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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 18th. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 37-87(1): Assignment Of Portfolios

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce changes to Executive Council assignments. In deciding on the new assignments of portfolios I have been mindful of a number of factors. As Members are aware, there was a cabinet shuffle only a few months ago. I have, therefore, been most conscious of creating the least possible disruption to the present operations of government. At the same time, I wanted to ensure that the government's priorities as outlined in the Throne Speech and budget address were met in the most effective way. Generally, I feel that Ministers are well suited to the positions that they now hold. I have full confidence in their abilities and in the work they have been doing. As much as possible, they should be permitted to continue with their initiatives for the remaining months of our government. I want to make sure that any new assignments permit the goals of the government to continue to be reached.

I have therefore decided that only two Ministers would be affected by this change in duties. Mr. Pudluk will be assuming responsibility for the Departments of Culture and Communications and Government Services, while I will take on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Pudluk will bring many positive qualities to his new assignments. As an aboriginal person he will have special insights into the cultural and language needs of native people. I am confident that he will carry forward the initiatives in this area that previous Ministers have made while bringing his own fresh ideas to this particular department. I feel that the work of these two departments will be challenging for Mr. Pudluk as he adapts to his new role as a Minister.

In the case of my new responsibilities, I wanted to make it crystal clear to this Assembly, to the business community and to the people of the North, that economic development and tourism are among the highest priorities of this government. The downturn in the economy and the need for strong, positive action by this government in full partnership with the business community convinced me to take on this job. I intend to give it my full and undivided attention over the next few important months.

I do have a strong sympathy for, and a growing understanding of, the needs of the business community. I am confident I can carry forward the significant plans begun by my predecessor, Mr. Curley. As a first step I plan to meet with as many northern business leaders as possible in the

next few weeks. As well, I will be arranging meetings with my federal counterparts as soon as possible in order to bring to a successful conclusion the many negotiations started by the previous Minister. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. MacQuarrie.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Media Report

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to take exception to a comment made by a member of the public and reported in the media relating to Monday's debate, and that is to the effect that this House will be the laughingstock of the nation because of the actions taken here. If it were so, Mr. Speaker, pity the nation; but it is not so. I am confident that you, Mr. Speaker, in representing this House will be able to hold your head up high. The issue that faced the House was as clear as crystal; there could not have been a more fundamental or more important question for Members to decide and that question is, how will a Member use the immense public power that is put in trust into his hands when he is given by this House the honour of becoming a Minister of the Crown. The answer that must ring out clear in a democracy, Mr. Speaker, is that he will use it with integrity, with objectivity and fairness. Or failing to do that, he will have to answer to the House and through the House, to the people by having at the very least, not at the most, Mr. Speaker, and not excessively, but at the very least by having that power removed from his hands. That is one of the critical elements that make democracy so much superior to autocracy, where those who exercise power are not called to account at all for its use.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, and to the everlasting honour of the 10th Assembly, there were enough Members in this House with the foresight to recognize what was at stake in the issue and with the courage to do something about it and this House has no apology to make for its actions. It is ironical and sad and somewhat frustrating that we can encounter every day people who bemoan the general state of affairs, lament the murkiness of politics, lacerate politicians generally for bad behaviour and then who criticize once again when action is taken to try to improve the situation. I must suppose it is because they cannot recognize the importance of the foundational principles that are in place, put there at the cost of lives throughout history to ensure better government.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Egg Production Quota

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the support of the territorial government, the Hay River Reserve Band has worked hard in negotiating with the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency for an egg production quota for the Northwest Territories. As the government knows, these negotiations were not at all easy. CEMA at first refused to give the Northwest Territories the quota to sell eggs outside the Northwest Territories, but now in an out-of-court settlement, CEMA has announced a quota for the Northwest Territories of approximately 200,000 egg-laying chickens.

To be economically viable, the reserve must have a sufficient quota to sell eggs both in and out of the Territories. The band estimates that they would need 200,000 egg-laying chickens in order to have a viable business. It appears that the quota announced by CEMA will go not only to the band who have been working to establish this business for over three years, but it will be split between the band and the business established in the municipality of Hay River, and owned by a company in Rochester, Alberta. The hatchery, which does not employ one native person from my area, may get all or a part of the quota to ship eggs outside of the Territories. The owner of this second hatchery has only recently established his business in the Northwest Territories and has stated that he is interested in supplying eggs only in the Northwest Territories at first. This would most likely change once he is established. I question the economic viability of a quota of 50,000 egg-laying chickens -- we now have inadequate quota for the Northwest Territories because I doubt this quota will be large enough to allow both businesses to survive.

The initial challenge to the CEMA decision was made at the instigation of the Hay River Reserve Band. The government did make the right move in beginning the legal challenge, but in order to protect the integrity of the band's original proposal, I encourage the government to pursue the matter further. This government should challenge the settlement to the highest court, if necessary, to ensure that the Northwest Territories is treated fairly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Item 3, Members' statements. That appears to conclude this item for today. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 0146-87(1): Response To Question W27-87(1)

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I regret I have to make this return on behalf of my colleague, the Hon. Gordon Wray, but he is confined to his bed. In responding to the oral question asked by Mr. T'Seleie on March 17, 1987. The response provided me by the Minister and his department is that the answer to written Question W27-87(1), regarding regional and tribal council funding, will be presented on Friday, March 20, 1987.

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

Item 5, oral questions.

Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, the following returns have been filed: Return to Question W16-87(1), asked by Mr. Arlooktoo of the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

Return To Question W16-87(1): Paint Shop For Cape Dorset Housing Association

Hon. Michael Ballantyne's return to Question W16-87(1), asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on February 25th, regarding a paint shop for the housing association at Cape Dorset.

Since the Cape Dorset housing association is located in a new building, I do not foresee having funds available to construct a separate paint shop. I am, however, aware that DPW has recently made a second building available for the association's use. I will instruct the Baffin district office to assist the association with constructing a paint shop ventilation system. With the present amount of space and maintenance funding available, I am confident that the Cape Dorset housing association will be able to address its employees' concerns.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, a point of privilege. I had my hand up for written questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, you are asking for unanimous consent to return to Item 6, written questions. Are there any nays? Mr. Gargan, you have the floor.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W32-87(1): Education Of Status Indians In The NWT

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my written question to the Minister of Education. In response to my written question of February 25th, regarding the education of status Indians and, in particular, the Indian Education Agreement, the Minister of Education responded in his return to Question 0107-87(1), on March 4 that this was "a major constitutional question".

I do not see that questions like "Is the ordinance still in effect?" or "When was the ordinance repealed if it is not on the books?" are questions of a constitutional nature, nor do I believe that these questions should be difficult to answer. The other questions which I asked in my letter should be even easier: Does this government have an agreement with the federal government that

transferred responsibility of educating status Indians from Ottawa to the Government of the NWT? What is the value of financial contributions provided by the federal government to this government for the education of status Indians?

I ask that the Minister review my earlier question, Question W15-87(1), and provide an answer soon. Further, I ask that he provide a better explanation of the term, "major constitutional question", as used in his first response to that question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Mr. Paniloo.

Question W33-87(1): Funding For Bus Services, Pangnirtung

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My written question is directed to the Minister of Education. In Pangnirtung, there is a bus run by the hamlet council to transport children to and from school. There is no longer any funding to utilize this service. My question to the Minister of Education is, can you find some funding for this bus or make funds available to the education committee in Pangnirtung for this purpose?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. We have dealt with Item 7, returns to written questions. Are there any further returns?

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 11, tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 23-87(1): Egg Quota For The NWT

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, March 20th, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Council that it draft legislation for the control of egg exporting permits; and further, that the Executive Council consider providing the Hay River Reserve Band with the first option for an egg quota. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Notices of motion.

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

Item 14, motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Bill 26-87(1) remains on the order paper until the other portion is completed.

Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88; Bill 7-87(1), Education Act; Bill 6-87(1), Criminal Injuries Compensation Act; Bill 2-87(1), Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act; Bill 17-87(1), Mechanics' Lien Act; Bill 14-87(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1987-88; Bill 25-87(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1986-87; Bill 29-87(1), Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1986-87; Bill 24-87(1), Student Financial Assistance Act; Bill 8-87(1), Elections Act; Bill 30-87(1), Plebiscite Act; and Bill 9-87(1), Financial Administration Act, with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. Mr. Patterson, do you wish to invite any witnesses before the committee?

Department Of Education

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have Mr. Handley and Mr. Devitt with me again, please.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin by clarifying a statement I made yesterday about payments made by the Department of Social Services for foster care and other kinds of home boarding. I said yesterday that those payments were taxable income, but I should have clarified that there is a section of the Income Tax Act which then turns around and exempts those payments from tax. So, social assistance payments are taxable but there is a section in the Income Tax Act which exempts them, the same as welfare payments, I believe, are exempted from taxation. So social services payments are in a category different from the education payments.

As well, Mr. Chairman, I have a breakdown of the enrolment in Akaitcho Hall and a breakdown of the number of students from Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot attending schools in Yellowknife. On March 18th the enrolment at Akaitcho Hall, including home boarding and cluster units at Northern United Place, is 135. The population breaks down as follows by region: Baffin, no students; Keewatin, 13; Kitikmeot, 52; Rae-Edzo area, 34; Fort Smith Region, 34; and Inuvik Region, 2. I will pass that information around to Members.

Directorate And Administration, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mahsi cho. We are on page 17.08, directorate and administration. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister, when he made that Minister's statement with regard to student enrolment of approximately 5000 students, indicated that there was something like 52 per cent attendance rating in all of the NWT, with the exception of a few schools that had 50 per cent, others 70 per cent. But the territorial average is now around 82 per cent for school attendance. The Minister also further indicated that the reasons for the high average rate is due to parents being more responsive to the fact that their children should be educated. I would assume that this is based on schools being involved with the administration of education in all the North. I am just wondering, with regard to the Minister making that statement of the parents being more responsive to having their children educated, could part of the reason or a major part of the reason be compulsory education being implemented in these communities? That is, if there is a sudden trend of attendance going up. I do not think the parents perhaps were not as receptive four or five years ago as they are now, but rather that there is a law in place now, that actually forces a child to go to school and the parents are accountable. I am just wondering whether part of that average could be attributed to compulsory education being a law in some of the communities.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think it is a little too early, in my view, to decide whether the compulsory attendance legislation has had an effect. It was only proclaimed on September 1st and only 26 out of about 65 school districts have so far opted to implement the regime in their communities. As I mentioned, we have only, in the last couple of months, started the school counsellor training program. So I think the impact of compulsory attendance has yet to be felt, although I do believe that merely discussing the subject in the Legislative Assembly and debating it and the fairly wide publicity that was given it when the legislation was passed last fall did have some effect. But it is a bit too early really to see those trends in this school year. I would just note that attendance in all regions has slowly improved. Between 1984-85 and 1985-86, there was a fairly significant jump of two per cent in the overall attendance in the NWT and that was reflected in most regions, although Keewatin, for example, shot up five per cent over those two years. So I think the impact of the legislation is yet to be fully realized. I am looking forward to the day when we will have attendance in the 90 per cent range or more. Then I think we will have the basis for the same quality education system in the communities as we have in Yellowknife. Thank you.



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

MR. GARGAN: Is the Minister implying then that the quality of education does not exist in the communities right now as compared to Yellowknife?

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

Quality Of Education Does Not Vary

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe that the quality of education is the same in the sense that the same curriculum is used, the same qualified teachers are used and the same resources, more or less, are allocated. But what I do say is that if attendance in a region like the Kitikmeot is 70 per cent only, which is the latest figure that we have, although there are great efforts being made in Kitikmeot to improve that, and it is compared with attendance in Education District No. 1, in the same year, of 93 per cent, then it is not unreasonable to expect that fewer students will succeed in graduating if 30 per cent of them are not attending school regularly. So, I do not think it has to do with the resources that we are offering to schools and the opportunities that are available in communities, but it does have to do with the attitudes and the attendance of individual students. So it is performance that varies, not quality. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the Minister to comment on the evaluation program of the schools themselves? It is my understanding that there has been an evaluation done of various high schools or of schools in the Northwest Territories, either with outside people or with a group of one or two superintendents going around visiting various schools. I note that in the operation of the schools the Minister did talk about the evaluation of programs. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to us if this evaluation has taken place in the high schools of the Territories, and are there any results or are there certain things that can be gleaned from those evaluations? How do the small schools rate in comparison to other schools? I know yesterday he talked about and replied to a question about the pupil/teacher ratio being similar to the small schools in Alberta. For example, then, how do our small high schools rate with the staff, the facilities, the end result, with comparable high schools in other parts, if there has been a comparison made? What other kind of evaluations are being done on the quality of teaching for example, if you like, in various schools? Is it being looked at in terms of, not just high schools, but in the other primary, elementary, and junior high schools? Thank you.

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

Evaluation In Conjunction With Alberta Officials

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been emphasizing evaluation in the last two years within the department. Evaluation of teachers, evaluation of students and evaluation of programs. And as a result of a protocol entered into with the Minister of Education for Alberta several years ago, which I tabled in this Assembly, we have been able to rely on the expertise of the Department of Education in Alberta, whose curriculum we share at the high school level. So as the Member indicates, there have been joint teams of education officials from Alberta and the Northwest Territories doing reviews of comparable schools both in Alberta and in the NWT. We have sent our superintendents to participate in evaluation of Alberta schools and Alberta superintendents have participated in evaluation of our schools.

I would like to ask my deputy minister to elaborate on that a little bit more, but before asking him to do that, I would also like to mention that the acid test, I believe, is performance of our students on grade 12 departmental exams, which are the same as Alberta exams. That is the ultimate test, I think, of how we stack up with Alberta. My feeling is that significant resources have been devoted to education in Alberta, but they are now starting to feel the crunch, I guess, and there are cutbacks under way in Alberta in education this year. However, I think generally it has been a very high quality system and I am not ashamed that we have had close relations with that ministry and with that department. I think they have provided a good yardstick for us to measure our students against the highest national standards. So, if I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Handley to elaborate on the Member's question.

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

### Areas Of Evaluation

MR. HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The exchange program we have had with Alberta has been one where superintendents from Alberta have participated in evaluation of schools primarily south of the lake, the Hay River, Pine Point, Fort Smith schools. At the same time, our superintendents have also gone to Alberta and participated in the evaluation of similar sized schools in Alberta. Generally, as was said yesterday, the results and the staffing, the organization of our small high schools seems to compare favourably to similar sized schools in Alberta.

The second kind of evaluation that we take part in is one of having our superintendents, within the Northwest Territories, do evaluations of schools in areas other than the one that they are responsible for. Or they exchange evaluations. We started that last year. I am not sure offhand exactly which schools were done, but in the Baffin and the Keewatin Regions, there were exchanges that took place.

The other area is in terms of results. What we have found is that over the years the non-native students have generally done as well as -- in fact, in a lot of cases, better than -- we would find on average in southern schools. So they have not been a problem in terms of their achievement. In terms of native students, that has been an area that we have watched very closely. I think the trend that we see as a result of assessing our high schools is positive. Not that many years ago we found that less than half or barely half of the students that started grade 10 were still in school in grade 12. Now the average is up to 60 per cent. We have also found that 100 more students per year are getting into grade 10 and 11 compared to seven years ago. So again it seems like a healthy trend. Looking again at native students, we found that as recently as six years ago, only 16 per cent of the graduates were native students. Now it is 30 per cent. Again it seems to be a healthy trend that is taking place.

### Effective Schools Training For Principals

One of the other efforts that I want to mention that we have undertaken is one we mentioned last year, and that is effective schools training. In fact, all of our principals have received training on effective schools. Some of the principals have gone down and visited effective schools in Calgary and other places and we have also had experts in this area come to the Territories and do in-service training with our principals. One of the main elements of effective schools is training staff on effective and meaningful evaluation of students. I think generally the trend is positive; we have more students in the Territories now who are comparing very favourably, and in some cases better than you find in the South. We certainly have a much higher number of native students who are staying in school longer and doing as well as our other students.

The other statistic -- I am not sure exactly, I cannot give you percentages now -- the retention rate of people when they go on to post-secondary education seems to have improved considerably in that the number of people in post-secondary institutions has risen from just over 500 to 738 this year, which again seems to indicate that our students are doing well enough in grade 12 that they are going into post-secondary studies and sticking it out. Thank you.

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

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note that in one of your documents, the annual report, you indicate that the evaluation of the high schools has begun with Alberta and the examination of the grades 10 to 12, to determine whether the schools are meeting the needs and to ensure that students are being taught in the manner that is satisfactory to the department and to the Minister. I also note in here that September, 1988 is the date set for revised programs to be introduced into the NWT as a result of these evaluations that are going on. I know that there have been evaluations south of the lake. I am not sure whether the high schools in Yellowknife, Inuvik and Iqaluit have had the same evaluation when they do take place. Do you have any idea now, as a result of the evaluations that have gone on south of the lake and the three areas that have been mentioned, of any changes or revisions to the present programs that you will be looking at introducing in another year? What are some of the areas that need revision? Is there to be a change in the direction of the schools south of the lake as to what they are doing now, what they have done in the past and what may they be doing in the future?

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

Programs Will Be Modernized

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The study on the Alberta and NWT curriculum made recommendations about major changes to almost all high school programs, which will be implemented in the coming year. The math program has been revised and modernized. In social studies, for example, it has been recommended that study of values be introduced into the social studies curriculum. As well, we have been given the option out of that review and through our accord with the Ministry of Education of Alberta of introducing entirely new courses, such as the Dene and Inuit studies program that I referred to yesterday. I could provide more details, Mr. Chairman, but my general understanding of it is that the core subjects are not going to change but they are going to be tightened up and modernized in order to prepare students more realistically for the current modern job market.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand from what the Minister is saying that that is the report that was worked on a couple of years ago dealing with specific courses at the high school level, which I am a little bit familiar with. What I was concerned about more than anything is not so much the programs, that is the content of the programs or the number of courses and/or credits that one requires, I was concerned a little bit as to whether or not there was to be any change in the direction; that is, the focal point of those smaller high schools south of the lake. I recognize that there are certain programs, such as the ones you have mentioned, that will be required. But is there any plan or direction that the smaller high schools will, in effect, zero in on, or have a greater emphasis on one or other of the two streams that we are talking about? That is, the one commonly known as academic, and I am not sure what you now call the second one; it would be technical or general. I guess that is what I was getting at, whether there is any change in the direction that those smaller high schools in the NWT would be dealing with. I recognize that there are changes to be made in certain programs such as the ones that the Minister mentioned.

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

Advanced Diploma Options Will Be Available

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can assure the Member that the basic structure and the two basic streams of the advanced and general diploma will continue to be offered in small high schools. In fact, we have been able in the Keewatin, in the small high school in Rankin Inlet, and we have even been able in Panguitung, which has offered grade 11 this year, to offer both the advanced and general diploma. So, Mr. Chairman, although there must necessarily be limitations on the range of courses available in small high schools, I am determined that the advanced diploma options should be available in the high schools. We have told students who have special career plans and special requirements that if a course is not available in a local small high school, due to perhaps only one student being interested in that course, that our residence policy does permit us to pay for the cost of relocating that student in a larger school, a larger adjacent school, that may offer that course.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to that, I understand that there is a review of the vocational programs that are being carried on now at Sir John, SAMs and GREC, and if that is being done now or has been completed, I expect it is with the idea that you are going to try to determine what kinds of trade courses are appropriate to teach in either those three or more of the high schools. So I guess my question would be to you, Mr. Minister. If the result is favourable in terms of vocational and trade courses that are now being taught at those three schools, is there a plan to extend the offering of these courses to other areas? Or are these the three areas on the map of the Territories which meet at both ends in the North?

Reason For More Native Students In High School

I just would like to get a comment from the Minister, in relation to the comments that Mr. Handley indicated, that more native students are getting into the high school grades. I just wonder if it is because the opportunity or the accessibility to the grades is greater as a result of your extending them in the communities, or the downside, is it any easier to get into the grades?

I am impressed with the figures. It seems to me that of 100 students entering grade one, maybe back a number of years, if you were to get 35 or 40 of them into grade 12 or to finish through it, that was a pretty good percentage. You are talking in percentages now in the vicinity of 60 to 65, at least in comparison with my own experience. But I just wonder about the second question, Mr. Chairman, is it the accessibility of the grades, or is it easier?

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

#### Vocational Certificate Review

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, on the vocational certificate review, I have to tell the Member that we initiated this review because basically there were not enough enrolments in the program in Inuvik and it seemed as well, that there were disappointing results at the high school in Iqaluit. We developed the program based on interviews with students and the expectation was that there were a large number of students who would pursue trade and apprenticeship options at the high school level. However, when the program was implemented and when students began to realize that the academic requirements for trades are now almost as heavy as the academic requirements for an advanced diploma, we found that many students who had the academic ability opted to go into the advanced program rather than the vocational certificate program, and especially in Inuvik, the numbers just dried up. We established a program and we had hardly any students in it. So as a result, Mr. Chairman, we have almost completed this review and I cannot say now what will be done, but I think we will look very closely at whether we are offering the right programs in Inuvik, whether the emphasis should be changed to meet the demands of students and whether we might consider transferring those instructors to schools where there might be more take-up.

On the question of the progress of native students, which I believe is encouraging, I would like to point out that things are not getting easier. I think there are a number of factors that have resulted in the improvement of native students. Firstly, attendance has improved. Secondly, we have developed very successful alternative programs. The community occupational program and the senior practical program have been extremely successful, in my view, for the student -- sometimes but not always the native student -- who simply is not inclined toward academic training. Those programs have provided meaningful programs for students who otherwise have not been achieving fulfilment in schools. The graduates of the community occupational program and the senior practical program emerge with some self-confidence. They emerge with some work experience with local businesses and they feel good about having graduated from school in that program. Those people, up until now, were drop-outs and came away with disappointment in their experience in school. So we have basically filled a need for that category of students and as a result, the students who are in the general and advanced programs know where they are going.

#### Factors Of Increasing Success At High School Level

I would like to point out that student entry into grade 10 now requires the passing of comprehensive exams which are territorial-wide. We now have exams in English, math, social studies and science, that are in place and that are being made a requirement for entry into the grade 10 program. This ensures that students who are admitted into grade 10 are academically ready. I know that up until now we have not been doing that. We have been promoting students from community schools to regional high schools, who were clearly not ready. Now we are saying that they have to pass those exams. This results in a lot more success at the high school level. So those are the factors, but it certainly does not mean that things have been made easier.

I guess one other point I should mention is in regard to testing native students and non-native students in reading and language arts in the past several years. We had the good fortune to get the services of a professor from the Ontario Institute of Studies and Education, who took a very close look at the language arts abilities of our students in a number of schools. We discovered that native students were severely disadvantaged compared to non-native students in their abilities to read. Basically we found that only 40 per cent of students whose first language was not English, were writing narratives at an acceptable level. Compared to students who speak English as a first language, their abilities at expository writing were relatively better. At any rate, because of those results we have put in additional resources in all regions to language development and especially ESL, English as a second language. And we have established new ESL consultants positions to try to improve the English language proficiency of students before they get into high school. So all those efforts, I think, have produced some results. I think now that some native students are realizing that they may have to take one or two additional years between grade six and

grade nine in order to get ready for high school, but the will seems to be there and improved success is already evident. So that is why I have entitled this publication, "Improving Grades". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

#### Delays In Funding Language Programs

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just an administrative concern and that is that under Culture and Communications a certain amount of dollars is allocated to your department to disburse to the language centres -- Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, Fort Good Hope. I do not know where the rest of these centres are, but I find there is quite a strain on these language programs with the difficulty of getting moneys in time to carry on their programs. When the Department of Culture and Communications was discussed, the Minister indicated that the portion of the money that goes to these languages centres is allocated to your department for your disbursement. But this is time consuming. I do not understand why it has to go through your department for disbursement when perhaps maybe just a directive from your department to the Department of Culture to disburse a certain amount to the communities perhaps might be more appropriate. This is the difficulty that some of the communities are experiencing. I know that I did deliver some contracts for signing which I believe were initiated by Mr. Ken Norton, but it is just time consuming when you know that every time a certain amount of dollars has to be disbursed, a contract has to be signed and it goes through your department and also through the Department of Culture and Communications. I find it difficult to understand why it has to be done that way.

One final question, Mr. Chairman, is with the establishment of the Deh Cho divisional board of education. I understand that a certain amount of dollars was allocated to them to develop a position on the divisional board of education. The Minister's statement indicated that this particular proposal supposedly is going to be concluded by March 31st. That is what the Minister said. However, if I look through the O and M estimates, there are not in fact any moneys allocated to the Deh Cho Regional Council for the establishment of a divisional board of education. I would like to ask the Minister whether that is just an oversight on my part or whether in fact they are not going to be getting any money this year?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have looked into the delays that have occurred in funding language projects as a result of the Member's comments when the Department of Culture and Communications was before this committee. In previous years, funding being made available to projects in support of aboriginal language work was provided by way of an agreement between the Department of Education and the project sponsors, under what was called the indigenous language development fund. That worked fairly well and we usually were able to complete those agreements within two to four weeks. However, during the present fiscal year, we have had to change our procedures as a result of comments from the auditors and the Department of Finance and the procedure now is, I am afraid, more complicated and results in significant delays. The first problem has been that we have been required to have each agreement reviewed by the legal division of the Department of Justice. That has slowed down the process considerably and taken up to a month alone. We are unhappy about this and I have asked that a standard form agreement be developed, because basically all projects operate in the same way. Then the prepared agreement has to be forwarded for signature to the sponsoring group. Sometimes that results in delays. Then approval of the comptroller is requested for advance payments. Sometimes that results in delays of another week or two and then a cheque has to be cut and sent. The result of those four steps sometimes means a delay of up to two months or more, which I know has caused frustration. All I can say is that we are going to try and improve the speed with which we turn these things around. I think a standard form agreement will help a lot, because I know the Department of Justice is overworked.

#### Funding For Development Of Divisional Boards

With regard to the problems in the Deh Cho council getting their money, Mr. Chairman. I regret that there were delays. I have made a commitment to provide development funds and the moneys were not received until just a week or two ago. Part of the problem there is again a procedural problem -- which is no excuse, but there are difficulties from my department in advancing moneys to bodies that are not education committees or societies, but in fact in this case, a regional council. Those problems were internal and are regrettable.

On the question, Mr. Chairman, of divisional board development, I would like to assure the Member that we have identified a sum of \$178,000 in the coming fiscal year to be used for divisional board development in the Deh Cho and Dogrib areas and the Kitikmeot and Keewatin Regions where activity is under way toward developing divisional boards. I am awaiting the final report from the Deh Cho council on what they expect of us in the coming year, but I have assured them that they will have their fair share of those resources. I would also note that the Deh Cho and Dogrib regions are fairly well advanced toward establishing divisional boards, which I welcome. In Kitikmeot, the target date has been set for April 1, 1988 and I hope we can move much faster in the Deh Cho and Dogrib regions, subject to agreements being worked out. So that money is available and I think it is reflected in the schools O and M budget. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's response. There are some difficulties because contracts have to be given to the legal department and the delays are sometimes as long as two months. Whether it is the Department of Education or the Department of Culture and Communications, it is still the GNWT that gives grants and contributions and I am just wondering whether the Department of Culture and Communications still could get a directive from a department to disburse a certain amount of moneys to these indigenous language programs. Have you considered that or what is your position on that? Is that an impossibility or is it something that could be considered? I believe in most of the communities, although Education is identified with book learning, Culture and Communications -- of course when you say culture, a native person automatically thinks of his own culture, his own language, his own way of life and identifies it with that particular department, not necessarily with the Department of Education. And a lot of times we create confusion by mixing those two together.

I feel that this government would be more effective if what is aboriginal in nature and content were left with the Department of Culture and Communications. I believe those are the people who best serve that particular department and presumably these people are understanding of the culture and language of the aboriginal people and would be able to discharge their responsibility in the utmost way. I would like to get the Minister's feeling on that. I know that perhaps it is inappropriate at this time but I was hoping that that is the way it should be going.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

#### Language Development Integrated In School System

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is getting back to the recommendation of the task force on aboriginal languages. One of the concerns that I have is if all language development was put in another department and taken out of the Department of Education, we could well have community language projects doing curriculum development work which may not fit into the school curriculum and school program. My feeling is that the enhancement of language and culture has to proceed in a number of areas. It has to proceed through the way the government communicates to the public, which is the mandate of the Department of Culture and Communications. It has to proceed in the courts, in hospitals, and most important or equally important, it has to proceed in the schools. The schools alone cannot preserve languages and promote cultural awareness, but they have a very significant role in doing so. So I think that it has to be integrated into our school system and our Department of Education as something that is done as an integral part of curriculum development and as an integral part of the operation of our schools. Taking that function out of the Department of Education would seem to me to set up possibly different curriculum development and different programs for native and non-native people. I think that the schools have to be permeated with native culture, history and languages if this sensitivity is to improve.

On the matter of funding and the administrative problems that I mentioned, putting the money in another department is not going to eliminate the requirements of auditors and financial procedures. Culture and Communications has to live by the same rules that we have to live by. We are not having any difficulty getting the moneys from the federal language agreement allocated to our department. The problem is in developing agreements and getting them approved by the legal division and getting the cheques processed through our own system. So I am committed to streamlining those procedures.

But I remain to be convinced that taking the responsibility for native language curriculum development out of the Department of Education is a positive move. We have taken some major initiatives to improve the work that we are doing in aboriginal languages and cultures in schools.

We have created a new division called "language and culture" within our department which is headed by an aboriginal person, by the way. We have established centres for teaching and learning; there will be seven by the end of this year. We have created language program specialist positions for all aboriginal languages in the NWT and we have now competent people being employed in the regions to make sure the work is carried out vigorously in each of the language areas. So I think we are on the right track and if we can just streamline the procedures, which my officials are committed to doing, I think some of these hiccups that have occurred will be eliminated.

Another problem I did not mention is that the agreement with the federal government was only signed in July of last year so we got that money and approval finally, quite late. That too has resulted in frustration to communities that were expecting to start things last spring, but we did not have the authority to disburse any money until that agreement was signed. Now it is in place and I think things are going to operate much more smoothly in the coming year. This year's agreement has already been agreed to and is about to be signed so hopefully we will be ahead of the game in the coming year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

Fitting Education System Into Culture

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some difficulty when the Minister refers to the aboriginal language fitting into the school system. This has always been the case since I went to school, that I have had to fit into a system that is totally foreign and does not consider my very existence. It is difficult to have a program of an aboriginal nature when we have people who come in from the South who are not that sensitive to the whole issue of aboriginal culture and aboriginal languages and you try to fit in a program that is totally foreign to them. There is no support mechanism in place, except perhaps maybe where aboriginal people are teachers or teacher assistants, then perhaps it functions. But there is that consciousness of differences in culture that is very noticeable. I find that very difficult, that we have to be the ones that have to fit into the education system. I think it should be the other way around. It should be that the education system fits into our culture. After all, it is an imported institution. I can only use that argument to say that everything that has to deal with culture and communications should stay with Culture and Communications. That is my argument to convince you. I do not know what other rationale you have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I feel that the schools should be suffused with and a reflection of the culture of the community in which the school exists. I agree entirely with the Member. But what I am trying to say is, if we are having problems integrating aboriginal language programs, culture, history into the schools now, I would respectfully suggest it is going to be that much harder if the responsibility for aboriginal language programs, teacher training, curriculum development, is given to another department outside of the Department of Education. Unless you set up separate schools for native children and schools for non-native children, I do not think it is going to work. Now, basically the recommendations of the task force, as I understood them, were leading toward the setting up of a responsibility for the education of native children outside the Department of Education. They had said we had done a bad job and that it should be taken away from us and given to a new ministry of aboriginal languages. I do not believe that people in the Northwest Territories want to see separate school systems for native and non-native children.

Now I recognize that, so far, the English language approach has dominated our schools and that it is going to be difficult to turn that around, but I am convinced that we have taken steps to do a better job in that area. I think we should be given a chance to use these new federal moneys to enhance the programs that we have already established. I am convinced that work done in language centres, such as Fort Providence and Fort Simpson, where we have capable people available to work, who are working with children in the schools, and are now finally being given some of the resources that they have not been given over the years, is the way to integrate those programs into the schools. Not by taking those people out of the schools and taking the money out of the Department of Education and putting it somewhere else. I am not trying to be greedy about the money. The amount of money we spend on aboriginal languages, unfortunately, is still quite a small percentage of the total budget. But I do believe if we are going to be effective in changing the character of our schools, it has to be done from within, not from without. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Minister that right now the English language dominates the majority of the school activities, and that is a difficulty that an aboriginal language experiences, trying to develop a language in a system that has been dominated primarily by an English language program.

The other difficulty I find, too, is that you have two different languages that are utilized in the school. In order for a person to respect his own language, he has to use his own language with discretion. In other words, I am always conscientious, if I am around non-native people, to always speak English as a matter of principle. In my own community of Fort Providence, for example, native students use their own language but they do not use it with respect. They abuse their own language with regard to non-native people in the schools. They use their language abusively toward their teachers. That is not going to help develop or create pride in speaking the aboriginal languages. On the other hand, the English-speaking teachers look down on a person who is speaking the aboriginal language. So I do not see anything positive about having those two -- they must integrate.

#### Pride In Use Of Native Language

Eventually I would like to see it happen but I believe that the only way it is going to happen is if there is not any interruption of that particular program by a dominating society that is mostly English. There has got to be some way that a native person could be proud of his own language, but as long as there is that presence of dominance by the English-speaking teachers or students, that will never develop. That is the difficulty I find. If you go to the Hay River Reserve, for example, most of the students there speak their own language. They speak excellently. It is just like night and day between Providence and the Hay River Reserve. But over there, they have developed their language with pride because it was taught by their parents and when they went to learn the English language they did it with enthusiasm and they wanted to learn the English language. So there is that difference. It is very evident on the reserve itself. Most of the students, once they are out of the school environment and are in their own home environment, speak to their parents and to their fellow students with strictly the aboriginal language. But again, when they are back in the school system it is just the other way around, they are very enthusiastic and they want to learn the English language. So there is that difference I am referring to. So the aboriginal language could be positive and it could be negative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I think one of the key factors in changing the character of a school and changing the respect provided to native languages in that school is our ability to train and employ bilingual teachers. As the Member may know, I have been disappointed in the results of the Western Arctic teacher education program at Fort Smith in the past years. We did an extensive evaluation of that school last year and basically shut the program down for a year and have started this past fall with a new approach, which I am very confident is going to be successful in training significant numbers of bilingual teachers. We have 35 classroom assistants now in the program. They are able to work to achieve their training by working on the job rather than having to go to an institution for two years in Fort Smith. That model has worked very well in the Eastern Arctic and I hope soon that in schools like Providence we will have more aboriginal people filling teaching jobs, who will be able to communicate directly with students in their first language. That is a major key in changing the character of a school.

The other thing is the attitude of the local education authority in the community. I know there has been excellent leadership shown in Fort Providence on the part of people like Margaret Thom and, when she was there, Ethel Blondin-Townsend. We will do whatever we can to try to support the local education authority in those initiatives.

#### New Resources In Fort Providence Language Centre

But there are new resources going into that language centre in Fort Providence. It is going to be a place where teachers will be trained and where teachers will be working on curriculum development. The object would be to have a majority of local people end up working in that school. I recognize that these things are a challenge, Mr. Chairman, and it is probably easier in a small community like the Hay River Reserve than it is in a larger community, such as Providence, but I am quite open to doing whatever I can to assist this process.



As I say, we have established a division which is dedicated to improving our record in language and culture and I would hope the Member will give us a chance, because I still feel that the option for taking the responsibility for native language curriculum development out of the Department of Education, is that there should be separate schools for native children. That is something I am not prepared to consider. It may have some advantages but I think that it is not the way most people want to go in the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Perhaps it is something we will never find out if we never try it. I would suggest that perhaps the Minister consider a demonstration project. Isolate the native program from the regular school program. Put it in a different building. Have strictly aboriginal culture content, where perhaps maybe the students would identify it as their own building; they have ownership because it is their own culture that they are dealing with -- and see how effective it is. If that is possible and we see the difference, then perhaps then that is the way we should go. But as long as we do not dare take that chance, I will fail to see whether it will ever work or whether my curiosity will ever be satisfied, if the Minister keeps insisting that it should be part of the school program. I feel that a demonstration project would be an appropriate step to take to see whether it is effective.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

#### Minister Open To Innovative Approaches

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to assure the Member that I am open to new approaches. I recognize that in this area we have not always been successful. I will assure the Member that if his community, or another community local education authority, wants to change the program in that manner and design it in a way that is deemed to be more effective for native students at the elementary level, then as long as the end goal is to meet the requirements for entry into grade 10 at the high school level, we are open to those kinds of innovations. I would encourage Deh Cho Regional Council, which has been doing its own study on education, to come up with new approaches. I am expecting to get their recommendations soon and I am open to using existing resources to take a different approach. If the community support is there, I am open to the kinds of innovations the Member describes. So if someone wants to come up with a new approach on a pilot basis, they will have my support. Thank you.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dealing with education in the NWT, especially native culture and teaching the native children the English language. From my own judgment and from talking to people of all sorts in the NWT, especially those in the smaller communities, there are always some complaints about not enough attendance. The experts say that if you do not attend you cannot learn very much. That could be true. However, I went to school, and some other students that I talked to, who are now part of the education society boards and who are now parents, and talking to some experts about teaching, it seems to be clear that it is not only the attendance that slows down a native person, or any student, from learning. Those who succeed are the bright ones.

It seems sometimes that the education society boards and parents and teachers are not really letting the students learn. When I went to school, a teacher who was an expert in teaching had almost all the control on how the children will be taught. But today they have the education society boards which say, "Teach the students this way" and I see parents sometimes go to the principal and say, "My kid does not want to go to school because the teacher gives him a hard time." Sometimes they go to the education society board and say, "My kid does not want to go to school because he is seeming to be pushed to learn too much." I think that is one of the things that slows down the attendance and the speed of a student. At the same time, we natives say we want the native language taught and yet we can speak it any time we feel like it. So I guess the students are faced with all kinds of problems.

#### Teachers Need More Control Of Teaching Methods

What I am trying to say is, why do we not try to give more attention to how teachers can teach their students? I think those experts who know how to teach the students are caught between the boards and the parents. We are dealing in small communities with a lot of native people,

especially the ones that have the most say. There are a lot of them that never went to school before, and they tend to say, "I want my student to learn Inuktitut." Some of the people believe that it is slowing down what they can learn in English and at the same time the teachers are not given enough power to teach the way they want to teach the students. I think that is one of the biggest things that slows down the education system in the NWT.

I guess, as Sam was saying, why do we not give a separate classroom if we want the native language taught, and see how it works? But, then again in a way, it has been a long time since the students started going out to some places like Chesterfield, Inuvik and even Yellowknife, and at that time there was no native language taught. At that time, too, the teachers had more say on how they would teach the students, in what way. It was thought that those who went to school, while there was no native language taught in the classroom, have learned a lot.

#### Present System Too Free

So, I guess, what I am saying and what I am trying to say is that our system is too free. It gives to the parents too much. The old style of teaching used to be that once you are in the hands of a teacher, the teacher will have to teach you how to listen; and I guess there are too many people who have power in how the education is brought about in the small communities. I think that that is one of the biggest problems.

In my experience in the small communities in the different places that I have gone to, and talking with some teachers sometimes, or even at the local meetings or public meetings in the small communities, there are a lot of parents who say, "My kid does not want to go to school because she is afraid or he is afraid of the teacher." And in my experience with the education societies, they tend to always say, "Let the native language be taught." From my experience also, I have talked with some people from overseas or even in Canada who have second languages. They sometimes say, "My native language was not taught to me in school; it was taught by my parents or by other fellow people who spoke the language, and I have not dropped it."

I think that education today for the native people is quite confusing, because they have many things to deal with. The compulsory attendance may be a little help in some way. But, the teaching system of it has to be much stronger than what it is today, because, as a person who has some concerns, I have seen a lot of students sometimes take some homework home, even visiting or just checking to see what the other students are doing and things like that. A lot of times some students say, "I have just done this work last year, and I am still doing it this year." So, that clearly shows that the teachers are not given the full -- some of their rights as teachers are being taken away by education societies, by the parents and even by the Department of Education, I guess.

So, what I am saying is, why do we not give the teachers a little more power and the education societies will monitor how well they are teaching them instead of directing the teachers on how they will teach the children? That is one of my questions. Why can they not be given more power? They are experts; they are the ones that the children go to. There might be some people that say, "If we give them more power, they might abuse them." I do not think that that could be true. There would be some odd ones that may do it, but if the education society board is monitoring them, there is a way they can find out that they are not abusing the children, but they are just trying to teach the children. If I were a student, I would expect my teacher to teach me anything, even if they push me hard a little, because I have to learn. If they have to learn, that is what they need. If they are in a classroom, the teacher has the right to teach them. I guess that is what my question is, why cannot the teachers be given a little more extra freedom to teach the children the way that they know how to teach them? Thank you.

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

#### Same Sentiments Expressed In Local Meetings

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly respect the Member's views on that matter, and I must say that in our meetings with the Kitikmeot regional education authority -- I agree that the Member is expressing the same kind of sentiments that we hear in meeting with the local education authority chairpersons, that there should be emphasis on learning English, that more confidence and more responsibility should be placed on teachers and principals. I have even

been surprised that there seems to be strong support for residential schools, and even some questions about the desirability of establishing a regional high school in the Kitikmeot, as opposed to continuing to send children to Yellowknife.

What I would like to suggest to the Member is that if parents in his region, or since parents in his region, feel that way, they can clearly, through the regional education authority and even through a divisional board, give that responsibility to teachers and principals. I feel that the only effective way, however, of implementing those changes is through agreement between the parents and the teachers and principals and superintendents. I think that many parents would not accept being left out completely, but once they are given responsibility, they can decide. They have the right to decide that educators should make education decisions, not parents. I certainly know that my staff and principals will welcome that kind of support. But, I would suggest they have to be given that authority by the parents, rather than by the Minister of Education or the department.

As we are working toward developing a school board for the Kitikmeot, I am going to bear those comments in mind and I will assure the elected representatives that in fact they can, as the Member puts it, leave teaching up to teachers, leave education decisions up to principals. That choice is available to them, and we will support it.

#### Stricter Standards Implemented In Kitikmeot

I think that when the Kitikmeot education authorities called upon us to provide more examinations and a more back to basics kind of approach, the department responded and implemented exams and implemented strict reporting and much stricter standards as far as grades and passing and that sort of thing is concerned. Decisions have been taken in Spence Bay, with the department's support, to emphasize English, even at the expense of the Inuktitut language program.

So, I agree with the Member, but I do not think that the answer is to dissolve societies and to stop planning a divisional board. I think that what I should do, and my officials should do, is to tell the divisional board, "You do not have to make education decisions; you can leave that up to the professionals," but make an agreement to do so and give them your support so they can go ahead and run the schools as they like. That, to me, is the best way of effecting what the Member suggests, not just to dissolve the boards and societies. Let them have the responsibility and then turn it over to the professionals. I have no problem with that and I think sometimes in our schools we have conflicts between directions from local people and what professionals think they should do. But if there is agreement and confidence placed in the superintendent and the principals that they can go ahead and make decisions and run the schools the way they want, with full community support, then we can have a very effective system, I am confident.

So I am going to encourage my officials to let people give that responsibility back to the professionals in setting up this new board. I hope I make myself clear. I understand what the Member is saying and I respect very much that he represents a viewpoint that we have noticed as well in the Kitikmeot, which is a unique region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklou): Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister understands what I am saying but to make it clearer, I am not hoping to dissolve the boards and I am not trying to say the parents should lose their involvement. But the involvement of the parents and the education society boards seems to be too open sometimes without the experts involved in some way. That is what I am trying to say, and at the same time I am saying that I know that I have to go to the communities with the elected bodies and the education societies with the full understanding of the parents that this is how we feel the education should go. But then again, it is not always that easy because we are talking with the people that never went to school before and it is those who never went to school who seem to have the most say, who seem to be speaking the loudest in the small communities. Because they really do not know exactly how it is, in some way. When a kid goes home crying, they sometimes think that the teacher is just pushing him around and they are not too supportive in the English language and they are more supportive in their native language. That is one of the reasons why some of those students are not really encouraged by their parents to go to school. I just want to make that clear.

There is talk in the communities that I would like the Minister to know, about the native languages. Even with all my comments about education and even with the things I said about the native people, some of them, too, have been concerned about their native language. In the

communities where the native language is used, some do not even know how to speak it any more. Some of the parents ask the question, "In what way are they going to make money in the future if we teach them the native language?" But then again the stronger side of it is that people who are natives or who have the first language should not forget their language and I agree with that.

Separate School For Teaching Native Language

But then again, from talking with the people in the area I represent, and not only that but in some other places too, talking about the native language being taught in schools -- if the community is going strongly toward the native language being taught, there should be a separate school to teach that for full days for a number of years, maybe one or two years, when they first start going to school, from kindergarten to two years after that. I think that is the best way to store the native language, if that is going to be taught in the classroom.

As to the way they seem to be doing the native teaching, there are some students I know who speak in English in one sentence and add on the native language to the word they said in English. I guess the reason is that when they are taught that native language in the classroom, it is for a short time and then when they get home, they hear their parents talking at the same time -- sometimes in a full sentence, though -- in English sometimes and sometimes in Inuktitut. So I guess that is because they do not hear it all the time. If they heard it all the time for a long time at home, they could pick it up even without attending a class where they are taught a native language. What I am saying is that the native language is used and the English language is used and not only from their parents but they hear people talking two different languages. So the society in the communities is encouraging the students only to confuse them.

I believe that if the communities are going strongly in favour of teaching the native language, they should put it for a longer period of time and then leave room so that when they are learning English, nothing but English is used in that classroom. I think that is a better way to draw a line between the two languages. Some students will go to where they are being taught in the native language and they will speak nothing but the native language. They could lay that in their mind. "This is the language I was taught here." And some other students say, when they left the native language classroom when they are being taught, "This is the new language I have to learn and that is what I am going to learn." I think that the best way of teaching, in my belief, is to have two completely different classrooms for those two languages. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Education Department Will Respond To Community's Wishes

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, this area of language is a very, almost an emotional subject, with people. I think it has to be dealt with on an individual community basis. The Education Act says that the choice of language of instruction shall be left to the local education authority. As I told Mr. Gargan, if we get clear directions from a local education authority about a different way of organizing the school and the programs, and there is community support for that different approach, it is not my place to say that parents in that community do not know what is best for their children. So we will respond as best we can. If communities want French language instruction, we are doing our best to respond. If they want to create programs for groups of students who have special needs or special interests, including an on-the-land type of program, we have the flexibility to respond. So I will encourage the Member to pursue the ideas with his communities and it is the department's responsibility to put into effect their wishes. So I will say again, I am open to new approaches for the special interests of native students and I will look forward to hearing ideas that may come from the Kitikmeot Region in that direction. Thank you.

Directorate And Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Directorate and administration, total O and M, \$7,243,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Advanced Education, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Advanced education, total O and M, \$19,559,000. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if my question is about this part but I know last year there was an adult education course that was held in Colville Lake during the summer months. I am wondering if the department will be offering another course in that community. If not, I would like to encourage the department to look at having another course, because I know, in speaking to some of the residents of that community, that the ones who were in the course found it to be useful and it was a totally new experience for many of them. I think in some ways it is a real credit to this department that it is interested in extending benefits of education to the farthest regions of the land. So I would like to know if the department is going to have another course in that community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This basically covers the same problem Mrs. Lawrence raised yesterday. The federal government has now backed off on providing support in the form of allowances for upgrading between grades zero and seven, which I know is what we offered in Colville Lake last year. I am glad to hear the program was successful, but I have to say that according to this new policy of CEIC, we will not be able to get federal support for allowances for students in Colville Lake this coming year. Now I am prepared to look at sending an instructor into that community to provide training through the college system and to provide upgrading and basic literacy as is obviously required in Colville Lake. But I will have to say that unless we can persuade CEIC to change their strategy, I do not see, within this budget, how we can pay allowances. But I am willing to look at offering an instructor for students who may wish to take upgrading on that basis. That is the most I can promise at the moment without a breakthrough with CEIC. What we will do is look at offering some fairly intensive short-term courses which could provide a lot of benefit to the same students who were in that program last year. I hope that is satisfactory to the Member.

One other thing, Mr. Chairman, I made an error in saying that divisional board development funds are in schools operations activity. They are contained in this advanced education budget since LEA development is the responsibility of advanced education. So I would like to correct that error. Thank you.

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

Courses Offered In Community

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, that brings me to my other question about upgrading or adult education in the communities. I am not too clear how it works, but my understanding is that communities apply for courses that they want to offer in their community through their regional office of the Department of Education. I am not sure who decides whether a certain course will go ahead in the community, what the criteria are and all of those things. I raise it because a letter I have from one of the communities I represent states that apparently the Inuvik regional office has already put out what they call an approved training plan for 1987-88 and this one community did not receive the courses that they requested. I wonder if the Minister could comment on that, to clarify all of that for me in a very short statement. Just exactly who decides whether a certain community gets a carpentry course? How is all that fixed up? I am representing a constituency where there are no roads into a bigger centre and it is not possible for people to travel by road. If you live in Fort McPherson and you want to take a different course in carpentry, or whatever, you can drive to Inuvik. The only way that people in my area can travel is by air and they are forever having to go to courses in Inuvik or Fort Smith. People complain that they cannot stay away that long. Sometimes they cannot take their wife and their children, so it is a real problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the decisions about what courses are offered in a community are made jointly between the regional superintendent of advanced education and CEIC. We do not alone have the authority to make those decisions since basically these courses are purchased by CEIC and offered through the Arctic College. We get lists of requested courses from communities and the lists are usually more than CEIC can fund, so we are never able to fully meet community requests.

### Private Employers Provide Training

I would point out that the job strategy of CEIC does encourage private employers to provide training through what is called indirect purchases. If there is a need for a particular kind of training in a community that can be delivered by an employer, whether it be a band or a construction company, for example, or any other kind of private sector, there is money available for those kinds of training initiatives. So I am not sure what needs the Member is identifying but if it is in an area like carpentry, and if it can be associated with a local construction project, there is still some room for negotiation with CEIC. We would be glad to help organize negotiations in that direction or assist negotiations in that direction.

It is also possible, as the Member says, that people can apply to a college campus to get the sort of trades training they might want, although that means leaving the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Advanced education, total O and M, \$19,559,000. Mr. McCallum.

### In-Service Trainee Person Years

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one question on the in-service training task involved here. I note that there are to be 20 new PYs this year in this particular task, one of which is a co-ordinator. Last year you received 30 through a supplementary. Of those 30 positions, how many people are now involved in in-service training? Are all those previous 30 positions taken up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, with the supplementary funding last year of 30 person years, our base for in-service training positions was brought up to 95 PYs. Those 95 PYs are being used to train a current number of 104 people, so they are being fully utilized, if not actually overutilized. We expect the same full utilization of the additional positions presented in these main estimates. Departments are almost fighting for these positions, in our experience, and they are being put to good use. I know, in the Kitikmeot Region alone, for example, we have had as many as 20 in-service training positions going on and they have, in fact, in that region formed a kind of group to provide each other with encouragement and support. In my judgment it seems to be working fairly well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Advanced education, total O and M, \$19,559,000. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, in the Minister's opening remarks he made a reference to assistance to outpost camps. I would like to ask the Minister, just exactly what was that reference to? Is the department considering offering education assistance to outpost camps? If so, I would like to ask in what form.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

### Education Programs For Outpost Camps

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been a number of requests and I think requests have come in this Assembly in the past about doing something for children in outpost camps who are not able to go to school. We have been doing some thinking about it, recognizing that there are, especially in some communities, a significant number of students living outside communities in outpost camps. We believe there are 10 children in this category from Fort Good Hope and 12 from Fort Norman who live in bush camps during the school year. We have a full-time classroom assistant working with children at Bay Chimo during the school year and there are also significant numbers of children at Fisherman Lake in the Fort Smith Region and in outpost camps at Igloodik, Cape Dorset, Iqaluit, Hall Beach and Arctic Bay.

Mr. Chairman, we have decided that we will have, built into our staffing formula, resources to provide assistance for those students and we have directed our regions and communities to be prepared to assist in proposals to deal with the needs of those students on an individual camp basis. We are looking at providing a flexible approach, depending on what the communities want. For example, we could provide correspondence materials; we could provide what is called the itinerant teacher approach that we saw working fairly effectively in Alaska, where a teacher will be assigned to visit camps from time to time and supervise students on a program.

Basically this is a commitment to provide resources in the coming year, where communities request that kind of assistance. We want to be as flexible as possible. We have allocated teaching resources so that we can provide assistance as appropriate to the needs of each community. I hope that explains it adequately to the Member. We are going to be as flexible as we have to be to meet what is required. Some parents may want their children to take a higher or lower degree of academic training while they are at the camp. We would like to be clear that we are going to do this on the basis of applications from communities to our regional superintendents and then we will respond once the program is clear. Thank you.

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

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I know there is a requirement for this type of thing because I am aware that some families in the past, when they have gone out on the land, have taken friends of theirs from the South who are able to help their children with school work. They just make their own arrangement with them and I do not know that they have been paid or whatever. These friends of theirs, for the experience of living on the land with them, agreed to help their children with their school work during that time. So it is good news for me that the department has something in place to get involved in this. I think that it is something that is unique about the North and it is a unique undertaking for unique northern circumstances. I would call it imaginative and I think we need more of that. So those are my comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a strong supporter of outpost camps but I think that students who want to learn should not be deprived of the opportunity of getting some academic learning while they are learning about traditional life.

I said "a flexible approach" because I think there may be people in some camps who are capable of providing basic instruction to students. In that event, we would provide them with some payment and also some assistance so that they could do that job in the local community. In other cases, we may look at having a teacher visit from time to time. It all depends on what the communities feel is appropriate for the needs of their students. I thank the Member for his comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Advanced education, total O and M. Mr. McCallum.

Improved Administration Of Students Loan Fund

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question and it deals in the area of student services and of course the whole area of student financial assistance and student loans. In the past there has been some difficulty with the administrative procedures, the systems, the clarification of regulations -- there was some requirement to update those -- between FIS, if I dare use the term, and even manual records which were seen to be rather inadequate. I think that the department had indicated they were going to embark upon a computerized system of looking after things. I just wonder whether in fact the department has been able to bring this into line and whether it required organizational changes to bring it about. What is the status of the administration or what steps have been taken that would improve the administration of the students loan fund? I expect that this financial assistance is the same thing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to inform the Member that we have developed a program for computerizing our student loan system. It cost about \$20,000. The system is now in place and working and so we have now a much more efficient system. I think this is in keeping with the recommendations of the Auditor General on improving our whole approach to administration in this area. Thank you.

Advanced Education, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Advanced education, total O and M, \$19,559,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

School Program Development, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): School program development, total O and M, \$2,896,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Schools, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Schools. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if there are programs or if the department provides tutorial assistance. Is it possible for students who are slow in their school work from grade one to nine to have tutorial assistance? I am speaking of small communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the answer is, yes. If students are identified as having a special need -- it could be that they have a learning disability and are slow learners; it could also be that they are gifted students, which is also another kind of special need -- funding is available to provide assistance. We call them special needs assistants rather than tutors but it amounts to the same thing and I am pleased to note that in this budget there is an enhancement, a substantial enhancement, of the special needs fund, by the sum of \$1,600,000, which is going to provide us more resources than we had in the past year to meet the needs identified for individual students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. The committee will now recess and we will reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order. We are on main estimates, page 17.11, dealing with schools. Schools, total O and M, \$67,993,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: In the school programs, Mr. Chairman, one of the things that we have been asking of the department would be to enter into contracts with the school boards...

MR. RICHARD: Big word, yes, contracts.

MR. McCALLUM: Contracts, I think it was. In the past the department saw no need of doing this. They argued that they did not think it was necessary.

MR. RICHARD: That was until we had Ken Dye up here.

MR. McCALLUM: And then we got Ken Dye on our side. What is the situation for this coming year? Have the discussions been held with the separate school boards? Are you working on agreements or contracts with them?

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

Contracts With School Boards

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have entered into contracts with Education District No. 1 for the construction of Frame Lake South school, so on the capital side we already are proceeding in that direction. With operations and maintenance, we have been working with the boards on a more sophisticated funding formula and we have drafted a contract which is being reviewed by the legal division to cover operating and maintenance contributions. We have yet to present that draft contract to the boards for their consideration but we are proceeding in that direction, Mr. Chairman, although I might mention it is not the usual practice in other Canadian jurisdictions but we are moving in that direction. We have done it in capital and we expect to finalize something in O and M in the coming year. Thank you.

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



MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, the agreement the Minister refers to, is that with the Yellowknife public school board for the 10 classroom unit, \$3,400,000?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Schools, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Schools, total O and M, \$67,993,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Arctic College, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Arctic College, total O and M, \$14,462,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Residences, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Residences, total O and M, \$6,128,000. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of residences, I note that there is additional funding for home boarding in this coming year. It is my understanding that there was an increase in the home boarding allowance implemented last year, in 1986-87 -- at least in the material that we had, it indicated that it was an increase for 1986-87, from \$12 to \$15. Since I do not recall and I am sure there was no additional funding through supplementary estimates for that, and I recognize if you raised it last year, it is going to cost you more again this coming year -- but was the increase that has been indicated to us to have come into effect last year implemented? How was it paid if there was no supplementary funding? Where did you get the authority? Was it different in Yellowknife as opposed to other areas, or was it for Yellowknife at Akaitcho Hall? The rate costs \$100,000 for various regions and \$115,000 for Yellowknife. Is there a different rate in Yellowknife as opposed to other regions? Again, I would like to know how it came into effect if there was no supplementary request for funding.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These increases were funded part way through last year out of surpluses identified within the department. The authority, Mr. Chairman, resulted from a much earlier policy that education home boarding rates should be related to Social Services rates and the funding in Yellowknife is not just to fund the increase, but it also reflects a substantial increase in out-of-town students in this city and the reduced capacity in Akaitcho Hall. So, Mr. Chairman, the money is now being put forward in this budget to increase our base and we found it from within midway through last year. I think the change was announced by me, I believe, as a result of a question in the House. I just cannot be sure, but I believe it was announced in some public way sometime before the start of the last school year, I believe in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mahsi cho, Mr. Minister. Residences, total O and M, \$6,128,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Grants, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Page 17.14, detail of grants and contributions. Total grants, \$1,159,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Total contributions, \$19,116,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Grants And Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total grants and contributions, on page 17.15, \$20,275,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. The next pages are information items, page 17.16, students loan revolving fund. Mr. T'Seleie.

Contributions To LEAs

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask a question on the contributions to schools, to divisional boards. I would like to ask what the general intention of the department eventually is on devolving as much responsibility for education to the regions or to regional divisional boards, LEAs and all of that sort of business. To my way of thinking, what that means is that some years down the road there would be divisional boards, or whatever you want to call them, that would be taking care of education in every region or every division. My thinking is that the divisional boards would be responsible for everything in their schools; that is, the hiring of teachers, setting budgets, etc. The question I would like to ask is, what would the role of a central government or a central agency be? Would there still be a need to have, for instance, the build-up of those personnel that would be taking care of education in either the regional offices or in the headquarters?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Member correctly understands our intentions with respect to devolution of administrative responsibility to divisional boards in regions, similar to the kind of authority enjoyed by school boards in the city of Yellowknife. The regional staff would then become employees of the divisional board. Our current regional administration would report to and work for divisional boards. The responsibility of the Minister and the headquarters staff would then become limited to legislation, evaluation, broad policy, program development, monitoring the operation of boards, receiving and considering their financial reports, staff training, teacher certification and, of course, finance. The boards will set the budgets and negotiate the budgets but the responsibility for finance will rest with the headquarters and the Minister. I probably left out a few things but generally it is a policy planning and monitoring function that would remain with headquarters, along with financing. Thank you.

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

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to know if the department had begun to think about what all of this devolving means. I guess they have, but I think part of the problem of any devolution of any department is that people question, why should we bother ourselves with administration when there is a whole bunch of people who are being paid to take care of administrative matters? I just wanted to be clear with that in my mind. I know that even if a local education authority goes from

being a committee to a society, there is a whole bunch of additional administrative work that the society itself has to do. Really, in some ways, at least the way I look at it, on paper, devolution in that instance means that the parents get stuck with more paperwork.

Those are just comments I had and I was curious. The reason I am curious to know is that I like the idea of having less of a central agency, central government where decisions are made. I would like to see decisions made as close to the people as possible and not have the decisions diluted by other things. That happens a lot. Decisions made at a community level become diluted, or whatever, and they come back to the people sometimes in a completely different form from what they had originally decided on. But I wanted to just make those comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Information item on page 17.16. Students loan revolving fund.

Work Performed On Behalf Of Third Parties

Page 17.17, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice the salary of the president of the NWTTA. Is that the correct figure? Do they actually get \$70,000 a year?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, that is an approximate amount, but it is probably pretty close to the general area of the salary and benefits. It would include benefits as well. That, of course, is paid by the members of the teachers' association. The Department of Education pays the money but we are reimbursed by the NWTTA.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: What is this DND secondment? Does that mean we second a teacher to DND?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. These are teachers who have an opportunity to teach children who are overseas with the Canadian Armed Forces, usually in Germany. So this is an opportunity for Northwest Territories teachers to get some experience working and living in Europe. We simply allow teachers who are able to receive those jobs to take leave and we are reimbursed for their salaries by the Department of National Defence. Apparently it is quite an honour that is sought across Canada and only recently, through the efforts of the NWTTA, have Northwest Territories teachers had a chance to get those opportunities. Thank you.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. We will go back to page 17.07. Total O and M, \$118,281,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Just one question and not so much with the total expenditure but in the person year summary. Last year, in 1986-87, you requested of the FMB a PY for the Arctic College Inuvik Campus that I understand was rescinded. I just wonder whether in fact this now is being carried over this year? Is it in the new request for PYs?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. The request for the person year for the Inuvik Campus was rescinded last year because we did find the money from within. However, we have included that person year in our person year growth in the budget which is before this committee. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in point of fact then, the Minister is asking for 78.8 PYs this year in total. Is that right?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Total O and M, \$118,281,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the witnesses. Mr. Butters, would you please advise the committee what is the wish of the honourable Member for Inuvik?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we might continue with the Executive and following the Executive, the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat.

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

Department Of The Executive

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce the main estimates for the Department of the Executive. The department's O and M budget for 1987-88 is \$13.7 million, an increase of only two per cent over last year. We have restrained our person year growth, limiting our increase to 7.5 person years. It should be noted that three of these new person years are funded from within last year's base. Members should know, too, that we do not propose any expenditure for capital purposes and this was done very intentionally to keep our budget down in an era of restraint.

Mr. Chairman, the primary responsibility the Department of the Executive is to provide advice and support to the Executive Council and its committees. The department is composed of a diverse range of policy, administrative and regulatory agencies in headquarters and the regions. Some of these agencies report directly to me, as Government Leader, and others to other Ministers of the Executive Council. The following units report directly to my office: the Executive Council Secretariat, Priorities and Planning Secretariat, Audit Bureau, Regional Operations, and the Office of Devolution. The remaining activities shown under the Executive, such as the Women's Secretariat, the Aboriginal and Constitutional Development Secretariat, Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, are dealt with directly by the Ministers responsible.

Major Departmental Accomplishments During Past Year

I see the major accomplishments of the department during the past year as follows: First, the establishment of the Government Leader's office. I now have a staff of six who give me advice and support as Government Leader. Responsible government requires that there be an elected head of government who, along with other Ministers, has the capability of running the affairs of government on a day to day basis. The team we have put together in my office is of great assistance and very efficient in helping me in my duties. We have begun to set in place the person years and structure for the Government Leader's position to eventually evolve into that of a premier.

Secondly, it has been one year since I took over as chairman of the Executive Council and since the Department of Personnel has been transferred to a Minister from the Commissioner. These have been positive steps on the road to responsible government. Now, elected people are running all the affairs of government and I am pleased to say nothing terrible has happened.

Thirdly, the Executive Council has now completed its review of the roles and responsibilities of regional directors and deputy ministers. New guidelines in keeping with ministerial government have been established with respect to the relationship to each other and to our government.

Fourth point. Decentralization in the Baffin, Keewatin, and Kitikmeot Regions is proceeding as scheduled. Members will recall that decentralization was pursued last year in an attempt to spread the benefits of government growth among communities and to give business and job opportunities to people in other than the regional centres.

The fifth accomplishment is that of devolution. There has been significant progress in the area of devolution. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Dene and Metis last spring. To date, agreement has been reached with the federal government on the transfer of forestry and of health services in the Baffin. Negotiations are going in earnest for the transfer of health in the rest of the NWT and also in the devolution of arctic airports and highways.

Sixth, a final accomplishment is the matter of representing our government in intergovernmental forums. In August, I had the privilege of attending the Premiers' Conference in Edmonton. In November, I attended the First Ministers' Conference on the economy in Vancouver and stated the case for the NWT on national television. This month I will be heading the NWT delegation to the First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights, at which our government is a full participant. I have also met with Ministers of both the Alberta and British Columbia cabinets on various issues.

Mr. Chairman, it is a very interesting experience to sit with the Prime Minister and premiers at these conferences. I do believe that each time our government is represented, we gain status and further recognition as a jurisdiction which eventually must take its place as an equal partner to the provinces in Confederation.

#### Departmental Initiatives

As for this coming year, I would like to briefly mention a few of the department's more important initiatives. We will, of course, continue to pursue the further recognition of the territorial government's role in intergovernmental affairs through involvement in First Ministers' meetings, as well as meetings with the Prime Minister and individual premiers. Devolution activities will continue, and in all likelihood accelerate, particularly in the areas of health, airports and resource management. Within the Territories, a review of the regional and tribal councils is being conducted by a committee composed of interested parties from the councils themselves and government representatives. Our decentralization initiatives in the Eastern Arctic will be completed this year. As well, final decisions with respect to the restructuring of the Fort Smith Region will be made and will begin to be implemented this fiscal year. The Priorities and Planning Secretariat is conducting an evaluation of the business incentive policy. It is expected that results will be available to the Executive Council at the end of May of this year. As well, an interdepartmental committee is co-ordinating the planning of our government in relation to the closure of Pine Point Mines and the effects this will have on the town of Pine Point.

As requested by the standing committee on finance, I will be taking steps to raise the profile of our Edmonton office and improve the services offered to NWT residents travelling through Edmonton.

#### Successes In Area Of Affirmative Action

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to note our successes in the area of affirmative action relating to women and native people. Louise Vertes, who is my deputy minister, was appointed this year and is the first woman in our government to assume such a senior position. She is essentially the top civil servant in our government. Native people are also assuming positions of greater responsibility within our government. Charles Overvold has been appointed secretary to the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. Jake Heron, of course, is our deputy minister of Personnel. Helen Adamache is our regional director in the Kitikmeot Region. Ethel Blondin-Townsend, whom you have seen earlier, is our new assistant deputy minister in Culture and Communications and Mike Paulette has been appointed one of the advisers in the Priorities and Planning Secretariat. Right now, 37 per cent of the Department of the Executive staff are of native ancestry. I am personally committed to increasing that percentage even further in the few months that we have left. So, this is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman, and I am open to questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Do you wish to invite any witnesses, Mr. Minister?

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to have Mrs. Louise Vertes with me at the witness table.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the absence of my senior colleague from the finance committee, I want to speak about PYs but I am sure he will when he comes back. Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I agree with Mr. McCallum and have for the last five or six weeks, and I did in January, on the concern about the ever-increasing PYs or funded positions in this government, generally, and including the head, the Department of the Executive. I look at the person year summary on page 2.09 and I see that in two years, from 1985-86 to this coming year the continuing positions that are funded have increased by 26 positions, or by my quick arithmetic on the face of it, it looks like about 20 per cent. Now, admittedly, on the same page there is a reduction in casual positions, but that simply means to me that the casual positions have been made permanent and the bottom line figures show an increase in the same two year period, totalling some 17.5 positions.

I am serious, Mr. Chairman, when I say that I think it is a problem. With the anticipated problems we are going to have in the future, with deficit financing year after year, one of the areas that this government must study is the desirability, I think, of halting, of putting a stop to the growth in the civil service. You look across this country and you will see that there are attempts in the federal government and, closer at hand, the Alberta government, to reduce the size of their civil service. I know there have been great speeches, and particularly Mr. Wray is good at it, saying how we are a new and growing government and all of those good things. I understand all of that but that presumes that each position in government is sacrosanct and absolutely required and I just do not accept that presumption.

#### Government Leader's Personal Staff

For example, getting closer to home, with Mr. Sibbeston in his initial remarks about the Government Leader's Office, quite frankly, I do not accept, even in this age when we are trying to look like a more responsible government -- and I agree with that part -- that it is necessary to expand the size of that office. We all have heard the jokes of the days of Stu Hodgson being Commissioner and building up a personal staff. It is happening again. Now, the difference that counts is that our Government Leader is elected and Mr. Hodgson was not. A staff of six, including a full-time press aide. When we were in standing committee in January we were given some indication of the level of salaries in the Department of the Executive, and they are not low. I question, Mr. Chairman, the need to have this amount of staff in this department and I guess more particularly within that part that is called the Government Leader's Office. So, Mr. Chairman, in general comments on the department following Mr. Sibbeston's introductory remarks, those are the initial comments or observations I would make. The Minister is aware of it because we did raise them in the standing committee in January. Thank you.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all due respect to our Leader, and I understand that we should not limit certain things and we should be flexible, but I just do not believe in building up an empire. We have access to a public relations officer in the Legislative Assembly and I do not believe that the Leader should have one personal public relations person. I just do not believe there is enough work and that money could be used somewhere else. I have a real reservation on that position.

The other concern that I have is that Edmonton office. Many times people travelling from the Territories are not aware of that office, unless you have been in the department long enough to know there is such an office. People that are coming from the Territories, from the communities, really have nowhere else to turn, so many times I get calls and make arrangements for them for different things. That office could very well be very useful if it was set up differently. I am glad to hear that the Leader is thinking of changing that office.

The other office that really concerns me is that Ottawa liaison office. The salary on that, well, it is \$94,000. You know, that is the salary of almost five MLAs. I cannot accept that for one individual -- a salary of \$94,000. I notice that there is other money that is spent in that office as well. I know that when Claire Barnabe was in that office, she ran that office for a lot less than that. I would like to make a motion at this time to reduce the budget in that Ottawa office.

Motion That O And M Budget Activity Ministers' Offices, Task Ottawa Liaison Office, Be Reduced By \$96,000

I move that the operations and maintenance budget of the Executive be reduced by 50 per cent, or half of that \$192,000 to \$96,000 in the activity, Ministers' Offices, specifically in the task, Ottawa liaison office.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Could we have a copy of that motion, please? For the Members of the committee, I shall read the motion. "I move that the operations and maintenance budget of the Executive be reduced by \$96,000 in the activity, Ministers' Offices, specifically in the task, Ottawa liaison office." Mrs. Lawrence, your motion...

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): If the honourable Member for Yellowknife North would wait until the Chair has ruled on whether this motion is in order or not, then afterwards your point of order may be considered. Mrs. Lawrence, your motion is in order. Mr. Ballantyne, your point of order.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think that the motion was out of order because the motion identifies a specific task and my understanding of the procedures is that a motion can only ask to delete from an activity or reduce from an activity level and cannot specifically give instructions in a particular task. I would like a ruling from the chairman, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Order, please. Mr. Ballantyne, in regard to your point of order, the Chair has ruled Mrs. Lawrence's motion in order. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne, point of order.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, respectfully I challenge the ruling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): I am somewhat surprised that the honourable Member would take such drastic action.

---Laughter

However, I rise to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: 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: Mrs. Lawrence moved a motion in committee of the whole and I ruled the motion in order. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North...

MR. McCALLUM: Had the audacity.

MR. WAH-SHEE: ...challenged my ruling, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will take the challenge under advisement and give you a ruling on it after coffee break. It is a little early to break for coffee, so we will put you back into committee to continue the business and we will come back with a ruling.

The matter, to be handled properly -- I am sorry I should have explained it -- you will stand down this section that you are working on, go to the next section and then we will come back with a ruling on the challenge. Mr. Chairman, are you in a position with what you are doing to be able to do that or are you not?

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with the main estimates dealing with the Executive and the motion, I believe, is under general comments.

MR. SPEAKER: If you are on general comments then we will give you a ruling right away and recess for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

Speaker's Ruling

The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the House back to order. With regard to the challenge made by Mr. Ballantyne, the Chair finds that his challenge is in order and that the motion itself is out of order during general comments, inasmuch as the amount of money to be voted on had not been called. Therefore you cannot, by way of motion, anticipate the calling of this particular section until such time as it is called.

Motion That O And M Budget Activity Ministers' Offices, Task Ottawa Liaison Office, Be Reduced By \$96,000, Ruled Out Of Order

So the motion is out of order. We will return to committee of the whole with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

REVERT TO 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. We are under general comments. We are on main estimates dealing with the Executive. General comments. Mr. Erkloo.

Unemployment Insurance Commission

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of the NWT is responsible for the transfer of decentralization from the federal government. There are some activities that are still under the federal government jurisdiction, which not only affect the territorial government but the whole NWT. Unemployment insurance is one of them in the Territories, because every employee pays UIC whether they work for GNWT, hamlet, co-op or whatever; they are working in the North. Not only the employee pays, but as well the employer pays part of the insurance premium. Because of that, the money that is paid in the NWT is a large amount in the NWT. In order to get benefits from UIC, there is a very big problem. The process is too complicated. The forms one has to fill out are so many that you have to fill them out every week or every month. I know more than one person who was eligible to get UIC payments who gave up because they were tired of filling out so many complicated forms.

I would like to ask regarding whatever the federal government is responsible for, how can the territorial government have a say within those activities, so that benefits could be easier to acquire in the NWT?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, unemployment insurance in Canada is a federal program that is run by the federal government in all of the provinces and the two territories. It is a federal program that is not normally delegated or devolved to any other jurisdiction. So inasmuch as there are problems and probably too much paperwork for the people of the North, it is not something that our government can do anything about in terms of taking it over so that we can run it in a much more efficient and better way. I can write to the federal Minister responsible for the UIC and explain to him that people of the North are having problems with the extent of paperwork and so forth and indicate the concern that you expressed, Mr. Erkloo, but I suspect that the federal government will find it very difficult to change its practices. I know that the practices that they have here in the North are the same as they have throughout Canada in all of the provinces. I am afraid I cannot give the Member any assurance that the situation will improve, but the best I can do is write a letter to the Minister explaining to him the points that you raised.

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



UIC Should Recognize Cultural Differences

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is true in saying that unemployment insurance is uniform throughout Canada and they are not looking at how different it is in the NWT. It is not the same as southern provinces. If we were living in Montreal and I was unemployed, and if I moved out of Montreal I would have to report as to where I was. If I did not report they would not know where I was because there is so much more population in Montreal. For that reason they would discontinue my monthly payments.

The Department of Employment and Immigration treat people the same whether we live in Montreal or Pond Inlet. The fact is that if I moved from the community to a camp, the outreach worker would still know where I am, in Pond Inlet. He would be able to tell me by radio phone where there is employment and I would go back to Pond Inlet. There is a difference between Montreal and Pond Inlet. But for unemployment insurance they are treated the same way. What I would like to find out is, can the territorial government do anything to fix this problem?

One of the biggest problems is that native people are too honest and we cannot tell them to start lying because that is not our job. In Hall Beach there was somebody, for example, who was working for many years. When he stopped working he was asked to fill out an unemployment insurance application. I know that if he was non-native, even if he was not intending to look for employment at that moment, he would fill out the form saying that he would try and look for a job. And that is how he would be qualified to get unemployment insurance. Because he was a native person, he would like to hunt for a little while and maybe after three months he might be able to start looking for a job. The minute he said that, he would never receive unemployment insurance because he was truthful in filling out his form. He was honest. We do not tell them to be dishonest and it is very difficult for my people to have a cultural difference in that aspect. Maybe 50 per cent or less of the people who have been employed and were paying premiums to the unemployment insurance cannot receive unemployment insurance because of their honesty. Perhaps something the Government Leader can do is to write to the Minister responsible for unemployment insurance about the difference in people in the North and in the South. Employers in the Territories do pay quite a lot of money to unemployment insurance, not just the employees pay for that part. I think there should be more research into that. Thank you.

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

MR. ERKLOO: I would appreciate very much if the Minister could look into this more closely because paying into UIC costs a lot of money not only by the employees but by the employers as well and it is a serious problem in the North, especially for the native people. I would very much appreciate if the Minister could communicate with the appropriate Minister in the federal government. Thank you.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, just to say that I will indicate the concerns that the Member has raised to the Minister responsible. Just by way of interest, I am aware that a number of years ago, House of Commons Members who were part of a committee travelled in some parts of the North to talk to people about the UIC program. I remember they had come to Yellowknife and to Rae-Edzo and Fort Simpson and I believe other parts of the North. Our government at the time made a submission to the Members of the House of Commons and our government pressed them to have coverage for hunters and trappers. I undertake to review the submissions that were made to the federal government and the concerns raised by the Member and press the federal government, once again, to show that the people of the North are concerned about certain things.

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

Continuing Growth Of Headquarters

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of comments on, generally, the Executive in the areas that Mr. Sibbeston is responsible for. Before doing that, I do not know if I can add much to what Mr. Richard said about the growth, not only in these particular activities in personnel, but the growth in the government in general that has gone on over the past two or three years and is going to continue this coming year. I spoke in jest at times about the increase in the infrastructure in the city of Yellowknife because of the growth of headquarters but I am not jesting when I indicate to Members that this really is a concern. It is the increased growth in

headquarters that then puts demands on the municipality to provide for goods and services within the city of Yellowknife. The number of person years and therefore positions that come into Yellowknife increases yearly and if one were to go back over the last two years and look at the numbers, the corresponding growth in other communities in the Territories does not measure up. I think there has been a great deal said about the total growth of PYs in the government and I think that it is right to make mention of the total growth of government while the Government Leader is there.

I would like to comment on two other areas for which I believe Mr. Sibbeston is responsible and one is in the audit area. It is my understanding that there has been an audit committee within government for some years but that it has been relatively inactive for some time. The audit committee serves a particular purpose or it should serve a particular purpose, Mr. Chairman, in the role of the operation of the total government. The audit committee would be looking at the...

MR. RICHARD: The audit bureau.

MR. McCALLUM: ...and I am not -- well, it is part -- why am I answering questions for you?

---Laughter

MR. RICHARD: You are just confusing me.

MR. McCALLUM: Why do you not keep quiet? The audit committee is or was set up to limit, if you like, or to review and approve the work of the audit bureau, its annual work plan. We get into the area dealing with policies governing the audit committee's status. They should be spelled out in the audit policy of the government, in the government's policy manuals. But the committee has been relatively inactive and I think that one of the things that has to be done is that this committee should become more active and perhaps it should involve one of the elected Ministers to ensure that where there are difficulties, perceived or real, within the government, that work could be done within government on government programs.

#### Performance Measurement Systems

That, of course, leads into the other area that has been addressed and that is the whole business of performance measurement systems. It seems to me that recommendations of the standing committee on finance and, I think, the standing committee on public accounts has indicated that the government should get involved and introduce a management-for-results system throughout the government. In fact, we were led to believe that the government would be embarking upon this and have a deadline on it of April 1st of this year, throughout the government. But we have heard from some Ministers who do not really believe in what was going on with the performance measurement systems.

Inherent with this concept of a managing-for-results system that was to come in on April 1st of this year were two other areas, so that it would come out that there would be planned result indicators that would be identified and that these planned result indicators would be part of the main estimates. Now, we cannot have them as part of this year's main estimates but I would hope that in next year's main estimates, there would be the planned result indicators, that the departments would develop these so that whoever is here would have an idea of what the government is working toward. I would further hope, Mr. Chairman, that in next year's annual report, for the year 1986-87, that that annual report of the territorial accounts, etc., would include the actual result indicators arising from this whole business of management for results.

Only in that way are we going to determine or is somebody going to determine whether the government is working toward the goals it is planning and that there are policies set down, that there are programs in place and that moneys are properly allocated to particular tasks. If it is not, then all we do is go through this great charade of asking questions back and forth in standing committee meetings or in committee of the whole meetings. If the government had a properly set up system of managing for results throughout the government, if we had people on the Executive who believed in them, and if we had people within the government service who believed in those as well, then we would be able to get a better idea of where the government is going, how it is doing it and whether the money is being spent in the proper way.

Result Indicators Should Be In Place Next Year

Having been involved with the standing committee on finance for the last while, as well as with the public accounts committee, when we made that recommendation to the government to institute these systems of managing for results, I say again, it was part of that recommendation that there would be these indicators that would be identified. Now, I recognize that you cannot do anything with this year's estimates. You cannot put in planned result indicators because you are not getting into the system until this year. But in the following year, both in the annual report as well as in the main estimates, I would hope that these indicators would be identified and that those who sit here next would be able to more clearly identify just what the government is doing; that there is a plan to whatever is going on; that there are not any ad hoc policies; that there are not any particular programs that just come out on a whim of any individual; that the government is working together and the Ministers are working as a total, not simply trying to push forward their particular departments.

So I would hope that I could have the Government Leader indicate to me or respond to those two things and indicate that, yes, there is a managing-for-results system going into place on April 1st of this year. And that, yes, next year the accounts will show the results. Those result indicators will be there and performance measurements, measuring the performance of the government or a department in their accounts and the main estimates next year -- if he is here -- will show that there are planned programs and planned goals for the government in the following years. Thank you.

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

Audit Committee Now Active

MRS. VERTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Related first to the audit committee in Mr. McCallum's comments, I believe he is referring to the recommendation that the Auditor General has included in his report on "any other matter". And it certainly does indicate that prior to May of 1986, the audit committee was not meeting regularly. The audit committee since that time has indeed been meeting and has responded to the report on any other matter, agreeing with some of the Auditor General's comments. The audit committee is developing a policy for the consideration of the Executive Council that addresses those concerns.

The Member also referred to the managing-for-results system and the deadline of April 1st. As he has indicated, I do not believe all departments will be able to meet the Financial Management Board's deadline of April 1st. Work has been progressing. I think that, from the board's point of view, they have set the framework that would enable all departments to develop their systems, but some are more technical than others. Some departments had performance indicators related to maintenance management systems and others did not so that there are different times related to the completion of managing-for-results systems. The Executive Council, to assist in completing that exercise, have themselves gone through approval of goals and objectives for each department which is the first step in the managing-for-results system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in the Ministers' Offices there are a number of activities. Would the Minister have the answer to the question that I gave him a couple of weeks ago in regard to departmental travel of each individual Minister?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the results as yet. I have instructed all of the Ministers' offices to provide the information based on the travel claims that each Minister has submitted. We are in the process of gathering this information. I had hoped that information would be available for the Member when I was dealing with this department. Unfortunately, all of the information has not been gathered, but I undertake to provide the information to the Minister as soon as it is provided.

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

MS COURNOYEA: I had hoped that since I gave notice that I was going to be asking that question, this information would be available. Further on the Ministers' Offices, a number of people have been hired to help the Leader to develop various governmental directions and deal with the total leadership of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Would the Leader be able to submit to this committee now the names of the people who are his direct advisers and their qualifications?

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

Staff In Office Of The Government Leader

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I will just go through the staff that I have associated with my office. I would note that we have a number of persons that are associated with my office who report to me directly but are there to work on behalf of all of the Ministers. These persons would be the principal secretary and the press aide. I will just start with Mr. Whittington and his qualifications. I believe he is our government's principal secretary. He was acquired from Carlton University in Ottawa where he was a professor of political science. I do not know precisely his formal education, whether he has a doctorate or a master's. He has written a number of books on the North. I think Members do know him; he did some work for the Assembly at one point in the past on division, describing the costs and effects of division. He is there to provide political and constitutional advice to our government.

The next person is Cindy Clegg who is a press aide to the Executive Council. She formerly was a broadcaster with the CBC, very qualified in her field. Then I have my own executive assistant, who works for me directly, Mr. Hayden Trenholm; he has a master's degree and was working with the Department of Local Government in the Baffin when I asked him to come and work for the department when I was Minister of Local Government. Then we have three secretaries. I have two secretaries, Darlene Powder and Lisa Pieper and Mr. Whittington has a secretary, Lynne Malmquist. These are good, efficient, top-of-the-line secretaries.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, on October 15th the Leader made a statement stating that he assumed responsibility for the Department of Culture and Communications and this was to reflect the high priority given to language issues by this Assembly in the last session. Today, the Minister says that he would be moving this portfolio, which he acquired in October, 1986, to take up the responsibility of Economic Development and Tourism, and the reason for the Leader's taking over this is to give it high priority because of the status and the priority it should get. Maybe I am a little slower than most people, but October, 1986 is not that far back and I am just wondering if the Leader of the Executive feels that the short time that he has had it, really has been time to give it that priority. Is he dumping it earlier than he should be to take on this responsibility? As well, in taking on the Department of Economic Development, would he be changing staff to people who would be more in tune to economics and economic planning for a government?

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

Progress Of Departments Under Government Leader

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I do believe that in any of the departments that I have had dealings with, my time there has been useful. I initially took over the Department of Personnel and, during the time I had responsibility for it, accomplished a number of things. First, we got the department to be very serious about employing native people, making sure that the affirmative action plan of the government was in full force. There was a little controversy involved in that department while I had it, but I believe once I left it, it was very clear to everybody in the North that this government was serious about affirmative action. When I left it, I felt that the department was headed in the right direction. We had sufficiently convinced all the managers and people in the department that it was an honourable task and goal of the department to hire as many native people in the North and to just generally get a good, competent civil service.

I left that department in the fall and took over Culture and Communications. During my time there, I dealt with the report of the task force on aboriginal rights. The report came to the Assembly and all of the recommendations were dealt with and our government presented a response to it. Since that, we have begun the very serious work of making amendments to the Official Languages Act to outline the way that aboriginal languages would be set out and what these rights were. That

work has begun and I feel that I can leave it to Mr. Pudluk now to continue that work. I believe we have set the department on the right course. I do believe that the language program, the interpreter programs that are in the department now, are in place and functioning reasonably well.

So I felt justified in leaving that department and now going on to the Department of Economic Development. I made the decision; I anguished late into the night last night before I came to a final decision. I do believe that, in the best interests of the department and our government, the department should be in the hands of the Government Leader so it can have a high profile and everybody knows that as a government we are giving that area our best attention and very serious consideration. It is going to be held by someone who has some significant influence in government.

That is the basis on which I have gone from department to department as I have. With respect to my staff and how we will interact with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, I have not thought everything through, but my executive assistant, Mr. Trenholm's, background is in the area of economics. I feel that he has some competence and expertise in the area of economics that will be useful as my assistant in dealing with the Department of Economic Development. I intend to meet with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism officials tomorrow. When I meet with them I will discuss their relationship with me. I just hope that I will have sufficient staff to deal properly with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mahsi cho. The Chair would like to recognize two distinguished aboriginal leaders, Mr. Steve Kakfwi, president of the Dene Nation and Mr. Larry Tourangeau, our great Metis leader.

---Applause

Thank you. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Leader's words. I am sure that he will have a difficult time making a higher profile for Economic Development and Tourism than the past Minister did in that portfolio. However, I certainly wish him luck. But I am a bit concerned that it seems that departments are put to the Leader's office with the same argument -- to give them a high priority. I am also aware of the work that has gone into the various departments prior to the Leader's taking over. I certainly feel that there is a difficulty in accomplishing things overnight, but I certainly give the Leader credit for all the things he has been able to do in a very short period of time with these departments.

First-Class Services For Ministers.

The other thing is in regard to the expenditure on the office of the Leader and the Ministers' offices. I realize that two weeks were not adequate for gathering the information on Ministers' travel. In regard to the statement by the Leader that he felt that the Ministers should travel first-class, there was some consternation on that issue because I felt that, in experience, there were not very many times that anyone working for the government travelled second-class in the Northwest Territories. Perhaps that statement was misunderstood by myself and perhaps the media made more of it than I would have been led to believe and I would not mind a statement from the Leader on exactly what he meant by "first-class". Does that mean that people do not wait for charters and do not wait for the regular sched and that the regular sched is second-class? Maybe he can elaborate on what he meant when he said that he had to travel first-class.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, when I said those words, I said it in the context of the change-over from administrative government to a more political and responsible type government. It was in the era when ministerial government was being established in the North. In this part of our history we have a government that has been run by civil servants and I was indicating that from now on the elected Ministers will be treated better than they had been treated in the past. I meant that in regard to living accommodation and just generally in terms of services to them and status and so forth. It did not have very much to do with travel as such. I know, myself, when I travel south, I have never travelled first-class; I just get an ordinary ticket just like anybody else. In terms of charters in the North, I think Ministers are conscious of keeping costs down. There is a certain amount of charter travel that is done but I know that other Ministers are like me; I am

very conscious of going, wherever possible, by scheduled plane and only where necessary I would use a charter. I just meant that from now on elected Ministers deserve to be treated better, deserve to go first-class and be given that extra care and so forth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. With that, we will break for bannock and tea, 15 minutes break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The committee will now come back to order. I believe we were still on general comments. General comments. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the travel claims for the individual Ministers and the information that I requested. The Leader stated that he had requested that the individual Ministers go to their travel claims and begin breaking down their travel for the year. However, I hope that I can have assurances from the Minister that when this information is forthcoming, which I hope will be in the next couple of days, before we adjourn for a couple of months here, not only would there be the breakdown from their travel claims but, as well, the charter costs that each Minister has incurred over the last year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Minister, I can assure the Member that is how we are compiling the cost information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. McCallum.

Managing-For-Results System Should Be Instituted Throughout Government

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go back to this business of the managing-for-results systems. I appreciate that it may not be possible for all departments to get in on the supposed deadline, but I have had some kind of a check made on a number of departments that are involved with this or are going to be involved. My question to the Minister is, does he believe in this concept? And is there any way that he could ensure or persuade his colleagues on the Executive to institute such a system throughout the government?

I am concerned that there are departments that have not and have not shown a particular desire to get into the whole business of managing for results. I think that it is important, if Mr. Sibbeston is going to act as the Government Leader, and I know the parameters of that position at the present time are fairly limited, but Mr. Sibbeston speaks on behalf of the government. I would hope that the Government Leader would be able to ensure that this will be a goal of the government in total, to ensure that government departments will get in on this business of performance measurement, so that people can indicate that, yes, if the government is embarking in a particular direction toward a goal, that one can measure the results of that direction and get the results of what actually occurred. There are some departments that say, no, there is nothing in their objectives. There are other departments that very specifically say that this is an objective, that they will do this. But I do not think it is worth-while simply to have some of them, I think it would be much better if this was a goal of the government in total.

Now, I recognize again, there is not that much time left within the mandate of the present Executive. But I think this is a worth-while goal. The standing committee on finance recommended it. The public accounts committee recommended it. The Auditor General recommended it. Though there may be other governments in other jurisdictions that do not do it, I do not believe that that is a good enough reason to say, "Well, why should we?" I think it is something that is necessary. People have a right to know where the government is going and how the government is spending its money, if it is spending its money for the proper reasons and under the proper authority. And those people, the departments and the people involved with it, have to measure up sometime.

Ad Hoc Basis Not Proper

If we have concerns about the growth of the bureaucracy throughout the government, I do not think it is proper now to simply go on a hit or miss and an ad hoc basis, that if somebody wants to do something, then, okay, I can make up a policy sometime or I can develop a program later, but give

me the authority to get that money in the first place. Well, I do not agree with doing it that way. Obviously, there are other people within the Assembly who agree with what I believe in; otherwise there would not be these recommendations made. So, I would like to ask the Minister to respond to the question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the FMB collectively has supported the concept of performance measurement and has agreed to introduce such a system into our government. The Minister of Finance has directed all of the Ministers to institute such a program in their respective departments. I have come, in the course of my three years on the Executive, to appreciate the need for having some kind of measurement of the department in terms of goals and objectives. Initially you do not go into the Executive with much experience, with management experience. It is all new to you but through time I have come to appreciate the need for such a system.

#### Managing-For-Results System Ought To Be Pursued Vigorously

If it makes the Member feel better, I can undertake to remind the Ministers that such a performance measurement system is desirable and ought to be pursued vigorously. It is obvious that the Member and other Members are concerned about it. I see the points made as good advice to the government and I am prepared to pursue it further. As I said, I have come to appreciate the need for such a system for measuring people's performances and departments' performances as to whether they attain the goals that they purport to attain.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I appreciate what the Minister says. That is what I was wanting to get at. I acknowledge his care for my feelings but that is not the purpose of doing it -- whether he is going to make me feel good or not. The purpose of my asking for this is that it is a fundamental, good management tool. That is what it is and whether I feel good or not, or anybody else -- I can appreciate that but I do not necessarily think that that is the rationale for doing it. However, I respect what Mr. Sibbeston has said, that he has come to agree that there is a necessity to have good management tools in the operation of this government as in the operation of any other large spender of public funds. That is what it amounts to. So, with that, I do not have any other further general comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister, do you want to respond to that? Any more general comments? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to find out from the Minister's department, I understand the Minister is saying that in this overall department there was a two per cent increase in the department but looking at Ministers' Offices, there is a 10 per cent increase in the operations and the maintenance.

#### Composition Of Ministers' Salaries

I wanted to ask the Minister, like ordinary MLAs does the Minister have a certain base salary and then if they go to an executive meeting they get so much? Is that the case? Or do they get a salary with no other expenses with the exception that if you go to your own constituency to do constituency work, do they get indemnities or whatever it is called? Whatever the amount is, I just wanted to know if the Ministers do get, over and above their salary, indemnities or honorariums for meetings in the Executive, and whether they get their regular constituency expenses when they do travel in their own constituency. I just wanted some clarification on that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the Ministers are paid the basic indemnity that all Members get. In addition, they get a constituency indemnity, which is a payment for doing 30 days of constituency work. In addition to that, a Minister gets an additional indemnity for being a Minister, for having extra responsibilities than an ordinary MLA. Those are the salaries that a Minister gets.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any more general comments? Does the committee agree we go to details?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Commissioner's Office, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We are on page 2.10, Commissioner's Office, total O and M, \$305,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Ministers' Offices, total O and M, \$2,926,000. Agreed? Mrs. Lawrence.

Motion To Recommend That O And M Budget Activity Ministers' Offices, Task Ottawa Liaison Office, Be Reduced By \$96,000

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move a motion: I move that the operations and maintenance budget of the budget be reduced by \$96,000 in the activity, Ministers' offices; and further that this committee recommends that this reduction be made in the task, Ottawa liaison office.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Could we have a copy of your motion please? Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are always trying to find ways of reducing the deficit and trying to save money here and there. I just feel that if we are going to be involved in this budget, then I think our recommendations should be considered. I feel that a lot of money is wasted in this office.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I am sorry, Mrs. Lawrence, we do not have translation in Inuktitut. Apparently it is okay now, Mrs. Lawrence. Go ahead.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, we are always trying to find ways of reducing the deficit and if we are going to be involved in this budget, then I feel that our recommendations have to be considered. I feel too that there are a lot of moneys being wasted in this office. I do not believe that even our Ministers make that much money in salary. This salary will cover almost five of the ordinary MLAs' salaries. To me, that is a lot of money being paid out to one individual. If the government is really serious about putting someone in that office to represent us and if they are that serious, then I would recommend, if they want to put a little colouring in that office, that they put two northerners, one Dene and one Inuit, and give these two individuals the same responsibility. I am sure they can do a good job, much better than having just one person working in that office, and they can do it for a lot less salary too. I do not believe that we have to fall into a routine where we have to have someone sitting there -- a secretary, you know, we are so used to having a secretary there. We put two people in there with the same responsibilities. They can have the equal responsibility to represent the Territories and do not necessarily have to sit there, one individual catering to the next person.

Salary Increase Over Last Year

The salary increase is unreal; 35 per cent over 1986-87 and person years are the same. We know the liaison officer is different and he is getting \$30,000 more than the last person. O and M is increasing \$36,000, which is a 35 per cent increase. Why is this so much higher than last year? Perhaps it is the car we provide or the entertainment budget is higher. I just cannot understand that we have to use that much money for this office. I will speak on the Edmonton office later on, but I just feel that too much money is going into this Ottawa office and this is why I made this motion. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Minister.



HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I have some difficulty in that I am not perfectly sure what the Member desires, whether it is not having an office in Ottawa, or simply not having the person with a high salary that we have presently occupying the position in Ottawa. Maybe I will let her explain that later on.

Mr. Chairman, if the money is deleted as has been requested by the Member, then it may mean that we would have to close the office that we presently have in Ottawa. I can tell Members that the government has had a representative in Ottawa back in the Stu Hodgson days, since 1973. That person occupied an office in the federal Department of Indian Affairs. It was always thought that it was necessary for a person living and working in Ottawa to represent our government and to be of any help they can. Back in the old days there was a lot of dealing by this government with the Department of Indian Affairs and so that position was in that department at one time. That position in the department remained in effect until 1982. In 1980 the government of the day decided to have a political person situated in Ottawa. Since 1980 we have had an intergovernmental person. Initially it was Claire Barnabe until a year or so ago, and the person occupying it now is Mr. Bob Pilot. The office in Ottawa is of assistance to Ministers and MLAs and we have even advised him to be of any assistance he can be to native organizations and native people that travel to Ottawa to deal with government. Ottawa is a government centre and our government has a lot of dealings with the federal government and we really do feel we need an office situated in Ottawa.

#### Function Of Liaison Officer

I will just give Members an idea of what the person presently does in Ottawa. Just as an example, the Ministers and MLAs will be travelling next week to the First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights. Our representative in Ottawa has made many of the travel arrangements, has made many of the meeting room arrangements, has been involved in arranging meetings with various federal Ministers that some of our Ministers wish to meet during our stay there. That is the sort of function that he does. I can tell Members too that all provinces and the Yukon have representatives in Ottawa. All jurisdictions seem to require a representative in Ottawa.

The Member asked the question as to why a 35 per cent or so increase. That was because Mr. Pilot, when he was assigned to that position, was receiving a high salary as a deputy minister of the Executive Council here in Yellowknife. He had through his many years of working for the territorial government been promoted to the point where he was a very highly paid civil servant. When we decided to make a change and have Mr. Pilot move to Ottawa, he went with the salary that we were paying him. That was a salary and benefits that he was entitled to for working for our government for many years. We did decide to continue paying him on the same level that he had been paid here when he was the deputy minister of the Executive Council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the motion is to delete a specific amount of money for a specific purpose and function. The Leader gave us the rationale about the need for that particular expenditure for that particular Ottawa liaison office. If he is going to rationalize why he should keep that amount of money in the budget, it would seem to me, on the rationale of why we have such an office, that these functions could very well be handled by the executive assistants to the Ministers and I would assume that they are normally done in that manner. With the rationale for this expenditure as the Leader has suggested, to arrange meetings, to set up meetings with other Ministers and set up meeting places, if the Leader is suggesting that this is the function of the Ottawa liaison office, would he not conclude that a person costing less could very well fulfil that function? It seems that in expending that amount of money for that office, we are employing a very high calibre person at an employment scale respective to his qualifications, to do some task that even myself, not having all the qualifications, could easily do. So, I would like to see if the Minister could justify further what the functions are, rather than the secretarial nature of his justification at this point in time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just for information on the Ministers' Offices, there is the Minister's office, there are the secretaries and the executive assistants, the office of the Government Leader and then you have the Ottawa liaison office, and protocol office. Is there an actual breakdown of this particular task? There is a motion on a particular one, the Ottawa liaison office. I am not too sure what the breakdown of that particular office is, but I just wanted to have that information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I do not have a page here with...

MR. RICHARD: I have got it here, if you want it.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: ...with the functions and terms of reference of the person occupying the position but I can provide that. Just in very ordinary kind of language, I will just say that Ottawa is a jungle and the government does really require someone in Ottawa to represent our government and it is not simply arranging meetings by phoning, or whatnot. Occasionally Mr. Pilot goes to attend to government offices and speaks with the assistants and the maze of civil servants that work in Ottawa, establishing personal contact with the various government agencies and the departments, establishing a relationship and making people aware that the Government of the Northwest Territories does exist and that it has a representative in Ottawa. Mr. Pilot provides information to people curious about the North and the people of the North. He has information that he makes available to government and people that are interested. On a day to day basis that is what he does.

#### Recommendation Not Deletion A Better Approach

The question was asked by Mrs. Lawrence as to whether we could fill that position with a lesser paid person. The answer is, of course we can. I suggested to the Members that a better approach than attempting to delete is making a recommendation in that regard. I would like to think that we would be responsive to Members if they indicated clearly that they wanted certain things done. We are not bound as it were to the person with this salary that is occupying a position in Ottawa. We can make changes. We made changes a year ago, we can also make changes again. So, tell us, but do not delete our budget because that could well delete the position in Ottawa.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few points. Mr. Chairman, I think Members should know that this office is not just available to Ministers. This office is available to MLAs and it is also used extensively, to my knowledge, by the native organizations who are headquartered in Ottawa or who have to visit Ottawa. It is basically a little piece of the Northwest Territories in Ottawa and it is often used as a communications base or as a meeting place. It is also a very important liaison with national native organizations. I do not know how we could have proceeded with a number of meetings, including the preparation for First Ministers' Conferences on Aboriginal Rights, without the support of that office. I would like to also say that I agree with Mr. Sibbeston that Ottawa is a real labyrinth. It is a very complicated place and although I agree in principle with the sentiment that we should employ northern native people, with the greatest of respect, I think that you also need someone who understands the system in Ottawa and has connections in Ottawa.

#### High Profile Person Needed

For better or for worse, you need connections to be effective in Ottawa and I believe we need a high profile person. We happen to have someone who just got the Order of Canada and is therefore well-known and well-respected in Ottawa. Incidentally we have a person who speaks Inuktitut, who has had extensive service in the Eastern Arctic and who knows all parts of the Northwest Territories very well. So I do not think we are that badly served. I would like to just point out that even simple things, for Ministers, like making an appointment to see a federal Minister, take an awful lot of work -- or getting a letter to a federal Minister. If you mail a letter from Yellowknife to a federal Minister, the chances are that it is going to get buried in the department and lost in the department. You will see the Minister weeks later and find out that the Minister is totally unaware of your letter because it went to the department, or it went to the departmental office, instead of the Minister's parliamentary office. These little things are looked after by our representative in Ottawa and what I always do and I think most Ministers always do is make sure our representative gets a copy of important letters to Ministers and hand delivers them to the Minister's office. So, those are small things; making appointments, sending letters, finding out what is going on first-hand the day it happens, but they are extremely important and this office is extremely important.

I would like to just describe one meeting that I went to with a federal Minister where our representative had worked with officials in that department in advance. It was an amazing meeting, Mr. Chairman, because as a result of the work of our representative in Ottawa with the officials, days and perhaps even more in advance, lo and behold, when I got to the meeting with the federal Minister, the federal Minister was using the same briefing notes, the same briefing materials that I had. Our representative had managed to engineer that basically the federal Minister and the territorial Ministers were working from the same briefing materials. Naturally, things went our way.

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Point of order, Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue, Mr. Chairman, is not a reduction in the Ottawa office. The request is a reduction in the activity, Ministers' Offices, and the recommendation is that you consider a reduction in the Ottawa office. There is nothing to suggest in the motion that there is a reduction in the Ottawa office yet. That decision is to be made upon review by the Minister and the Government Leader. I think that is the issue that should be dealt with; the question of the reduction in Ministers' Offices, generally.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I will ask Members to speak to the motion. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just referring, humbly, to the recommendation contained in the motion. I disagree with the recommendation contained in the motion that the Ottawa office should be reduced and I think I am speaking to the motion, Mr. Chairman. That office is invaluable. It represents all departments of the NWT and all MLAs, if they choose to avail themselves of that service, and a number of other non-government organizations and people from the NWT. I do not think that the motion is properly directed at that department or that activity, even if it is only a recommendation and I would urge all Members not to support this particular motion. Thank you.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Point of order, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, since the motion was referred to, may I have a copy? I am not worried about the other Members; they are probably ahead of me. I would just like a copy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We will have a five minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. We are on Mrs. Lawrence's motion for reduction in the Ministers' Offices. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

#### Advantage To Have Deputy Minister Status In Ottawa

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will try not to go over the ground that has already been covered. In the Executive Council we made a conscious decision that we wanted to upgrade the level of that Ottawa office to a deputy minister level. The reason we did that is it was our feeling that someone at the deputy minister level would have access to offices of equal level in Ottawa, and that, in fact, has happened. Our deputy minister in Ottawa has access to other departmental, federal officials at the deputy minister level, has access to senior officials in the PMO and the PCO and has a very good working knowledge of Ottawa. We found that, because in this period in our history, we are going through some very critical stages of devolution from Ottawa, it was necessary to upgrade our office in Ottawa to signify the importance that we are placing on these transactions with the federal government. So it was a conscious decision on our part to put a senior deputy minister in Ottawa. I, for one, think that he is earning his money and the fact is that he is in the salary range of senior deputy ministers. I think it would be a major step backwards at this point to remove this official from Ottawa.

It is my belief that, at some point, we should even enhance that office and maybe the next government should consider it. At that point, I think some of Mrs. Lawrence's ideas have merit and at some point we could put in a senior deputy minister who is Inuit or a senior deputy minister who is Dene or training positions. So before Mr. Nerysoo makes his objections...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Nerysoo, your point of order.

MR. NERYSOO: (Inaudible comment)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I have made my point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Nerysoo. To the motion.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I was going to raise a point of order with regard to the comments being made. Again I raise the point of order that the discussion should centre around whether there is a \$96,000 reduction in the activity dealing with Ministers' Offices. The only thing is there is a recommendation being made that the reduction be made in the Ottawa office. That is really a decision for the Executive Council and the Government Leader to make. It is not a decision that is made by this House upon approval of this particular motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Nerysoo, you did not have a point of order there. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: I would also like to speak against the motion. My department currently is undertaking a transfer of health services from the federal government to our government. I utilize that office when I am down there. I have also used the services of the present incumbent holding that position down there and the motion makes reference to that office and that position. Mr. Pilot has helped me considerably. He is on a first name basis with people in the federal Minister's office and with the assistant deputy minister of medical services branch in the Department of Health. The very reason that we put Mr. Pilot down there was that our government realized that with First Ministers' Conferences on Aboriginal Rights going on, with forestry transfers taking place from DIAND to Renewable Resources, the health services transfer taking place to my department and general devolution being looked at in conjunction with aboriginal rights, we have to have a person like him down there who has a good background knowledge of this government. That is why we are paying that type of salary to have a person like that down there. So I would urge Members to please defeat the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Butters.

#### Effective Communications With Federal Government

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as the motion does include a reference to the Ottawa liaison office, I would like to speak to that particular aspect of the motion. Governments today require the ability to communicate. If it was Washington, DC, our government would require some kind of a lobbyist or some individual or agency which would put before the decision makers of the United States the positions, interests and objectives of our particular government. Fortunately Canada does not operate that way. We do not have paid lobby groups. We operate in the manner that is indicated by this particular estimate item.

To go back a bit, we had an office in Ottawa for some 10 or 12 years. Initially the office was in the DIAND building and all we were required to pay was the wages of our official down there, plus a secretary; DIAND gave us the space for nothing. When the elected politicians came on the scene, they determined and this was done by Mr. George Braden -- that we were hiding our light under a bushel by sitting and being protected under DIAND's feathers. If we were going to raise the profile of this government and the aspect of this government in Ottawa, we had to move out from that particular position and had to set up our own office and develop our own relationships with the federal government and other agencies.

And that is what we did.

I, myself, as an Executive Member at that time was against the particular move, but I must admit that it has proven very beneficial and not only beneficial, but it has proved rewarding in dollars saved in communications and in frustrated trips. It has been very effective. As Mr. Ballantyne mentioned, it was a specific decision on the Executive's part to raise the profile and level of importance of the office in Ottawa.

I would say that we are not the only agency that has recognized that particular requirement. The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada has established an office in Ottawa and the reason for that is exactly the same as the reason this government has done so -- to have immediate and effective communications with the senior levels of government. I suggest to defeat this motion would be to put this government in a very untenable position in terms of its requirements to deal with the senior government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Minister inspires Minister and the justification grows and grows and it is quite impressive. Hindsight is a marvelous thing. I think perhaps if such eloquent defence of the position and the office had been made in the first place, that perhaps the concern would never have arisen and perhaps the motion would not have been made. But it is and it has merit in the context of the whole activity of Ministers' Offices. I myself would prefer just to see, as I said earlier in the session, recommendations for the cuts at this time and then a specific move for a major cut when we have concluded the study of the budget. But nevertheless, I do approve of cuts being made. I do believe that in the Ministers' Offices area that amount of money could be found to be cut. I am going to try to make the motion a bit more palatable so that I believe the Executive Council Members will be able to support us in this as well.

Motion To Amend Motion To Recommend That O And M Budget Activity Ministers' Offices, Task Ottawa Liaison Office, Be Reduced By \$96,000, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I will move that the word "partly" be introduced into the last sentence, right after the words "be made". So the last sentence will read: "And further that this committee recommend that this reduction be made partly in the task, Ottawa liaison office."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Your amendment is in order. To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? This amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion, as amended.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Recommend That O And M Budget Activity Ministers' Offices, Task Ottawa Liaison Office, Be Reduced By \$96,000, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, as amended? Opposed, if any? Thank you. This motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Mr. Richard. Ministers' Offices.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, one of the issues that has come up in the course of the debate on this last motion is a matter that was also discussed during this department's review in the meeting of the standing committee on finance and that is this practice in the government of taking current employees at a certain salary level and moving them into positions that up until that date commanded a salary level much lower. Notwithstanding the eloquent defence of the current incumbent in the Ottawa office this afternoon, this was not the reason that was given to the standing committee on finance in January and it was certainly not the reason given by the Government Leader

initially this afternoon. We were told, and I accept it as being fact, that one of the reasons there was a sudden bump in the budget of the Ottawa office was because they changed personnel in the senior position in that office and they put an incumbent in there who earlier had commanded a higher salary and therefore, automatically, it resulted in an increase in the budget of that Ottawa office.

I, for one, disagree with that practice. If the powers that be, in setting out government structure and job classification and job descriptions, conclude that a certain job should command a salary in a certain range -- I do not know what it was previously, maybe \$50,000 or \$60,000, I suspect -- then I do not think the government should be taking \$90,000 people and putting them into \$60,000 jobs, unless they are going to lower their salary. It is decisions like this that cause the O and M budget to go up and up and up. It is that practice, Mr. Chairman, that I think is inappropriate in the context of fiscal responsibility in trying to keep budgets within reason. So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion on this issue.

Motion To Recommend That Positions Be Filled By Government Employees At Appropriate Salary Level, Carried

I move that this committee recommend to the Executive Council that it discontinue the practice of putting government employees into positions within the government which result in the employee being paid a higher salary than the salary level established for that particular position.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed, if any? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Ministers' Offices. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, a general comment. As we go through the budget, each budgetary item has a task and a definition of the task. It seems to me that the Leader should be reorganizing, because it seems to me that all of a sudden this great person in an Ottawa office is doing jobs that I did not really know that he was doing and taking jobs that this -- as MLAs, when we travel, our travel, our arrangements, everything is done by the Legislative Assembly office. The task is defined and that is where they are responsible for us. I feel that it is not fair to presume that when MLAs travel, someone else does that task; they do not. I do not mind your saying that this Ottawa office does support the Ministers, if it does, but the Ministers also have executives and the Leader's office has a series of other people who are supposed to be professionals in the area of organizing and relating to the federal government. There is a great deal of travel in that case.

However, I feel that we should at least give the Legislative Assembly staff the courtesy of recognizing the task. They organize the travel for MLAs; they do a good job and, generally, meeting places and functional activities in the capital are handled by the Legislative Assembly staff. I have never had occasion, travelling as an MLA to any function that has been assigned to me as an MLA, to have the Ottawa liaison office make those arrangements, so I would like to see that this task definition is not being justified for the person that is hired in Ottawa but for the people who are legitimately doing the work for us here.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, as a finance committee Member, I was just carrying out my responsibility by making recommendations and trying to see where we can cut some of the budget. What I am having a problem understanding is that everyone in the whole Northwest Territories, the government employees, got a four per cent increase in their salary and in this Ottawa liaison office, this salary was increased by 35 per cent. What makes him so superior that he has to have a 35 per cent raise and yet they did not see fit for us ordinary MLAs -- some of us work very hard -- to have a 35 per cent raise? This individual got a four per cent raise and I know for a fact that some of the employees at the community level, too, do work very hard and everyone was treated the same -- and yet they gave him a raise of 35 per cent and I am having a problem understanding that. Can the Minister explain that to me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Public Relations Contract, Europe

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the explanation is that the present person, Mr. Pilot, is getting the same salary that he had here. This results in higher moneys being shown for the activity in Ottawa. The other factor is that there is a leased vehicle attached to the position in Ottawa. Another additional amount shown in that 35 per cent increase is the contract for Ms Firth who is living in Europe and whom we have contracted to do some public relations for our government. It is not simply just the Ottawa office alone, but it includes money for this person who is working on our behalf in Europe.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, I am talking strictly about salary and not to mention that for O and M, the increase is 138 per cent. So I am not talking about the O and M; I am talking about the salary itself. This is what happens when we hear things after the fact. We are here, we are supposed to be involved and yet when we come to make recommendations, then our recommendation is not very well taken. So I believe that we should just okay the budget and get out of here. We are wasting a lot of time and money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the Member, I believe, is using a SCOF document and speaking of a 138 per cent increase, which is based on all of the information I gave as to what the increase in Ottawa contains. The Member is very concerned about the salary, the money that goes to the position in Ottawa. Myself and other Members have given the Assembly the reasons why we have such a person and the costs that are attributed to that office. I really cannot say anything more except to say that the government intends to continue with the person. While saying that, I do feel subject to the wishes of the Assembly and if the Member wishes to make a recommendation with respect to either decreasing the present person's salary or getting a person who is paid less, we would certainly consider it. I really do not know what else I can say or do.

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

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government Leader indicated that part of the reason for this increase in the O and M part of the Ottawa liaison office was a contract with an ambassador in Europe. The Minister did give us some detail of this contract when we examined this budget in January in the finance committee and since then I have asked the Government Leader for more information and he provided it to me last month. There is, Mr. Chairman, to my surprise, a contract in existence between our government and an individual who lives in France, a former resident of the Northwest Territories, to provide the service of a good-will ambassador in western Europe. This is a contract for a year at \$25,000 and it is renewable, I take it, each April 1st. The Minister indicated, Mr. Chairman, that previously this contract was within the budget of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism as a public relations representative, but in December, 1985 that department determined that they were not funded for that contract and requested the Government Leader's office to take it over. The current contract, I was told, expires at the end of this month.

Mr. Chairman, in the context of some of the remarks made in this room at the beginning of the discussion of this bill about whether or not there is any fat in government, I have some considerable difficulty with having our government, year after year, pay \$25,000 to this individual. I asked what it was that the individual does and I am told that over the last year there were 10 speeches or presentations made at places, trade shows and universities in Europe. Now, that is, by my simple arithmetic, \$2500 an appearance. This, Mr. Chairman, if it is a legitimate tourism or economic development mandate, and I do not for a moment accept that it is, belongs within the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. That department feels it does not belong there. If it is to be a good-will ambassador, I suggest it belongs with the Department of External Affairs in the federal government.

The Minister has indicated that this individual has received these funds for a number of years. I understand that previously this individual, while participating in international skiing, was assisted by our government with expenses, back in those days. Well, that is not the case any more

and I question the advisability of sending this ongoing annual cheque to this former northerner to make these presentations. I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, because when he wrote to me in February, he indicated that the contract was expiring on March 31st and that no decision had yet been made by the Executive Council as to renewing it on April 1st. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, rather than waiting for the Minister's response, I will bring the matter to a head by making a motion.

Motion To Recommend That Contract For Good-Will Ambassador In Western Europe Not Be Renewed, Carried

I would move that this committee recommend to the Executive Council that it not renew the contract for a good-will ambassador in western Europe. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Richard, your motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Ministers' Offices, total O and M, \$2,926,000. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the last item that was just discontinued, I would like to ask the Minister if there is any difference between that kind of arrangement and the kinds of arrangements that the Executive works out with even the person that is working in the Ottawa liaison office. To my way of thinking, if we are going to be picking apart some of these, something needs to be said about going a lot farther and I am thinking of situations where the government makes arrangements with different civil servants to buy back their houses. It is not the first time that I have expressed concern about the high cost of the civil service. In finance committee meetings I have spoken about that. I have asked the Minister of Personnel, where does the increasing cost in wages stop? Is there no end to it? What controls does the government have on all of that?

What I am basically saying is that I do not feel good about having supported a motion that is going to cut out a contract for a native northern person to do some ambassadorial type work in Europe and at the same time, I have not taken a really good hard look at some of the benefits that are provided to the civil service of the North. I feel it is over and above what a provincial civil service would expect. I think in one sense we are still treating the North as though it were an outpost and paying people isolation pay. There is no type of isolation in the North as there used to be. It is nothing like it used to be. That is a section of the expenditure that I think should be cut. Other areas I know where the civil service is receiving benefits are in the form of freight costs, vacation assistance. For the record I would like, Mr. Chairman, to put that on the record as a concern of mine because it is not something that I just bring here by myself. I have said in the past that the people that I represent talked about those things with me and there is not a whole lot of consensus on that whole issue among people of the public. I felt that at least, in supporting this motion, I had to bring that out.

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Ministers' Offices, total O and M, \$2,926,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Executive Council Secretariat, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Executive Council Secretariat, total O and M, \$2,032,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: In the task, grants to organizations, the grants to non-profit organizations, Executive Council Secretariat, could the Minister indicate to me, of this \$476,000, approximately how many of them are ongoing grants?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.



HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would undertake to give the Members a copy of the Executive Council grants and contributions which would indicate those that are on an ongoing basis and which have been one-time grants. I will have that available to the Members later.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Executive Council Secretariat. Ms Cournoyea.

Claims Coalition

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in the grants and contributions section there is an identifiable contribution for claims coalition. Could you apprise me of what that is. It is for \$20,000 but I would like to know what the breakdown of that is and what this claims coalition does?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, this was a grant made to all the major native organizations in the North who had formed a coalition to lobby the federal government with respect to the federal land claims policy that the federal government was reviewing. You may remember the Coolican report, which was an initial report to the federal government. Eventually the federal government came through with its claims policy. The native organizations of the North approached us for assistance so they could hire a person to lobby the federal government. We consider that the lobby was very effective. There was co-operation with our government throughout and we feel that the grant was very justified.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the answer but I think the question I put to him was just regurgitated and sent back to me. I wanted to know who is on the claims coalition, what specifically it does, in what areas are they lobbying the government, and what organizations are involved with it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can contribute to answering that question. Mr. Chairman, when the Coolican report was submitted last summer recommending a major revision to the federal comprehensive claims policy, there was a coalition established of native organizations throughout Canada, who undertook a major lobbying effort with the general public and with the Ministers of the cabinet and the Prime Minister of Canada. The coalition was composed of northern native organizations and other aboriginal organizations from across the country. They hired a full-time co-ordinator to initiate that effort. They went on speaking tours; they arranged meetings with the federal cabinet Ministers.

Our contribution to that effort was to provide contributions to the northern native organizations to contribute their part to the coalition. But it was a national effort. The coalition is now defunct, its work is over, and the federal land claims policy was concluded by the cabinet. I might say that I think it was partly due to the lobbying efforts of the coalition, who met with Mr. McKnight and other cabinet Ministers extensively before the policy was finalized. Most northern native organizations seem to feel that there are some good things in it and that it is a step forward, so the coalition no longer exists. Our contribution went toward travel costs and toward the establishment of a short-term secretariat in Ottawa which is now defunct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Ms Cournoyea.

Funds For Defunct Organization Questioned

MS COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Since the organization is now defunct, is it necessary to carry the \$20,000 in this budget as is indicated in the SCOF document? As well, the second part of the question is that in these grants and contributions, in the total amount, how much is already committed and how much is left for others to apply for if they have special projects?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I cannot answer that question immediately. When I send around the list of the past year's grants and contributions, I will indicate those that are on an ongoing basis and those which were a one-time grant. That will indicate the degree to which we are committed on grants and contributions for this coming year. There are some commitments on an ongoing basis but there are others that are dealt with as they are received throughout the year. It depends on the applications that the Executive Council receives.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the secretariat, there is money included for a salary and O and M money for the statistics section to deal with a labour market survey. I note also that Education is involved with the labour market survey and they have money and PYs involved as well. As well, in this particular area it says that the Executive inadvertently deleted in 1986-87 one person year and I cannot believe the Executive ever gave up one person year.

MR. RICHARD: This Executive? No!

MR. McCALLUM: Inadvertently, my foot! You likely put two extra in. But I guess my main question, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister is, are there any other government people or departments involved with this labour market survey other than stats NWT and Mr. Patterson's group in Education? Is there anybody else involved with this new labour market survey that replaces the infamous TERIS?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I will just ask Mrs. Vertes to answer.

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

MRS. VERTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure what the Member means by "involved", but certainly the Department of Personnel and the Equal Employment Directorate have had involvement in the development of terms of reference for the labour market survey. They will be users of some of the information and they are involved in the sense of ensuring that there is no overlap in gathering information that is being carried out under the labour market information survey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I was getting at, Mr. Minister, is that I was trying to find out how many people are dedicated to this labour market survey. How many in Personnel? I forget the other department that was indicated -- do they have people involved with this labour market survey and is it necessary to have that many people, whatever the number is?

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

MRS. VERTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the conduct of the labour market information survey, it is the bureau of statistics that will be conducting the survey on behalf of the Department of Education. The reference to the Department of Personnel and the Equal Employment Directorate is with their own particular systems and, again, I would emphasize, their involvement was to ensure that the information being gathered under the labour market information survey is not being duplicated in their own operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Executive Council Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Executive Council Secretariat, total O and M, \$2,032,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Audit Bureau, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Page 2.14, Audit Bureau, total O and M, \$1,417,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Regional Operations, Total O And M

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for the regional co-ordination. There is an increase in PYs, half PYs, I would expect for people moving from or enhancing certain areas, some internal transfer from Keewatin to Inuvik Region. There is very little increase in salaries and there is miniscule increase in other O and M for the regional operations of the government for next year. As we have gone through other departments, Mr. Chairman, I have found very little increase in moneys devoted to regional operations. I think, maybe in two instances, there was money dedicated to some decentralization that has taken place in Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake, Cambridge and Coppermine. With the policy that the government has now on regional operations, with the work that has been done in looking at present regional operations, can the Minister indicate to me where the money is going to come from to pay for the further reorganization of regional operations? Where is the money that will be required for it? We were told some time ago that it would require an expenditure of money for new directions in reorganization of field operations. We were told of what it would cost for reorganization of field operations that have occurred in Kitikmeot Region and the Keewatin Region; we were going to get some kind of an indication of what that would cost the government. I would like to know from the Minister, how much are the new ventures going to cost? Where is the money in this year's budget to cover that?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, any of the decentralization activity that has occurred would be reflected in the various departments that are involved in the move. The moneys for any decentralization activity would not be shown in this task. The O and M costs here, the persons that are involved presently in regional operations, involve all of the regional directors and their staff and field service officers.

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

Costs Of Decentralization

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall, I think, when going through Government Services that there was some reference to the cost for decentralization in the Kitikmeot. I believe that in Municipal and Community Affairs there were some costs associated with some decentralization. But if the government is moving on into new ventures, I have difficulty trying to determine when we are going to find out what that is going to cost. I guess what I am asking is, were those the only two areas that this government had costs in decentralizing, from Cambridge Bay to Coppermine, from Rankin Inlet to Baker Lake? It seems to me there was some organization of field operations in the Baffin Region as well. But under regional operations, it did not cost the Executive any amount of money? There was no need to increase moneys? Does the Minister believe that it will not cost the Executive any further funding or the government further funding for future reorganization of field operations?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, any of the costs associated with decentralization in the various regions are identified in the respective departments that are affected. With respect to regional operations, the only increase is one person year. It involves half a person year increase for a clerk in Coppermine and half a person year increase for a clerk in Spence Bay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Regional operations, total O and M, \$3,800,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to regional operations, presently the government operates on an administrative base, called the Fort Smith, Inuvik, Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot Regions.

Motion To Consider Restructuring Regional Operations On The Basis Of Regional And Tribal Councils, Carried

I do not know whether it is appropriate at this time but I want to make a motion at this time that reads: I move that the Executive Council consider restructuring the regional operations to provide government administration regions based on the geographical areas of regional and tribal councils of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Can I have a copy of that motion, please? Mr. Gargan, your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now in the Western Arctic there are five different regions based on the language of these regions. There is the south Slave, which is composed of the Chipewyan speaking people; the north Slave which is composed of Dogrib; the Deh Cho region which is composed of south Slavey; the Sahtu region which is north Slavey; and the Mackenzie Delta which is Loucheux. I believe that, pending the constitutional talks on aboriginal self-government, pending the division of the Northwest Territories, there is still a direction that should be taken by this government, in establishing regional governments. I understand there is going to be a new legislation in those areas, and I thought maybe it would be appropriate at this time that the Minister, while looking at constitutional development, consider these different language groups as a way of administering the government. So I thought maybe it would be appropriate to consider this at this time, while all this discussion is going on with regard to constitutional development in the North, division, the aboriginal self-government in the constitution. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Regional Operations, Total 0 And M, Agreed

Regional operations, total 0 and M, \$3,800,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Priorities And Planning Secretariat, Total 0 And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We will go to page 2.17 now. Priorities and Planning Secretariat, total 0 and M, \$449,000. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, could the Leader give the top three or four priorities that have been identified for this government, that have been developed over this past year? Where are we going from here in regard to the priorities and planning of this government?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, the Priorities and Planning Secretariat is a committee of the Executive Council. It is kind of a filtering system where any new initiative, new program, new policy of any of the departments comes up through the Priorities and Planning Secretariat for their review. It goes from there to the priorities and planning committee and, once dealt with by Executive Members there, it goes to the Executive Council as a whole. At various times there are different initiatives that are before the Priorities and Planning Secretariat. The major initiatives of the government have been outlined in the budget speech, in terms of what the government hopes to achieve this year. I can talk generally of them but they are all written down in the budget speech. If the Member wants, I can go through some of them. I do not recall precisely all of the things that were outlined in there and I do not know precisely what the Member wants.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I realize the Opening Address identified certain areas of importance, and I realize that the Priorities and Planning Secretariat deals with priorities and planning, and the process is to put a number of things through this priorities and planning and identify the number one, for example, expenditure that this government is going to take on, or a number one thrust. With the Opening Address there were a number of initiatives taken over broad, general guidelines. What I was asking was, in the last while, in developing the budget, what were the first one or two major ones that you, as Leader, feel -- and as going to the Priorities and Planning Secretariat with all the other initiatives that were put forward -- which were the one or two major initiatives that came out of that exercise?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I just wonder if I could get the Member to specify. Is she asking me what I think, as Leader, are the major initiatives that I think the government should take, or what? I am not just exactly sure just what the Member has in mind.

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

Top Priorities Among This Year's Initiatives

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, my understanding of the priorities and planning committee and the secretariat is that initiatives are put forth and there are many put through this planning process. What I am asking is, could the Leader say what top one or two priorities he feels have been more or less overwhelmingly identified as the priorities this government is going to expend their efforts on this coming year? So far, with the Opening Address we have had about 13, and with other speeches from the Ministers as they go along, each one has one or two. So from the overall initiatives of this government, what are the two priorities, or the two most important initiatives that this government will be taking on, that are not just the ordinary departmental expenditures?

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be difficult, but because the heading is Priorities and Planning Secretariat, I am wondering if the Member is talking about matters that go before the secretariat and are dealt with by Executive Council through the priorities and planning committee. Or is the Member talking of priorities? The Member is aware that the government had a number of priorities and there was some priority funding for a number of initiatives that the government undertook in the last few years. Is the Member talking of those priority initiatives that the government has gone through in the past few years? Because my understanding is that those priorities that the government identified in the last couple years are in existence. They involve things like spousal assault, new initiatives in the renewable resources area. If the Member is asking for priorities of that nature, at the moment, I would have to say that most of the priorities that the government has identified are in existence or are under way. The government does not have any new priorities at the moment that are just beginning and which will be identified in a short while. There is no new money, as it were, for new government initiatives in the near future.

Priorities And Planning Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Priorities and Planning Secretariat, total O and M, \$449,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Office Of Devolution, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): We will go to page 2.19, office of devolution, total O and M, \$293,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Grants And Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mahsi cho. Page 2.20, detail of grants and contributions. Total grants and contributions, \$726,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): For the moment this concludes the Executive portion of the estimates. We cannot really complete the total O and M at this time because there will be some outstanding sections which will have to be deferred until we go and deal with other departments. So does the committee agree that we defer the total O and M for this particular Executive portion until we deal with the -- Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would be prepared to present the budget of the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat now, if it suits the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Does the committee agree that we deal with the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee would like to thank the witnesses. Mahsi cho. Mr. Patterson, do you have any opening remarks at this time?

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat is involved in a wide range of political and constitutional matters. It provides advice and support to the two Ministers responsible, that is myself and Mr. Sibbeston, as well as to the political and constitutional development committee of the Executive Council, which is myself, Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. Ballantyne and other Members as warranted by the agenda. It provides territorial government representation on the federal negotiation teams for the Dene/Metis and Tungavik Federation of Nunavut comprehensive claims. It plays a role in co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Western Arctic final agreement. And the secretariat provides advice on the impact on claims negotiations of the interrelated political and constitutional issues arising from devolution initiatives, division of the NWT -- as well as on matters relating to aboriginal rights in the Canadian Constitution through the First Ministers' process.

Mr. Chairman, the 1987-88 budget totals \$611,000. This is made up of \$485,000 for salaries and \$126,000 for operations and maintenance. This budget represents 4.5 per cent of the Department of the Executive budget. The secretariat is not asking for an increase over last year's budget.

The secretariat maintains contact with government departments, the general public and other interest organizations such as the NWT Association of Municipalities and the NWT Wildlife Federation. This has become increasingly important as progress toward the settlement of the NWT's two outstanding claims gains momentum.

The secretariat has also entered into the arena of public education and public relations. This new activity creates an awareness of what land claims are, the actual negotiating process, and exactly what is on the bargaining table. In the past year two publications have been produced by the secretariat. The first is called "Opportunities", which is a guide to government services and programs for aboriginal people in the NWT and the second is "Creating a Better Tomorrow" on aboriginal claims in the NWT. These publications have been enthusiastically received and requests for copies of them, especially "Creating a Better Tomorrow", have come from across the North and southern Canada, as well as from several European countries.

Last spring I tabled the first issue of the secretariat's newsletter called "Building Blocks". This newsletter responds to a long overdue need to provide interested parties with current information about the various political and constitutional issues in the Territories. "Building Blocks", I believe, answered our concern that a lack of information on land claims negotiations and constitutional development issues was leading to unnecessary fears about the results of these initiatives. The popularity of this publication does attest to its need and the secretariat intends to make its development a priority. "Building Blocks" is distributed throughout the NWT and in many places in the South. There are about 2000 English and 600 Inuktitut copies per issue. I am pleased to advise Members that a new issue will be distributed in the next couple of weeks.

General information kits produced by the secretariat in co-operation with the Department of Education will be finding their way into all NWT schools from kindergarten to grade 12. These kits will provide teachers with up-to-date quality information about land claims and the issues of political and constitutional development in the North. This is an ambitious project and its importance cannot be underestimated.

#### Land Claims Negotiations

During the past year there has been encouraging and significant progress in the negotiation of both outstanding claims. This is in spite of the fact that the federal policy on comprehensive land claims was under active review for most of this period. Last June negotiators of the Dene/Metis claim agreed on a mini-package. It sets out the major elements to be included in a final agreement. These elements include: eligibility, wildlife, land selection, land and resource provisions, Norman Wells oil field revenues, cash compensation and a proposal on subsurface resources. The federal government's claims policy announced in December has resolved most of the policy issues encountered in these negotiations. If agreement can be reached on a package of benefits for the Dene/Metis from future subsurface developments, negotiations will continue with a view to reaching an agreement in principle by the end of this calendar year. And I might note, Mr. Chairman, that the so-called mini-package of the Dene/Metis has gone to the first federal cabinet committee, the committee on social development, today.

One of the more delicate aspects of the Dene/Metis claim is that of land selection. In an effort to ensure that this element of the claim is given the attention it needs, a Government of the Northwest Territories land selection negotiator has been hired. A number of problems could develop if land selection in this claim is not satisfactorily addressed -- problems such as the taxation, planning, zoning and third party use of selected lands that may fall within municipal boundaries. The secretariat's land selection negotiator is co-ordinating discussions between the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Dene/Metis. I hope these talks will lead to an agreement that will allow selected lands to fit into the existing municipal system and allow for future municipal expansion.

Last month, negotiators with the Dene/Metis, the Council for Yukon Indians and the affected governments initialled an agreement to deal with overlapping claims. The transboundary framework agreement sets out matters to be settled and a time frame. With respect to the Inuit claim, there has been substantial movement during the past few months. An eligibility and enrolment subagreement has been initialled. In essence, it accepts that the Inuit, themselves, are best able to determine who comprises their membership. There is agreement on a discussion paper regarding the Nunavut impact review board. It outlines the powers, authorities, structures and jurisdiction of what will be the major environmental board in Nunavut. I expect that it will be the subject of much discussion in the coming months. The negotiators are confident that barring any unforeseen difficulties, an agreement in principle will also be reached by the end of 1987.

In general terms, the TFN and the Dene and Metis are pleased with the content and thrust of the federal government's new comprehensive claims policy. The new policy, while not yet titled or published, should have a positive effect on the settlement of the NWT's two outstanding claims.

This government made a submission to the task force reviewing the federal policy last fall. Our recommendation that the extinguishment policy be abandoned has been substantially honoured. As well, the new policy allows for the negotiation of a broader range of self-government matters and it allows claimants to participate in government decision-making over some natural resources. Unfortunately, this joint management provision does not apply to non-renewable resources. This is a disappointment to the TFN and to the Dene and Metis. While resource revenue sharing is now a negotiable item, the wording of the new policy may allow government to cap the actual dollar value or make it subject to a sunset clause. The new policy also requires that detailed implementation plans accompany all final agreements.

Political And Constitutional Development

In the area of political and constitutional development, I have been an active participant along with my colleagues, Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. Ballantyne, in meetings of federal, provincial and territorial Ministers over the past year. These meetings have been aimed at providing the basis for a successful 1987 First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights. This conference scheduled for later this month is the last such meeting required by the Constitution Act. It may, therefore, be our last opportunity to amend the constitution with a definition of aboriginal rights. The prospects for success are not very bright. Several provinces stubbornly refuse to budge on the concept of entrenching the right to aboriginal self-government and agreement has not been reached on an acceptable definition of aboriginal rights. Some participants have predicted that the most one can hope to accomplish at the meeting is an agreement to convene more First Ministers' Conferences. Personally, I am hoping for more than this.

Closer to home, the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat has kept abreast of the activities of the Constitutional Alliance and its two members, the Western and Nunavut Constitutional Forums.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that in general terms, claims are proceeding well and at a healthy pace. I anticipate progress in both the Dene/Metis and TFN claim will be substantial as they attempt to reach agreement in principle before the end of the year. The Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat plays, I believe, a valued role in these negotiations, as well as in monitoring the implementation of the Inuvialuit claim.

I am particularly pleased with the secretariat's increased involvement and commitment to public education and public relations. As Ministers, we have depended on the advice of the secretariat's expert staff in making our way through the complex issues of native claims and political and constitutional development. We are now using their services to assist all northerners to understand both the process of change and the changes themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Agreed. This matter is concluded. Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Order, please! Order, please! The chairman will recognize the clock and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

REVERT TO 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 that progress has been made, with three motions being adopted and further, Mr. Speaker, your committee concluded the Department of Education.

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, Mr. Wah-Shee. Members have heard the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

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



ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Thursday, March 19th, at 9:30 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), 14-87(1), 25-87(1), 29-87(1), 24-87(1), 8-87(1), 30-87(1), 9-87(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 19th at 9:30 a.m.

--ADJOURNMENT

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