you wish to make your opening remarks on the Department of Education?

Department Of Education

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over five years ago, through the Legislative Assembly's special committee on education, people asked for more local control, for aboriginal language programs and for higher grades in communities, so that our teenagers would not have to leave home to finish school. They asked for special instruction for handicapped children in their communities. They asked for education more relevant to life in the North and more likely to lead to jobs. They wanted programs for people of all ages in the North, including adult education and college courses. What the people of the Northwest Territories clearly want from their education system are equality of opportunity and training for self-sufficiency.

For the past five years, the Department of Education has been striving to realize these goals. This budget that I am presenting for 1987-88 represents the final steps in putting the recommendations of the people of the Northwest Territories in place.

There is still much to be done, but we have made improvements and we are accomplishing much. Attendance is up. Local control of education is increasing through new divisional boards of education. More and more of us are able to keep our children at home longer with the addition of high school grades in a growing number of communities. Centres for teaching and learning are preparing bilingual teachers and native language teaching materials. Most children with special needs are now taught in their own communities and slowly, but surely, more of our students are graduating. More are going to university and more are taking trades or diploma courses through our own expanding Arctic College system.

Enrolment And Attendance

Mr. Chairman, this year there are over 12,300 students enrolled in schools throughout the Territories. Attendance continues to improve. Last year the overall school attendance was just under 82 per cent; that is five per cent higher than it was five years ago. As of December, 1986, no schools were below 70 per cent attendance.

Credit for having more of our children in school can be given to local education authorities, parents and students. Last year legislation was passed to enforce school attendance and so far, 28 out of 60 school districts want the new legislation to apply to their area. Improving attendance is a co-operative effort. The Department of Education has developed a school/community counsellor training program and the counsellor's main job will be to give information and advice to parents, students and the general public on the importance of schooling. This February, 14 trainees began the year-long program, with CEIC support, at the Thebacha Campus of the Arctic College. I have also identified \$50,000 in my budget for the school/community counsellor training program in 1987-88.

Enrolment and attendance are the main factors in determining a student/teacher ratio. Last year, I introduced a formula to determine the number of teachers and classroom assistants for each school. It was put in place to ensure that all schools were being treated equally. A review of the formula pointed out that for the most part, it was working well, although some changes were necessary. More support will be provided for very small high schools. The student/teacher ratio for the senior practical program, a high school alternative program, will be improved from 16 to one, to 12 to one. And finally, we plan to provide appropriate support for children in outpost camps.

Virtually every community has asked my department for more staff. I cannot meet all of these requests, but the formula we have developed uses our resources as equitably as possible. It is my intention that we shall continue to use the staffing formula in all communities. And, over the coming year, a formula for funding all operating and maintenance costs will be introduced to make sure that every school and community receives the funding it is entitled to. This is funding

which, with the authority provided through divisional boards of education, local education representatives will control. More and more NWT communities have demonstrated their desire and ability to take on a much greater responsibility for education. Only 10 years ago, the Education Act was amended to provide for the first local education authority. In 1978, the first education society was formed in Eskimo Point and in 1985, the first divisional board of education was set up in the Baffin Region.

The budget for 1987-88 provides for the creation of two new societies. It also provides for continued divisional board development and the establishment of the Dogrib divisional board this April. We are well on our way in preparing for divisional boards in the Deh Cho, and Kitikmeot and Keewatin Regions. And once the amendment is passed by this Assembly, there will be legislation which will provide another means of local control in the NWT, a board of secondary education. At the college level, the board of governors will officially assume responsibility for the operation of the Arctic College, under the Arctic College Act, this April. Increasing local control of education has been and will be the key to the achievement of many goals the Department of Education has set for itself.

Extended Grades In Communities

Mr. Chairman, the heartfelt pleas heard over and over again during the special committee hearings for more grades in small communities have been heard. We have responded by adding grades in schools where numbers permit. In September, 1985, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Cape Dorset, Coppermine and Rankin Inlet added grade 10 to their school programs. In September, 1986, Clyde River got grade 10; Rankin Inlet got grade 11, and so did Pangnirtung. In my budget for 1987-88, I have set aside resources for the extension of grades in three communities. I plan to meet requests from Rankin Inlet and Pangnirtung for grade 12. I will also support a request for an added grade level where, and only where, there are 10 students who are judged likely to succeed at the new grade level. I believe extending grades is essential to provide greater access to education in all regions of the Northwest Territories.

One program area which was emphasized, even more than the extension of grades in the recommendations of the special committee on education, was aboriginal languages. The Department of Education is trying to provide the solid base in language that children need. We are making important progress in training native language speaking teachers. We are developing more and better native language books and we are beginning to develop ways of evaluating the progress of students being taught in native languages. So far, the Eastern Arctic is showing the most progress in the use of aboriginal languages in schools. Most Baffin schools conduct about 75 per cent of their kindergarten to grade three programs in Inuktitut.

Teacher Education Programs In Native Languages And Culture

Perhaps the biggest obstacle to native language instruction in the past has been the lack of available qualified teachers. This is changing. Language, literacy and teaching skills are all part of the NWT's two teacher education programs. Much of the teacher training is now being done in the field at the three new centres for teaching and learning in Eskimo Point, Fort Franklin and Fort Simpson. This year, my budget provides for three more centres. They will be in the Dogrib area, Baffin Region and Inuvik Region. Better trained teachers and better prepared teaching materials will contribute to the development of better school programs in native languages and culture.

In 1982 the special committee on education also made several recommendations about special needs education based on the principle that all children have the right to an effective learning program. Based on experience elsewhere in Canada, the Department of Education anticipates that 15 per cent of the children enrolled in our schools will require special needs education. Some children may need the assistance of a full-time tutor, others may only need individual assistance for short periods of time. On average, across the country, provinces dedicate 10 per cent of their school budget to special needs education. That level of support is my goal. Right now, the requested budget increase of 24 person years and \$1.6 million in the 1987-88 estimates will raise our commitment to over six per cent. We have some distance to go before we reach a level of service comparable to the provinces, but we have made good progress. About 800 individual education programs for students with special needs have been set up throughout the Territories. It is essential that we provide these children with the level of support they need. We must give all students the chance to learn and to succeed.

Mr. Chairman, success in the school system can be measured by the number of students who graduate from grade 12. While we are still not graduating nearly as many students as we need to, children are at least staying in school longer, and the number of native students graduating from grade 12 is improving dramatically. In 1985-86, there were almost twice the native graduates that there were six years ago. Native students are also more likely to be continuing their education through a university or college. This year may mark the beginning of a new trend. In 1986-87 there are 82 per cent more NWT native students attending southern universities and colleges than last year. The diplomas and degrees these students will bring back to the North with them will contribute toward a goal of self-reliance in more trades and professions. The native graduates, in particular, will serve as important role models for other northern students as they consider their own paths for the future.

Increased Enrolment In Arctic College Programs

What is even more encouraging is the number of native students enrolled in Arctic College programs. At Thebacha Campus alone, there are more native students than at universities and colleges in the South. A total of 329 native students attended the on-campus programs at the Thebacha and Iqaluit Campuses of Arctic College in 1985-86. More native and non-native students are taking courses at Arctic College and completing these courses. It seems that the closer to home you offer the program, the more likely students are to be interested and to finish the program.

Like the on-campus programs, the number of extension programs has grown. In 1983 there were 46 and this year there are 62. There are about 480 students enrolled in extension programs, which is almost 100 more than three years ago. And the majority of students enrolled are completing their programs. The completion rate for native and non-native students has been fairly consistent for the past few years at over 80 per cent.

For years, northerners have complained that the best jobs in government and in industry have gone to people from southern Canada. Today more and more northerners realize that the only way to change that situation is for more people here to get the qualifications they need to fill those jobs themselves. Arctic College is growing to meet the demand for college-level training for adults close to home.

During the 1987-88 fiscal year, with continuing support from the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, we will introduce a number of new programs to prepare people for jobs in the travel industry, jobs in the health field, jobs in journalism and communication, jobs in translation and interpretation, jobs in environmental sciences, and jobs in the air industry. We will support trades training, as in the past, and review these programs this year so they are better adapted to current conditions in the mining and oil and gas industries.

In this 1987-88 budget, Arctic College, with campuses operating in Fort Smith, Iqaluit and Inuvik, will increase by \$2.5 million and 18.5 person years. The majority of the new increases in person years will be for the Iqaluit Campus, where programs in applied studies, environmental technology, human development and interpreter/translator training will be introduced. The Inuvik Campus begins its development with the community recreation leadership, business management, journalism, and teacher education programs. Our first campus, Thebacha, will see the introduction of a new diploma-level child care program and travel industry program. Major capital expenditures at the college include a recently completed trades complex addition in Fort Smith, an applied arts and academic building in Iqaluit and the completion of major renovations at the Canadian Armed Forces station buildings, now a college campus, in Inuvik.

Increased Training For Affirmative Action

However, Arctic College is not the only avenue which is open to northerners for training. The one major increase in person years in the Education budget for 1987-88 is in the number of in-service trainee positions available for affirmative action. In 1986-87, 31 person years were made available through supplementary funding. The 1987-88 estimates include an additional 19 person year increase over the 1986-87 revised forecast. My department is also increasing the funding that is available for apprenticeship training through the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, more training leading to jobs, more courses available in communities and more courses being prepared for the future are all part of the broad plan for education in the NWT. This plan was called for by the special committee on education and it is one that we have and will continue to work hard to realize.

I tabled two important documents earlier this week: Improving Grades, A Department of Education Report Card, and The Arctic College Development Plan. The first reports that education is improving in the NWT, and the second serves as a blueprint for preparing adults for successful integration into an increasingly complex job market.

The bulk of the growth in my department, a five per cent increase in person years, or 78 in total, and a 10 per cent increase in dollars, is allocated to those priorities that have been given to me by the residents of the NWT. Through improved special needs services, extension of grades in communities, centres for teaching and learning, and staffing by formula, all residents now enjoy more equality in education opportunities. Affirmative action programs, Arctic College at Inuvik, new training programs and increased co-operation with the private sector, are investments in existing and potential jobs for northerners.

This year's Education budget will help northerners prepare for a future in which they will be able to take advantage of the opportunities change will bring and better direct their own destinies. Those are my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

---Applause

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

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps while the former teacher is looking for his school books there...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Ooooooh!

---Laughter

MR. RICHARD: ...I can start off with one comment I wanted to raise with this Minister at this time, concerning the financing of education in the Territories.

Financing Of Education Vis-a-Vis Boards

In recent weeks and months there has been considerable public discussion in my community about the pupil/teacher ratio and how it relates to the financing of the separate school board and Education District No. 1. That is one issue that has been in the public domain recently. Another one that has come up in recent discussions, in this Assembly and in committee work, is the school levy that is assessed by the territorial government throughout the Territories in places other than Yellowknife, and the fact that a) it has not been increased in absolute terms for the time that it has been in existence, which is I believe roughly 20 years; and b) that that school levy is an almost meaningless revenue figure, because it is not tied to Mr. Patterson's department's expenditures, either by community or even globally by department. Rather, those school levies are simply collected, I believe by the Department of Finance, and they are deposited into the consolidated revenue fund. So, whether they are low or high or collected at all is virtually meaningless to the education program being offered in the communities.

Those two issues, Mr. Chairman, I also wish to tie in with a third issue, specific to the independent school boards in Yellowknife. That is the historic funding of 75 per cent of the O and M expenditures of Education District No. 1 and Education District No. 2. I have asked, in recent weeks and months, of the rationale for that 75/25 split and the only explanation that has been offered to me is that that is the way it has always been done since the inception of those school boards. I do not think that that is sufficient rationale. But, in an age, Mr. Chairman, particularly under the leadership of this Minister, when the communities are being encouraged to take over more and more responsibility of the running of the education programs, I, for one, think that the government should look at these issues because they are all related. If, for instance, the school societies south of the lake, which aspire to board status, are told that instead of property taxes in the municipalities like Hay River, Fort Smith, paying for one per cent or perhaps 0.5 per cent of the school budget, they will now be required to pay 25 per cent from locally raised tax revenue, no community in its right mind would ask for board status. So I think there is a problem there, in these concepts, that has to be addressed and I am not sure how you relate that to the divisional board situation, because it is not comparable to a community board of education situation.

I guess, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister to comment generally on those thoughts but specifically, I do not think that the Minister should come down with any hard and fast rules cast in concrete on pupil/teacher ratios for independent school boards; lock it in for five or 10 years

until the issue of the appropriate level of funding is addressed in a larger sense. What is significant about the 75/25 split is, the next school board, the third school board that is created under the legislation in the Northwest Territories, whether that is in Iqaluit or Hay River or Fort Smith, is that third school board also going to be funded to the tune of 75/25?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: First of all, I would like to admit that the rationale for the 75/25 per cent funding split in Yellowknife was developed before I became Minister of Education, if there is a rationale. It is interesting to note that, compared to other provincial jurisdictions, the residents of Yellowknife are beneficiaries of a more generous contribution from the government than the typical provincial school board. For example, in BC the government contributes 70 per cent; in Alberta the government contributes 63 per cent; in Manitoba the contribution is 53 per cent; and in Ontario it is less than 50 per cent, at 46 per cent.

Formulas Being Set For O And M Funding And Staffing

I would also like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that we are working diligently, with the involvement, incidentally, of the Yellowknife school boards, on a formula for funding school operations and maintenance, as well as the staffing of schools. These two formulas -- and the latter one we plan to partially implement in the coming year -- will ensure what I think the Member is getting at, when he talks about the need to rationalize the approach between tax based and non-tax based communities. I think it will be a step toward dealing with the question of the possible tax revenues that might be obtained in smaller communities and through divisional boards.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Member for Yellowknife South acknowledges that all communities pay school taxes. The private home-owners and the private businesses in all communities in the NWT pay taxes into the general revenue fund, a portion of which are charged to school taxes. In fact, recently this government has decided to increase those taxes by a factor of, I believe, 10 per cent in the coming year. In looking, however, at the feasibility of establishing school boards in communities like Hay River and Iqaluit based on the formula in place, the 75/25 per cent in place in Yellowknife, it seems that, given the low level of private businesses and private home-ownership in those communities and their significantly smaller populations than that of Yellowknife, it will be some considerable time before school board status on the same terms as that in Yellowknife would be available. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the approach that the department is taking is, recognizing that local control will lead to better accountability with regard to education, it has been felt that there must be other approaches than school board status to achieving local control in the smaller communities and the remote communities. That is why the divisional board concept has arisen.

Equity In Government Contributions

With respect to whether or not we should have applied the staffing formula to Yellowknife schools, Mr. Chairman, I just have to point out that basically the staffing formula took the positions that we had allocated historically to students in the Northwest Territories and attempted to ensure that there was equity. A class of 20 grade three children in Yellowknife and a class of 20 grade three children in Clyde River would have approximately the same teaching resources made available to them from the government's contribution. And similarly with our O and M funding formula, we are trying to ensure that for materials and supplies, administrative support and other operations and maintenance funding, the government's contribution is equitable for each number of students within a community in the Northwest Territories.

It is possible for communities like Yellowknife, through their tax base, to enrich that level of service over the government contribution. It certainly is not our intention, in applying the staffing formula to Yellowknife, to say that this means that the level of service should be the same in Yellowknife as everywhere else. But what it does mean is that the government's contribution to Yellowknife schools, or at least the proportion for staff contributed to Yellowknife schools, would be the same as in any other community. This is where taxpayers and a large tax base have an advantage, in being able to enrich the pupil/teacher ratio over and above the government's contribution. Those are my general comments in response to the Member's comments, Mr. Chairman. I hope they are useful. Thank you.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, just to follow up on it a little more. I guess the points I want to make are that the government has moved, with Mr. Butter's announcement a few weeks ago of increases in property taxes and school levies which have not been touched for many, many years, to finally look at those stagnant sources of tax revenue. Particularly with the school levy, Mr. Chairman, my point is that they should somehow be tied in. First of all, they should be paid into the Department of Education. It should be a revenue of the Department of Education where the millions and millions of dollars are being spent on education. That is one point. They should be larger.

School Levy Should Be In Education Budget

But in the context of what the Minister has said this afternoon and many times I have heard him say in the past -- sometimes he says it in relation to Yellowknife but I do not want to talk about the Yellowknife versus Clyde River situation -- there are many communities in the "in between". Let me speak specifically about the other six tax-based municipalities; places like Iqaluit, Hay River, Norman Wells, Inuvik. When the Minister speaks of his government and his department being prepared to fund each school to a certain level so that there is equality and parity through the communities, that is fine, I agree with that. He says then, if the community wants to enhance it, like Yellowknife, if they want to enhance it by adding three French immersion teachers, let the community decide by voting to increase its school taxes. In that context, Mr. Chairman, I think it is important that the government address that school levy that is being collected by this government from each of those other six tax-based municipalities, so that he can provide base level funding to a community like Fort Smith. With no disrespect to my colleague for Slave River, he has expressed in the last few years some displeasure at the amount of funding you are putting into his community for teachers. If you tied that school levy into the Department of Education budget, you could say to the community of Fort Smith, "You can have three more teachers but your community, through its taxes, should decide whether they are prepared to pay for those three extra teachers." If your formula is fair and you are treating Fort Smith the same as Yellowknife and Clyde River, the system should be such that the town of Fort Smith, even though they do not have board status, should be able to enhance what your government, Mr. Minister, is giving them.

That is my point. I think we should be working at that system because I sense, as does the Minister, that places like Fort Smith and Iqaluit and Inuvik are not going to jump tomorrow into board status. Especially if they know it is a 75/25 formula. Those communities now are paying, I suspect, if you put the school levy in there and look at it and compare it to the school budget, they are paying one per cent, maybe. I say, Mr. Minister, you should be giving them 100 per cent but let them have that one per cent and add it so that they get 101 per cent over another community. Or 102 per cent, if their ratepayers are prepared to add to your 100 per cent which you will give them.

Enhancement Through Taxation

That is my point, Mr. Chairman, and I think it is high time that the government as a whole brought some meaning to the school levy. The report that I saw on property taxation, that was commissioned by Mr. Wray's department, addresses this very issue, to make the school tax a meaningful one. That is all I am asking, that they begin to try to rationalize that, because I think the Minister is going to be confronted with this kind of opposition from those other communities year after year. I think he has got the right answer, that if a community wants enhancement over the norm, then that community's property taxes are going to have to pay for it. We should get the system so that the Minister's thoughts on that can be implemented. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do welcome those suggestions. Very quickly, I think we are moving toward being prepared to do that kind of analysis of taxation. I think the first step is to develop an equitable formula for teaching staff, for school operating and maintenance, and for administration staff and guidelines, so that we can look at a community and say, "This is the minimum level of service that is entitled to be provided in order to offer a high school program or in order to offer an elementary school program." And we are well on the way to having those funding formulas developed and implemented.

Once that is done, and it will be in place in the coming year, then I think we will be in a position, working with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, to ensure that each community is contributing according to its tax base and its ability to raise taxes toward that

basic education cost. I agree that, in order to ensure that communities are realistic in their expectations, enhancement should be related to tax revenue and the ability to generate taxes. I agree with the Member. I think we are working toward that goal. In fact, even in the coming year, once the basic financing funding formulas are finalized and implemented, I think we will be in a position to then do the same with a rational approach to taxation.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, my elder colleague has found his school books now, so I will defer to him, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. McCallum. General comments? Are there any elders in this committee? Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I previously asked the Minister of Education about the language centre that will be in Iqaluit. We talked about the expertise of Igloolik residents in the language issues and the Minister responded to me that the Igloolik residents can be involved in that centre in Iqaluit. My question has to do with the Igloolik residents again. Just in case one of them does not want to move to Iqaluit but wants to reside in Igloolik, would he be able to be involved on a contract basis, although he is still residing in Igloolik?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the operation of the centre for teaching and learning in Baffin will be delegated to the Baffin Divisional Board. Decisions like that will be up to the board but I would agree with the Member that it should be quite possible for work to be done in communities even though the centre itself will be headquartered in Iqaluit. I know that Liz Rose Apak for example, did very good curriculum development work for many years in Igloolik and I also know that Emile Immaroitok, for example, has been working on a dictionary in Igloolik, which the board might like to support further in the coming years. I think it is quite possible but it will be up to the board.

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

Funding For Work On Dictionary

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Emile Immaroitok, you mentioned his name, has been doing the dictionary for quite some many years now but he has received very little money from the time he started. The Igloolik education committee honorarium was used to pay Mr. Immaroitok, to pay him one time, and also later on he received some funding from the Secretary of State. Can you clarify for me, as the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights also, for people such as Mr. Immaroitok, who does dictionary work like that, can you distribute any funding from the responsibility that you have? Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the strategy of the Department of Education in relation to the development of aboriginal languages has been aimed at producing curriculum materials in the schools. We have supported some research but are primarily interested in producing material that can be used in the classrooms. That is what those centres for teaching and learning are designed to do.

With respect to production of dictionaries, I just had a meeting with the executive director of the Inuit Cultural Institute and have learned that ICI has made substantial progress with the Secretary of State for Canada in securing support for a project that would see dictionaries produced in each of five or six Inuktitut dialects. I forget just how many. There will be several dialectical dictionaries produced for the Baffin Region. Our government has been asked to match funds committed by the Secretary of State and I promised to bring that matter forward to consider with my colleagues on the Executive Council.

Mr. Chairman, if we are able to support the ICI dictionary project and to match funds already committed by the Secretary of State, then it would seem to me that this would be a very good, useful way to recognize the work done by Mr. Immaroitok. He obviously has a very good head start on the North Baffin dialect and should finally be able to be supported through the ICI project. That is what I will suggest to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hostel Facilities For Students From Outpost Camps

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know whether we are under the Department of Culture and Communications or Education. I was just going to address the language issue, but I will wait. I have another question for the Minister. I had some concern for my own area with regard to some type of hostel facility. Now, I brought that to the attention of the Minister of Social Services already and he indicated this is your area of responsibility. I also have a concern that now in the Deh Cho area, with the implementation of a divisional board of education, there is also going to be an implementation of, I believe, a grade 10 or a regional high school in that particular area.

The situation right now is that we still have, I believe, about five or six families that reside in outpost camps and are forced to send their kids to the school. They are going to be running into the same situation as they have before, where they are put in a home that really does not have that much concern to care for the kids other than their own kids. You run into a situation where, if a child is put into a different family environment to go to school, then they are not given the special attention that a hostel environment gives them. I have a concern in that area. However, I would like to ask the Minister whether there are any plans. I know, in the estimates, you do not have a five year capital plan any more. But what is in the works for my own constituency?

I also expressed a concern over the condition of the old section of the school in Fort Providence, which was built in 1958, I believe. Some of the equipment that was put there at that time -- and I appreciate the Minister did do some minor renovations to make the place a more workable atmosphere. I guess the longer we wait for an addition to be added to that school, we just compound the maintenance. The maintenance keeps going higher to keep up the old section. Those are the areas of concern and I would like to find out from the Minister: Number one is whether, in fact, you are responsible for hostel facilities, and...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. This committee stands adjourned until 7:00 p.m.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The committee will come back to order. We are on Culture and Communications. Mr. Minister, do you have any opening remarks? Mr. Minister.

Department Of Culture And Communications

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am so very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to present the budget of Culture and Communications. Our total budget is \$7,780,000 for O and M and a very small \$328,000 for capital.

Most of the capital money is for community-related projects that include: 1) construction and renovation for community heritage centres in Fort Smith, Norman Wells, Iqaluit, Arctic Bay and Igloolik, \$87,000; 2) furniture and equipment for community libraries, \$81,000; 3) preliminary work on the library at Iqaluit, \$20,000; 4) replacement of satellite radio and television equipment in numerous communities, \$24,000. In addition, \$90,000 is budgeted for the purchase of artifacts for the museums and the rest for small equipment in the language bureau and museum.

As for O and M, the Department of Culture and Communications is responsible for: providing language services; providing museum and heritage services; cultural grants and contributions; support for performing artists in the NWT. The department is also responsible for the government's public affairs programming; operating a satellite communication system; the publication and production of all government documents; native language audio-visual programming; and a public library service which includes 24 libraries throughout the North.

Mr. Chairman, initiatives in this year's budget include \$200,000 for establishment of a Dene cultural institute, an increase of \$100,000 over the amount that we provided last year. There is \$30,000 for each of the three major native communication groups in the NWT. In the area of library

services, we have funds for two persons to be hired for a 24 month period to convert the public library records to a computerized system. There is a new person year for a Baffin regional librarian to be located in Iqaluit.

While additional resources are being sought for these people-oriented programs, the department continues to hold the line on any growth in other service areas. Other than normal salary increases, we have not increased our operating budget or person years in public affairs, printing and publishing for several years. In reality, we have reduced O and M expenditures in these areas by about \$50,000. In addition, we have spoken with the NWT Arts Advisory Council and it will be reducing its membership from nine to five members and its administrative costs from \$100,000 to \$50,000. The savings in administration will be used to increase its contributions budget from \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Progress In Area Of Languages

In the area of languages we are making excellent progress, if I may say. At the moment, we have 54 positions working in the language bureau, interpreting and translating five Dene languages as well as eastern and western Inuktitut. It is our plan to maintain our current programs and to begin the process of standardizing written Dene languages, and to finalize arrangements with the Department of Education to have an interpreter/translator course established in the Arctic College system by September. We also plan to train a body of specialized legal or courtroom interpreters and to implement an agreement to assist the Dene Nation with its interpreting needs.

As well, we recently presented a budget of \$3.5 million to the Secretary of State for 1987-88 to maintain the native language services being provided presently by the language bureau and the various language projects sponsored by the Departments of Education, Justice and Health.

I wish to table for you a report summarizing the projects that will be funded by the agreement in this coming fiscal year. I have that, if the Pages would pass them around for the Members.

In addition, we are in the process of negotiating a second agreement with the Secretary of State for money to provide French language services by our government for 1987-88. The recruitment of interpreter/translators is currently being finalized for the department's new French language section. Our plan in 1987-88 is to begin publishing French language information materials and to develop the work plans necessary for the implementation of official bilingualism in 1989.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that we have taken the direction given by Members that language and culture should have an increasing emphasis. I believe our budget is a good balance between the legitimate need for enhancement in these critical areas and the need to use as much restraint as possible in others. So, mahsi cho. I am now available for any general questions or getting into the details of the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I know that English is this Minister's second language, but he goes too quickly, even in English. Could the Minister just go through the changes that he said he made in the Arts Advisory Council? I had the impression something has been changed since the standing committee on finance saw it in January.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: What I said is, as a result of statements made to me or recommendations made to me in the standing committee on finance, I have spoken with the Arts Advisory Council and they are prepared to reduce their membership from nine to five and to cut their administrative costs from \$100,000 to \$50,000.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

Dene Cultural Institute

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, just with regard to a couple of issues, first could the Minister indicate whether or not there has been a decision with regard to location of the Dene cultural institute, and at what time is there going to be a concrete proposal or at least a submission to this Assembly outlining the purpose of that particular cultural institute?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am aware that the preliminary work for the establishment of the Dene cultural institute, the general mandate and structure of the Dene cultural institute, was all done last summer as a result of the \$100,000 that we gave to the Dene Nation. Since then, they have come to us as a government requesting the moneys to set up the Dene cultural institute and I met with a person who will be working on that for the Dene Nation, a week to 10 days ago. They are quite anxious to get going to set up the cultural institute and we will be working co-operatively with them and giving them the funds as soon as we have a definite detailed proposal as to precisely how they intend to use the funds. Work has begun and we are working co-operatively with the Dene Nation for the institute. As to precisely where it will be situated, I am not certain and that will be up to the Dene Nation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: If I might request of the Minister that he could inquire from the Dene Nation that the submission could be tabled in the House as to the details of the proposal for the Dene cultural institute and the manner in which that financing from this government is to be distributed or is to be utilized by that particular institute.

One other issue, Mr. Chairman: Has the government considered the idea of also protecting or introducing legislation that protects and retains archaeological artifacts and also protects archaeological sites? Has there ever been any discussion with regard to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any initiative in that regard and I have not had any discussions or have not heard about such an initiative but that is not to say that it has not been done. Maybe when my officials come with me up to the witness stand, we can ask them to provide me with information on that if they do have it.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): For the record, Mr. Minister, could you introduce your witnesses at this time?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce Art Sorensen, who is the deputy minister of the department, to my left and to my right, the prettier person, Ethel Blondin-Townsend, who is the assistant deputy minister in the department. With respect to that question Mr. Nerysoo asked, I wonder if Mr. Sorensen or Ms Blondin-Townsend could answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, if I understood the question correctly, I can say that work is under way in that area. There is draft work being done now; we are targeting to have a next-to-final policy completed by the spring of 1989. There are many things to be considered that have to be developed, as the Members probably know, in co-ordination and co-operation. There are federal responsibilities as well, and land use requirements, but we are quite anxious to get this area cleaned up and we are doing whatever we can not only to expedite the process but also to allow ourselves enough time to do it properly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): General comments? Mr. Paniloo.

Community Radios

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister -- I think we are talking about the radios. I would like to ask if we can talk about the radios at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the department has funded 32 radio stations in communities throughout the North and has established, in 24 communities, satellite systems to obtain TV and FM radio. We provide an annual operating grant of \$6000 a year to these communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister or his officials regarding the money that is being used for those communities. In the Baffin Region, I received a letter from the radio society committee from Broughton Island. The radio committee wanted to find out if the members of the committee can get an honorarium for being a member of those radio society committees. They want to be able to get an honorarium of \$50 a month, because those societies do not have very much money. They usually try to raise some funding by holding bingos and other fund-raising activities. According to the policy, they are allowed to get \$6000 and right now I would like to ask the Minister if there could be some funding on top of the \$6000? Will you be able to get some money to help the operations of those societies on top of the \$6000? I know the department is now giving out, for the operation of those radios, in the amount of \$5000 a year and the communities get \$1000. I would like to know if there could be some more funding allocated to those communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I find that question a bit difficult to answer because I am aware of the program for establishing radios in communities. I think we have made a lot of progress in establishing them throughout 32 communities in the North. I am aware that initially the grant to help these small community radios was \$5000 a year to help with the operations and maintenance costs. Most of the money went to pay the heat and to pay the operating costs of these radio stations.

Last year, because of the demands, we raised the grants to \$6000, up \$1000. I feel that the amount that we give to these community radio stations should stay at this amount for a number of years because of the limited money that we have. I feel that the money we presently provide is enough and should be enough for the next couple of years. There are always situations that may require special attention and if that case arises, then I do not mind treating a community specially, on a one-time basis. But that is probably the extent to which we can increase the grants to communities. So my answer is that I do not see how, with the limited money that we have in our program, we can provide more than \$6000 to each community.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. (No translation available)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I am sorry, Mr. Gargan, I am afraid we do not have a translation. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just trying to say that the Government Leader made an announcement today to extend the sitting hours. Obviously he knew about it and he advised the department heading the translation department. Why was I not accommodated for translation of the aboriginal language?

AN HON. MEMBER: Good point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: What can I say? I do not think that was a serious question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any general comments? Mr. Appaqaq.

Problem With Getting Radio Parts From Vancouver

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to talk about radio stations in the communities. I came to Yellowknife in February, but in Sanikiluaq, up to today, since the time that I came, they have not heard CBC because there are some damages in the radio and they have to

get the parts from Vancouver. We experienced this before, with the damage to our receivers. Sometimes the satellite system breaks down and they do not have any other stand-by receiver. Vancouver is very far from our community. We try to order parts from them. We should be able to get receivers from a closer place than Vancouver. I want to know if Vancouver is the only place we can order the parts from.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to tell the Member that we have recently found another spot in Canada where we can obtain services, and it is Toronto, now, that we can get parts from and get services for any repairs that must be done. Toronto is a little bit closer to Sanikiluaq, so I hope that that speeds things up. If there is a problem in Sanikiluaq, I will have my officials pay attention to that problem and make sure that the station becomes functional again as quickly as possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Appaqaq.

Injury Compensation For Interpreters

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister, but another thing that I would like to ask him is, we are able to communicate only through the interpreters and we use the services of the GNWT language bureau. Some of the organizations -- big organizations such as BRC or the education councils and societies -- always meet in the communities and then they also use the services of the GNWT interpreters because the interpreters have the training to do that sort of job. My question is, I think there is some danger that the interpreters, say, for instance, might have problems in the way of hearing things or might get earaches or something like that when they work all of the time with the receivers and things like that. There are a lot of organizations that are coming out that are just unilingual. I do not think that the interpreters are going to stop; they are going to keep on continuing.

My question is, do the GNWT interpreters have insurance, some kind of insurance related to their job, just in case they are not able to work any more because of some damages, or some kind of compensation if they are unable to do their job?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, in talking to my officials, they are not aware of any problems that interpreters or translators have had with their ears as a result of working in the area of communications and translating. I appreciate that it is a new area. It is a new type of work that has just been established in the North in the last few years, and so far we are not aware of any persons that have suffered from working as interpreters or translators. But, in the event that there are problems, that there are damages or injuries suffered by our employees, all government employees are covered with insurance. They are covered by the Workers' Compensation Board for any injuries, and so forth. So, in the event that there is injury or there is long-term disability, they would be covered. They will be able to be compensated for any such injuries. So, I feel that our employees are well covered in this matter.

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I am talking about this is that I feel it might happen in the future and it is a very hard job that the interpreters have, I am sure. Whoever has a full-time job has to work quite a long time and even the young employees tend to get into accidents such as that. I just wanted you to find out how well the interpreters are looked after, that way. Because if you ask them, they can tell you. That is why I am asking you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Member for bringing the concern to our attention. It is one that I think we had not thought about, but I will ask my officials to check with interpreters in the South. There are people that make a living as translators in the South. Now, we will make inquiries as to what their experience is with respect to any damage that has been suffered over the course of years as interpreters. So, I thank the Member for bringing the concern to my attention.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister about the language bureau. It has been about a year and a half since this bureau has been in place and obviously there must have been some analysis done with regard to the outcome of this bureau, the type of services that they provide, especially the aboriginal languages section. I would like to ask the Minister, what has been the result of this bureau being established? Other than being translators in this Legislature -- unfortunately the Slavey translator went off tonight -- have they been able to utilize the aboriginal languages in the service of the government as effectively as compared to, perhaps, the community level? Has there been any comparison done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: I will ask the assistant deputy minister, who really knows about this whole area, to reply to you.

Services Provided By The Language Bureau

MS BLONDIN-TOWNSEND: With regard to the aboriginal language services provided by the language bureau, I found your question rather long. I think there are two parts to it. First, you want to know basically just exactly what has resulted from the establishment of the language bureau over the last year and a half. As you are aware, we have quite a few translators or as they are called, interpreter/communicators, providing services both to various government departments on demand and we also have agreements and arrangements with the regional organizations like the Deh Cho Regional Council, education councils, so on and so forth. We have them also providing services at the community level where it has been identified as a priority.

I think basically the services provided are adequate and where there have been minor problems, we have dealt with the clients and we have found that our working relationship as a group has been very favourable. I think that basically the group is developing and growing and their skills are increasing. I think we have a long way to go with regard to developing translators and interpreters in the area, particularly in the Dene area, equivalent to those the Secretary of State houses because they have years of experience and their basic requirements are very rigid and very demanding. But I think we have a very strong core of interpreter/communicators.

We have nine Dene interpreter/communicators who provide services in Loucheux, Dogrib, North and South Slavey and Chipewyan. We also have a regionally based group in the Fort Smith Region and those individuals are actually located at the community level and provide services at very basic community levels to the community organizations. I hope I have answered your question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I know you said they are being used fairly, I do not know what you meant by that. I also want to go a bit further by saying that because these translators work for this government, I would assume that most of the translation is done in a political arena, if you want to call it that in regional councils and, yes, for municipal councils too, I think they have one in Fort Simpson. I know that they are going to have a big regional hospital here and I am just wondering whether the department has prepared translators specifically to work with aboriginal people in that \$26 million or \$36 million hospital that is coming up -- I am not too sure of the cost.

Training Of Medical Interpreters

MS BLONDIN-TOWNSEND: With regard to the interpreters to be trained for the health services, I have to say that under the Canada/NWT language agreement we have a project presently under way with the Department of Health to prepare a medical handbook. Also, in co-operation with Arctic College, we are providing -- actually we have handed over the responsibility for training to Arctic College and that training opportunity, presumably as of September, will be open to any individuals who would perhaps like to participate in the program. That probably will make an opportunity available to people who have a particular interest in training in the areas, specifically, I guess, if they want to be medical interpreters; that would be their opportunity there. Of course, we also have interpreters who now work for us whom we would probably encourage, those who are perhaps medically inclined, who have a training background in nursing or have dealt with nursing stations so on and

so forth at the community level. We would encourage them to perhaps train as medical interpreters. The hospital will also have its own interpreters as it does now -- it has a very basic interpreting service -- assuming that the client population is going to be far greater with a larger hospital and that they would accommodate that need.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I would like to ask perhaps Ms Blondin-Townsend, who is going to accommodate that need for translation services in the hospital? I understand you also said that there are basic translations now being done in the hospital. Who covers the cost of these translations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister or Ms Blondin-Townsend.

MS BLONDIN-TOWNSEND: As far as I know the costs are presently covered by the hospital, by the Department of Health I presume.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mahsi cho. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, or I think Ms Blondin-Townsend. There was a language development program that was just started in Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, Fort Good Hope and higher up -- I am not too sure where they are. I am sure you know what I am referring to. These people are either under the Department of Education or Culture and Communications. The only problem that these people are experiencing is that they have not been really comfortable with regard to the type of money they have been getting to have the program on an ongoing basis. This has been a concern that has been expressed to me time and time again. From year to year these language development programs in the communities have been sort of not too sure whether they are going to be getting funding from one year to another. That sort of concern has been expressed to me. I am just wondering whether this government is serious about these programs at the community level because certainly the type of material that they are going to be developing is eventually going to be used perhaps in the education system. Every time their program is in jeopardy they lose that enthusiasm and this has been going on from year to year and I would like to ask the department what they intend to do about it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Funding For Language Development Programs

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, for these centres for teaching and learning that have been established in the last few years, the funding comes from our department and it comes from the Canada/NWT language agreement that had been negotiated with the federal government some years ago. This present year for instance, we are providing \$780,000 to that program. This past year, centres were set up in Fort Franklin, Fort Simpson, and Eskimo Point. Our future plans are to set up such a centre in Rae-Edzo and up in the Loucheux area but the moneys for the program are moneys that are transferred to the Department of Education.

The Department of Education is responsible for getting the moneys out to the people in the communities. It is one area that my department does not have any responsibility for but I am aware, as the Member is, of the delays in these community projects getting moneys. It is something that I will have to communicate with the Minister of Education on and see if we can do better in getting the moneys to these centres so that people could be certain of the funding and can know that their funding is secure. I am sympathetic with the Member because I know that has happened in Providence a number of times and we have quickly corrected the problem when it is brought to our attention but it is really a Department of Education responsibility. I do not like passing the buck but in this case I cannot take the blame for that delay in getting the moneys to these programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I would like to thank the Minister for his sympathy but I want to say again that the other concern I have is whether your department when giving the money to Education, delays in giving them the money. And do you give them the money on a quarterly basis or do you give them a lump sum in the new fiscal year? What is the arrangement? I know during our special committee on

finance meeting I delivered a contract to be signed by the girl in Fort Providence in order to get some more moneys for this program and I am just asking whether the contribution that is made is for at least one fiscal year. This quarterly business is really hard on the projects being implemented.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, as soon as the budget is agreed and the fiscal year starts, our department transfers the money to the Department of Education and if there are any delays that is where the delay is, in the Department of Education. I will just say that I thank the Member for bringing the problem to my attention and I will undertake to deal with Mr. Patterson concerning this matter to ensure that the projects in the communities do get the money as quickly as possible so the problems that have been experienced in the past years do no longer exist. I will try my best to have that accomplished.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I ask you a question I would like to get some information on radio stations. Are you looking after local radio stations or are we talking about just the education? Can I ask in regard to local radio stations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Yes, you can ask him questions on radio stations.

Maintenance Of Community Radio Station Equipment

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The radio receivers in communities break very easily and now they are very old. They are very cheap. They are not made for heavy-duty work and they break very easily for that reason. Communities like Clyde River, Broughton Island, Lake Harbour, Sanikiluaq, are the places where they break so often. Is Sanikiluaq under your jurisdiction? When the receiver is broken in the communities, can they replace them? Are they replaceable? When can we get better equipment for the communities? The Lake Harbour receiver is not working very well at all. Just once in a while we can make use of it. The tape-recorders, the turntable is of very cheap quality. Can we get better quality equipment in the radio stations? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, our Department of Culture and Communications has become responsible for providing radios to the small communities in the North. CBC normally would have been responsible for providing radio communications to people throughout Canada and throughout the North. CBC does not provide radio for communities smaller than 500 so our government, a number of years ago, established a program of providing communities with their own radio stations. So that is how our government became involved. The equipment that is provided is considered to be of a fairly good standard. If it is used properly, maintained properly, it should last quite a number of years. I am sorry to hear that the radio station in Lake Harbour is not working very well. I am advised that we have a system in place for having these radio stations repaired and up to snuff in good repair. I suppose occasionally there are lapses or occasionally the repairs do not happen as quickly as people want. In the case of Lake Harbour, I will undertake now to have my officials check into it and get the radio station operating in a good state and in a good fashion. I hope that this will satisfy the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Lake Harbour radio receiver -- if you go and see it, it is in very poor condition. They do not look as if they received them from the government. They are well looked after, but they are very easy to break. If they can replace them it would be much better to have them replaced with better quality equipment.

I would like to ask you people, is there a way of replacing the equipment that is given to the communities? For how many years do you plan to keep them? What is the depreciation that you planned for the equipment in the communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

MR. SORESEN: Mr. Chairman, if I may, we will certainly undertake to have a look at the radio receiver, as well as the rest of the equipment and ensure that it is brought up to standard within a very short time. We have a complete list of equipment in all communities and we have a 24 hour telephone number that societies call in the case of problems. Sometimes it does not happen that rapidly, but I just would say that I appreciate the Member bringing it to our attention and we will look after it right away and replace the poor parts and bring it back up to standard. We will get action going within the next couple of days and we will advise the radio society as to when we will be able to have somebody in there to replace the equipment and to do any other maintenance that is required at the same time. Thank you.

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

Chipewyan Interpreter Not Available

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mahsi cho. (Translation not available) Are you serious that there are no interpreters for Chipewyan?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: My understanding is that there are not any interpreters there, but it is the Clerk's and the Speaker's fault that there are not any of their people today. We supply. Our department supplies the people, but if they are not there tonight, it is not our fault. It is the Speaker's and the Clerk's fault. It is the chairman's fault.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it is easier to blame somebody else. It makes me wonder just how serious we are about this language, when we cannot even provide interpreters for something like this. It is really nice to put papers together, but we need bodies to carry on, to implement some of these programs. I notice in the project summary, Canada-NWT Agreement on Aboriginal Languages, that on education centres for teaching and learning, they have centres in Fort Franklin, Fort Simpson and Eskimo Point. I wonder where is our centre then for our Dene language?

Community Language Development Programs

The other question that I have is, what is this number two, education, community projects? It says, "which provide sound development plans". What is that? Can you explain that to me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister. Ms Blondin-Townsend.

MS BLONDIN-TOWNSEND: With regard to number two, Mr. Chairman, you realize that under the NWT agreement, these particular projects are identified, structured, planned out by the staff of the Department of Education. So we do not have the kind of detailed knowledge on just exactly what all of the rationale is for each of the projects. As far as I can gather from my dealings with the Department of Education and my dealings with the language agreement, basically there are different community projects that have been identified in the communities. From what I understand there are what would be considered language development projects and this particular area has such projects as communities or groups being identified to perhaps work on a history of a group and to develop a publication or to develop curriculum material centring on different themes regarding a particular group. It could be the Loucheux, it could be the Chipewyan, or it could be another separate group in the Eastern Arctic in a number of communities. This is what I understand these particular projects to be. I am sure that if you have any further concerns or questions, you would probably be best to deal with these when the Department of Education has their specialists at your service. I am not sure I answered your question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Ms Blondin-Townsend. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That really did not answer my question at all but I will deal with it another time. Getting back to the interpreters, your deputy minister has been in this game for longer than newer people and I just assumed that he should have made it by now. It is automatic that when we are sitting we should have interpreters in place. Three years ago they did not even have one when I was speaking Chip and if I wanted to be miserable I could be sitting here and speaking Chip and letting you suffer out the rest of the evening and if you cannot understand me, that is your tough luck. Now you know what it is like to be in that position. But for the

benefit of the other Members, I will speak English this one time. And especially when we are dealing with this language too -- it really bothers me, just how serious the department is on this program.

Monitoring Of Programs Needed

They hire different people and they are trying to get projects going in the community. I feel that many times these projects have been going on and on without anyone closely monitoring them or evaluating them. Then it gets out of hand and turns out to be nothing. Then the department sits back and says they had so-and-so there doing it. I just do not believe in that attitude. I think if the department has some kind of a program going, it should be closely monitored and you should be able to supervise it. If they are not progressing as well as they should, then some kind of action should be taken to correct it immediately and you should not sit back and let it get out of hand and run out of funds and everything and then there is nothing coming out of it. No results in the end.

This program officer. That comes under Education as well? Is it possible to talk about it now or should we wait for Education too?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, that is a program within our department and Ms Blondin-Townsend can deal with that. The money there is for a person who -- I am sorry, the program is still handled under Education. It is number six in the projects on page two of the project summary. That is a Department of Education position, it is George Cleary who has been hired to oversee all of the Education language programs. This is the new activity that the Department of Education announced recently. They announced that there was a person heading up all of their aboriginal language activities in the Department of Education.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, how are they trying to improve the interpreter services at the community level? I am having problems. We have a lot of important issues to deal with in my community, especially in Snowdrift. We have a lot of elders who do not speak English at all. We have a lot of important issues, such as the proposed national park, the boundary, the low-level flights, land claims, and yet every time we sit down for a meeting, we do not have qualified translators. If we do have someone to translate, they usually sit right in the middle of everybody and they translate and it takes so long because they do not have the equipment at all. If we are going to improve the language and promote our language, I feel that you need proper equipment to work with. If I want to make a dress, I need a needle and a thread and if I do not have them, I am not going to do a good job of making a dress. It is the same thing to promote the interpreters. If you want to improve the services, you have to have proper equipment to work with. I am getting really frustrated in the last few times that I was at a big meeting, it took so long. We are trying to find people on our own and it is really frustrating. In what way are you going to improve the services at the community level, especially where there is a lot of people who speak a native language?

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

Efforts To Improve Interpretation Services

MS BLONDIN-TOWNSEND: We have one particular group within the Dene language section that is at the community level and I appreciate your comments, Mrs. Lawrence. We find that we have been experiencing some difficulties in working at different levels and providing different kinds of services. Basically we are a new program and we realize that we want to provide quality interpreting and communicating. But as you know only too well, the individuals who have the basic qualifications to begin with are few and far between. And of those who have those qualifications, many have already made other commitments. Those people are in demand and those people are previously committed. That is one particular aspect you have to look at.

The other is that with this particular group we are examining every possibility for perhaps enhancing the level of service. We met just recently with that particular group of people. I personally played a hand in meeting with those people and trying to identify the problems and

trying to lay out a strategy to deal with them. We would like very much to be able to provide the level of service that each and every client demands. Unfortunately, we simply do not have the people and it is incumbent upon us as a department, and particularly for myself who heads up the program, to lay out a training program for these individuals but that also takes commitment. On the one hand you want qualified people but you also want them there. We look at different ways of meeting those demands, if we cannot provide the service through that particular group because they have other commitments, we will take people on contract and basically we are quite flexible in that area. We will go to our clients and if they have a particular choice we will allow them that choice. I think we have been rather flexible and co-operative in that way.

Eliza, you brought up quite a few points and I am trying to remember them all but I do realize that it is the level of service, I guess basically the quality control that we have that we are struggling with. In all areas, even with our experienced interpreters, we know that they have to struggle with the demands of their workload and we find that basically interpreting, particularly simultaneous translation, is a very rigorous and demanding responsibility and that years of training and experience are expended to that end. Even then, the interpreters, the really professional interpreter/communicators do not waste any time in perfecting their skills even later on in their years; practice makes perfect and that is what basically a lot of professional interpreter/communicators do.

Equipment For Interpreters

With regard to the equipment that they have available to them, right at this particular point, we have ordered information on the latest equipment that will expedite matters in these community-level meetings. We have had contact with people in the office of the Secretary of State, who have demonstrated the use of some rather sophisticated equipment, but even this equipment that we are looking at is very, very expensive and as you know only too well with the economic climate such as it is, we have to be very sparing with our dollars. If we do provide for one group, we have to consider the ramifications of that and what the repercussions will be when the other community groups demand that equipment. I am saying for a set of 15 sophisticated mobile sets, it would cost us in the range of \$10,000 to \$20,000. That is a lot of money. Basically, there is no room for excuses but there are a lot of problems we are contending with and, believe you me, it is a very difficult thing for both our clients and ourselves, to be patient with ourselves and to be able to allow the interpreters the time to perfect their skills and to deliver quality service, and for our clients to be patient.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I do not believe that lack of money should be blamed. We should be able to come up with equipment if we are going to improve our language and promote our language. There is always a way of purchasing something like this. The community can do some on their part and there could be some on the part of the department. I guess this is where a good worker comes into the picture. It is easier to sit back and I expect even though some of the people are paid to do the job, they would rather sit back.

My other question is regarding communications. I know that in Snowdrift, the last time I was there before the session they were having problems getting CBC radio into that area. I do not know who is responsible for that. I questioned the CBC and they said it was not their department, it was the government's responsibility. So what the communities are getting at the moment is FM from the Native Communications Society radio program. Mind you, they are very happy with that program. They are enjoying it. But I feel that the community should have a choice. They should be able to listen to CBC if they feel like it. So I guess my question is: Who is responsible to get CBC off the ground in Snowdrift?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am advised that the problem was created because of problems with the electrical generating system in Snowdrift and, as it turned out, it blew the whole radio system. It has since been fixed up and is now operating again.

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

Communities Must Form Radio Societies For Funding

MR. ERKLOO: In the communities where there are local radio stations, they have to become a radio society before they can apply for the funding. You were talking about \$5000 or \$6000 a year. But before they become eligible they have to become a society under the Societies Act. Am I correct in assuming that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is correct. They have to become a society and they apply through the Department of Justice for the society status. Once they have obtained that, they are eligible for the grant program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because the radio society comes under the Societies Act -- let us say the hamlet council wanted to take over the radio society, would there be any problem because the hamlet comes under the Municipal Act and the other one is under the Societies Act? Do you see any problem or difficulty if the hamlet council takes over the radio in a community where two groups want to come under one umbrella? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: Certainly, Mr. Chairman, we would have no objections to that. We would not withhold any funding if the hamlet council wished to bring the operation of the station under its authority. In recent changes to the federal regulations, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission now allows communities to hold a broadcasting licence. So I think we will certainly have no problem with that.

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

MR. ERKLOO: My last question, Mr. Chairman. If the hamlet wanted to take over the radio society, what steps do they have to take? Do they have to invite officials from the departments, let us say one from Municipal and Community Affairs and one from your department? What does the community have to do? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sorensen.

MR. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I think that it ought to be very easy to handle and I will ensure that the person who heads up the communications side of our department is in touch with your hamlet council to start the discussions and we will keep the Member advised on the progress. I do not think that it will be that difficult, assuming the broadcasting society and the hamlet council are in agreement with this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Nerysoo.

Number Of Dene Languages

MR. NERYSOO: I just wanted personally to find out from the Minister, Mr. Chairman, when was the decision made that there are only five Dene languages and those five Dene languages were Loucheux, North Slavey, South Slavey, Dogrib, and Chipewyan; and now where is Cree in that particular group?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, there have been no changes and no decisions made with respect to the Dene languages. I think it is just a matter of the groupings. We said five Dene languages and we mean by that Loucheux, Slavey which includes the North and the South and even Hare, and then the Dogrib, Chip and Cree.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I just note with interest, though, that that is seven and it is not five. That is the number it used to be when I was in school. I just wanted to say from having read the document that was made available to us by the Minister, that personally, and I guess

coming from a region that is identified as Loucheux, I have a very difficult time trying to associate that language with Slavey, even in terms of the idea of suggesting that it is Athapascan because the reality is that like other language groups -- I think Inuktitut is one of them, where there is a difference of writing system in the West and in some cases, even the manner in which they speak as well. There is a difference from that to the Baffin and even a slight difference as you move along to the Keewatin and to Quebec. There are slight differences in the way you speak.

Loucheux Has Special Relationship To Yukon And Alaska Language Group

More importantly, I wanted to make this known, that the Loucheux language itself really has a relationship, you might say, to the Yukon and then to Alaska as a language group. It has not really what you might say a relationship to the Slavey and to the Dogrib and to the Chipewyan. I raise that because in trying to suggest there is going to be some idea of standardization, it is really difficult when you try to standardize languages that are very different in the way they are spoken and in fact really have no relationship at all. I think it is important, maybe, to recognize that difference in the same way that you would recognize the difference that Cree really has no relationship to Slavey nor to Chipewyan nor to Dogrib. It is a different language. As such, that recognition has to be made.

I must say that, having read most of the documentation with the summary of projects, that difference is not really recognized in the types of programs and the services that are being developed or provided to the communities. It is just something I wanted to raise at this particular time because I think many of the people here that speak their own language know that there are differences and recognize that each language group has to be developed in the manner it is spoken and in the manner it is written. I just would hope that in developing a standardized method of orthography, that difference should be recognized.

I would also suggest that if there is going to be any work with regard to Loucheux, I really think that there is very little work to be done in the sense of standardizing its orthography because I think the decision to use Roman orthography has been made by the people that speak the language; and it has been, since the 1800s, that that seems to be the method of writing. And I suggest that the key is modernizing the language and also ensuring that the language stays alive in terms of being able to be spoken in the community. Also, I would suggest that the Minister consider, I guess, working somehow with the Yukon government and even the Alaskan government and coming up with a way in which we could develop an agreement on a method of developing the Loucheux language. But that is, I think, in terms of language development a longer term strategy than it is a matter of actual implementation at this particular time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Angottitauruq.

Training For Local Broadcasters

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is one of the areas I made some comments on and it is about the radio societies and radio stations in the small communities. I do not know about the other communities, but with my experience within the communities I regularly go to, they have radio societies and they have time to have an open hour for the community to broadcast their own news locally. There are many times I hear the announcer say -- for at least about three-quarters of the hour, they usually open about an hour, the ones I am experienced with -- they keep saying, "If you have any announcements please call our radio station." And if they are given some grants and some funding and if they are doing their duty as a radio society and radio announcers, they should be collecting some information that the public should hear.

I guess it comes hard for one individual. For instance, if a mayor has some announcements, they can make their announcements. But it is not every day that they can go on the air. I guess they have to have some experienced broadcaster come to the communities, and a trained person. If the government is talking about communication being valuable, they should have some experienced broadcasters come into the smaller communities to train the radio announcers and also the radio society boards, so that the valuable information could be given to the community people. Are we going to be able to see some training in that in the future?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. I just wanted to say to Mrs. Lawrence that I believe channel four has Chipewyan translation. Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Member for his comments. We have never gone beyond just simply providing the equipment for communities to have their own radio stations. We have never gone beyond that to develop or provide people to train people in the small communities. I guess nothing is impossible in this world. I suppose people could be hired to travel around the North teaching people how to provide entertainment or how to provide good information to the people in the communities. That sort of thing is possible, but it would be very costly and it would be a new program that we could start.

The small radio stations were never intended to be like the CBC, where they provide all of the information and entertainment to a community. It was thought, I am sure, that there are interesting local people with information and ideas and stories that could entertain their own people. So what the Member is suggesting has never been a program that the government has, and I really do not know if we should start a program of training the people in the communities for their local radio stations. It would be very costly and, I suppose, it would take a number of years to develop such a program.

Journalism Course At Thebacha Campus

I can tell the Member that there is a journalism course that is starting in Thebacha this fall, possibly, and for people in the communities who are interested and want to pursue it as a career, as a way of making a living, that program will be available. I really cannot say anything more than that. I think people in the communities are expected to provide their own entertainment and provide information to themselves, using the local resources that they have and that is as far as the government has gone.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mahsi cho.

MR. McCALLUM: Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le President.

---Laughter

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, it is half French and half Loucheux.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is Cree.

---Laughter

Specialized Training Sought For Interpreters In Legal System

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister or Ms Blondin-Townsend, I noticed that you have a program dealing with training in the area of health, a medical terminology program. I wonder if your department, perhaps in the long term -- is it possible to have a similar training program for interpreters who specialize in legal terminology, who would provide services to the courts at the community and regional level? Is it possible to have such a program funded as a joint program between the Department of Justice and the Department of Culture and Communications sometime in the future, depending upon availability of funds? I understand there is a long history of good co-operation between the various departments of the territorial administration so I would assume anything is possible. I just wanted to know if such a program is possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will try to answer that. Members will recall we passed an amendment to the Jury Act last year which has not been proclaimed yet. I am answering it because my department is actually doing it. As part of that, we wanted to find out what we had to do to improve the capability of interpreters in the system; so we have a study under way right now. Do you want to hear the terms of reference of the study? I have them here if you want them but basically, Mr. Wah-Shee, if you would like them, it is to identify the duties, skill levels and training required for interpreters and translators in the court system, to identify what sectors of court administration require interpreters and translators, and to review the feasibility of joint simultaneous translation of aboriginal languages. We are trying to find out the financial impact of the operation; recommend ways to make native communities more aware of the justice system;

identify which office in the Department of Justice will co-ordinate translation and interpreting requirements; examine feasibility, in effect providing summaries of all NWT statutes and regulations in aboriginal languages. I hope to have the results of that in the springtime, in which case we can start working toward that objective.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) They are talking about medical interpreters. I would like to know what kind of training they will be offering these people that are going to be trained as medical interpreters.

Medical Terminology Program

MR. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, the project that is number 10, health, medical terminology program -- there is no intention, to my knowledge, from the Department of Health's point of view at this time to put together a training program for medical interpreters. On a day to day basis within the language bureau, we have put on medical seminars for regional interpreters, free-lance interpreters, at the community levels, and members of our own staff. What Health wishes to do is to develop the material, the terminology, that is going to be required to put on a very specialized course in medical interpreting. But to my knowledge there are no solid plans at this time for that training course and they are concentrating on the developing of the material right now. That is spoken to in item number 10 in the overview.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mahsi. (Translation) I would like to know how come there seems to be quite a bit of money and yet when people are sick and need interpreters they do not have any specialized interpreters in the medical field. When people come from small communities, especially the older people, they really do not know what to do because they do not speak English. I really think they need help and that interpreters should be trained, especially in that field.

If they are only taught medical terminology, they should have training by medical staff so that they will be better in their line of interpreting. Long ago they had all kinds of books, and everything, that they used, but it is not really helping the people right now. I would like all the Executive to think about this because they need a lot of help for the older people who do not speak the language.

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

MR. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The whole area of specialization in medicine or medical interpreting in the courts and in other areas has to be developed yet. In the history of the bureau, we just have not had the staff to specialize anybody in anything, really. But we are getting to the point now, and the first step in that direction will be a training program this new year for legal interpreters. At the same time, we will continue our discussions with the Department of Health, that is assuming responsibilities from the federal government for health services, and address the need for specialization there, as well.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) Thank you. They are talking about Thebacha Campus. He says they are starting in the fall here. I would like to know who will be teaching this. Is it going to be done by non-native people or will native people be teaching the course?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, again it is the Department of Education that will again be responsible for setting up the program, setting up the agenda, the curriculum and the actual things that the interpreters are taught. All I can do now is undertake to provide to the Member -- or certainly ask the Minister of Education about that when his budget is up.

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

Interpreters Need Native Teachers

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) They are talking about this training course that is to take place in Fort Smith. I would like to know how they are going to train interpreters if there is no one there that speaks a particular language that the interpreters are being trained in? There should be a native person there teaching them and helping them along, because I do not think they can be taught properly by a person who does not speak their language. (Translation ends)

...planning for establishment of aboriginal language. I am questioning, how are they going to teach this interpreter/translator training program? Are they going to have an elder that speaks a native language really well sitting back listening to them? Or is it going to be taught by people that speak strictly English only? I am questioning, how are they going to do this? I do not know if I am making myself clear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Ms Blondin-Townsend.

MS BLONDIN-TOWNSEND: Mr. Chairman, in the training that is going to be provided for the interpreter/translators in Arctic College, I do believe that the upgrading of the aboriginal language is just one component of an overall basic training program for interpreter/translators. We are assuming, in our dealings with the Department of Education and having handed the training package to them for interpreter/communicators, that they will have accommodated that specific need. They will bring in resource people as needed, and those would be elders and those would be people who are proficient in their native language. I mean, it is only reasonable to assume that. That is basically the only facility we have for upgrading the aboriginal languages of the interpreter/communicators taking the course.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, one last comment. I know that the native language, regardless of what kind of language it is, whether seven or five languages, is very important. You know, we assume that because somebody understands a few words of English -- that does not mean that they understand exactly what is going on when you are talking to them or trying to explain to them. I believe that we need a lot of good interpreters. I have to congratulate the Inuit interpreters. They are doing very well.

In my language, we have one good one and it is just too much for her. That is Leona Poitras. She does very well and I believe that we need more people like her and we have to work harder on that. I get calls steadily at home to try to talk to different people, and it just proves to me that there is a big need for more Chipewyan translators. That is my last comment for the night. Good night.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Any further comments? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make some general comments on the department in total. I may refer to three or four different areas in it. First, concern about the total language bureau and the amount of money that is involved here, I note that in the language bureau itself, there are 30 people involved and there is about \$1.7 million. Under the enhancement area of the language bureau there are another 24 positions for interpreters, managers, etc., with another \$1.3 million. There is also the official languages area, the French money is, of course, because of the contribution between the federal government and the GNWT.

But, as I understand it, we are now in our third year of this kind of arrangement, a five year arrangement as I understand it, and I have some concern about what the ongoing O and M will be over the next two years with this particular program. It has been indicated to us that there will be no increase in O and M, but I cannot believe that we are going to get rid of 50-odd people involved with this unless something is going to be put into the base dealing with the language bureau over the next two years.

Great Time And Effort Put Into Translation Of Legislation

I have concern with that because I think we should not be thinking of moving away. I think you have heard, the Minister and his people have heard people talking about the need for even increased capability in languages in the interpretation/translation services. More and more material has to be translated to make sure that government works and that people out in various communities really understand what government is about. We have a classic example within the next three or four

months, the life of this present government, Mr. Chairman. The present government intends to put before this House, before the 10th Assembly rises, approximately 26 bills. Now that is a very short period of time. A lot of those bills contain an awful lot of, what I would term legalese, language that is very difficult to translate into aboriginal languages; in some instances because there is no corresponding word or phrase for them. That takes a lot of time and effort. It takes a lot of time in terms of the government's drafting capability within the Department of Justice, but it also takes an awful lot of time and effort on behalf of the interpreters, the translators, in trying to get that language into an aboriginal language and then moved out into the community in some form or other for consultation, so that people really know what is happening.

In Canada, as in a lot of other English-speaking countries, we have a great tendency to overlegislate. We tend to believe that we have to run our countries with a great deal of legislation. Once we accept that kind of principle, once we get into the idea that people must be governed and there must be certain parameters as to how people act within a society, then you bring forth all kinds of legislation. We here in the NWT, as opposed to a great number of countries, attempt to ensure that the citizens, for whom we accept this role of legislators, understand what is going to govern them. But that involves an awful lot of this interpretation and language. As has been more eloquently said, and I have heard the Minister, over many years, saying the same kind of thing, it is not enough for people to know that they have to be governed, if you like, by law. The law has to be not just seen being applicable to them, the law really has to work for them, because people then do not understand and do not accept government, which is always laying heavies on them. I think that in this whole business of language, we are into the arrangement of getting it and now we are going to be hit with even more, because we are going to go en français as well as in the other languages. We are going to have a really difficult time.

Estimates Show No Increase In O And M

When I see the fiscal framework of this government that suggests because we have these programs this is the year for getting a lot of things done, but over the next two years shows no increase in O and M in this whole area of language development, interpretation and everything else, I have a very difficult time understanding how this government is going to do that. I would like sometime to hear the Minister, maybe not tonight, but sometime to hear the Minister respond in that area. Does he expect the next government to continue along developing this legislation, trying to interpret it, trying to translate it so the ordinary Jane and Joe can understand what is going on with legislation? How can this government then say there is going to be no increase in O and M? We are not going to want, as I understand it, the 30 people within the language bureau that I see, the 24 people that are in the language bureau enhancement. That will not be enough people to do that, to provide that kind of service. I would like to have the Minister comment on that kind of problem as I see it, and before somebody calls time on the clock.

AN HON. MEMBER: Time.

MR. McCALLUM: Just go on reading, forget it. I would like to maybe comment in a general manner on two other areas of the department. The other one is...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Arnold, it is nine o'clock.

MR. McCALLUM: This whole business of -- do I slow down or do I keep it going? All right then, tomorrow is another day. I will bring up the other two if you give me first chance tomorrow.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Agreed.

MR. NERYSOO: Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Agreed. You will have first chance tomorrow, depending who is sitting in the chair here. The Chair will recognize the clock. Before I report progress, as chairman of this committee, I feel I must clarify the situation concerning translation in this committee. The Department of Culture and Communications is required to supply interpreters to the Legislative Assembly while the House is sitting. The Legislative Assembly and, in particular, the Speaker, have no control over the interpreters as they are on loan only from the Department of Culture and

Communications. The understanding that we have with the department is that when the House is sitting, the interpreters are required to be here. It is every Member's right to speak in his or her own language in this House and I am disturbed that the Speaker is being mentioned by the Minister for not providing this translation. It was my understanding, that as with the Inuktitut interpreters, the Dene language interpreters should have returned to assist our Members. I just wish to make this point clear to the committee. With that, I shall rise to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88 and wishes to report progress.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: With regard to sitting hours for tomorrow. On Friday, normal sitting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. What is the wish of this Assembly? The committee can, of course, extend its hours past 2:00 o'clock if they wish, but do they wish an hour set tonight? Can I get any direction from any Member here to see what the wish of the House is? Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, let us go with the regular hours and we can extend at 2:00 o'clock should we wish to conclude the business before the committee.

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

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Friday, March 13th at 10:00 a.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion

13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 1-87(1), 7-87(1), 6-87(1), 2-87(1), 17-87(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. So that people can arrange their weekend, it is not my intention to sit on Saturday.

---Applause

This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 13th, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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