



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

1st Session

10th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report
DAY 13

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1984

Pages 383 to 413

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1984

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Friday, February 17, 1984. Item 2, Members' replies. Are there any replies? There do not appear to be any Members' replies today. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On Advisory Council On The Status Of Women

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The advisory council on the status of women for the Northwest Territories has recommended an executive to me. Bertha Allen of Inuvik was nominated as president. Helen Adamache of Coppermine and Janet Armstrong of Pangnirtung were nominated as vice-presidents. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am pleased to accept those nominations. The advisory council was formed to advise me on matters of concern to NWT women. The council members bring a wide variety of skills, abilities, perceptions and opinions to their positions.

At its first meeting, the council identified education, communication and affirmative action programs for women as the first priorities the group intends to tackle. They also indicated support and encouragement for the activities of the Government of the Northwest Territories internal status of women mechanism which the council recommends be called the "Women's Bureau" in dealing with the issues of wife assault and pornography. The council has also decided to report through me to the Legislative Assembly, in the near future, on its plans and priorities. I consider the advisory council a very important source of advice regarding priorities and direction and was pleased at the dedication and enthusiasm they showed at their first meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Item 4, oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 4: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 79-84(1): Report Of Ottawa Meeting On NCPC

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Government Leader, Mr. Nerysoo. I wonder if Mr. Nerysoo could give us a brief report on the meeting that the Government Leader and Mrs. Sorensen had with the standing committee of Indian and northern affairs last week in Ottawa.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 79-84(1): Report Of Ottawa Meeting On NCPC

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate to the Members in this House that I appeared on behalf of the Executive Council and on behalf of the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources to give the presentation on our position on NCPC. Mrs. Sorensen, I believe, can respond at some time to caucus. She also presented a position and supported the position given by the Executive Council on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. It is quite clear that we raised specific concerns and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources certainly would be prepared to table in this House the presentation that was made to the standing committee on Indian and northern affairs with regard to our position on NCPC.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 79-84(1): Report Of Ottawa Meeting On NCPC

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a supplementary to that I would like to ask the Government Leader, in his opinion, was the report well-received by the standing committee?

MR. SPEAKER: This again is a matter of opinion and does not require an answer. If you wish, Mr. Minister, you can indicate what you think, but that is all it is.

Further Return To Question 79-84(1): Report Of Ottawa Meeting On NCPC

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I can indicate to the Member that the members of the standing committee on Indian affairs received in the report the support that we gave with regard to the Penner report on NCPC and with regard to the position we have taken on the National Energy Board report that was tabled in this House by the honourable Member responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 80-84(1): Further Request For Emergency Funding For Community Hall, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is to the Minister of Local Government with regard to the community hall in Fort Providence.

---Applause

As I mentioned yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the furnace in Fort Providence has pretty well burned out and it has been there for the last 20 years. As far as maintenance to the furnace goes, it hardly meets our needs. I was wondering whether the Minister would be able to do anything about the condition of the hall in Fort Providence immediately, so it could be utilized again. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I have discussed the matter with my department officials and they are seeking ways to find funds immediately to provide the repair that is necessary to the community hall.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I understand you are taking that as notice and will reply when you find the funds?

Return To Question 80-84(1): Further Request For Emergency Funding For Community Hall, Fort Providence

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I think I can be more specific than that. Yes, we are prepared to do something about that and I am just in the process of getting my department officials to find the money in the next few days and weeks.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Oral questions. That appears to conclude oral questions for today.

Item 5, written questions. Item 6, returns. Are there any returns? Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 6: RETURNS

Return To Question 74-84(1): Hunting And Trapping Policy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral Question 74-84(1), asked by Mrs. Lawrence on February 16th, regarding policy on hunting. Hunting is authorized and controlled by the Wildlife Ordinance and regulations. I would like to refer the honourable Member to section 13(1) and 13(2) of the Wildlife Ordinance which makes it an offence for a person to assign or transfer any rights or privileges of their licence to another person and an offence for a person to accept any transfer or assignment of those rights or privileges. There are no laws that prohibit a non-licensed person from accompanying a licensed person while hunting.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns.

Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 9, tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills, Item 12, motions, Motion 17-84(1), Pacific Western Airlines Board of Directors. Mrs. Sorensen.

ITEM 12: MOTIONS

Motion 17-84(1): PWA Board Of Directors

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Pacific Western Airlines serves the Northwest Territories particularly the Western and Central Arctic;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for northern citizens to have direct input on policy regarding this airline;

AND WHEREAS there is no representation from the NWT on the Pacific Western Airlines board of directors, the policy-making body;

AND WHEREAS, for some time now, Yellowknife city council, consumer groups, community councils have been calling for representation from the NWT on the Pacific Western Airlines board of directors;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that this House request, through the Government Leader, that representation be made to Premier Lougheed and the chairman of the board of Pacific Western Airlines requesting that an NWT resident be placed on the Pacific Western Airlines board of directors.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. You have the floor, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. The Pacific Western Airlines, as Members know, serves the Western Arctic as well as most of western Canada and parts of eastern Canada. But with respect to its service in the NWT, there is a great deal of revenue and a percentage of the profits that Pacific Western Airlines has generated over the years has been gained directly from the NWT; the consumers and government that Pacific Western Airlines has served in the NWI. Because there has been a large financial involvement and contribution on the part of people in the NWT, thereby contributing to the success of that airline I think most Members, perhaps all Members could agree that there is a need for a northern citizen, northern citizens to have direct input on policy regarding this airline. It has come to our attention that for the last several years there has been no representation on the part of the NWT on the board of directors. Indeed, Mr. Searle, who was a former member of the PWA board was on the board in the early years and when Mr. Searle left

the NWT shortly thereafter he was no longer a member of the PWA board. His position has not been filled. And there has been a call from various individuals and community groups including community councils, particularly in the Western Arctic, calling for a person and this motion basically represents those individuals who would like to see a member of the Pacific Western Airlines board of directors from the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. McCallum is seconder. To the motion, Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in support of the motion and also suggest that perhaps in all good haste that one of the members that would be recommended would be from the far northern part of the Western Arctic. For many years we have been told by Pacific Western Airlines that as development increased and as we were able to support the development of our area and our region -- and take a lot of chances with the resource development in a very critical area -- that if we were able to do that, the volume and sales would go up and thus decrease the air fares for others who normally use it in any event. Since the advent of resource development in our area we did not see any decrease in the amount of money that an individual had to pay to travel to and from Yellowknife or from our area into the South. So the representation on the Pacific Western Airlines board should be a person who definitely is aware of the problems and past history and promises to be able to meet some of the conflicts we are facing today with the airlines that are presently being run in and out of our area by the major resource company, taking away the potential revenue from the commercial airline. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Just a small contribution, Mr. Speaker. I think it might be worth noting in the debate that this is not unprecedented with regard to carriers serving the North. In fact I think in response to representations made by Members of this Assembly at our spring session in Inuvik in 1982, the board of directors of Nordair agreed to appoint a northern representative to the board. Although we have a great number of concerns in the Eastern Arctic with regard to Nordair and other carriers' prices and services, in some matters such as representation on the board of directors, excursion fares, discount fares, hot meals for northern flights, it might not hurt western Members of this Assembly and leaders to draw some comparisons between Nordair and Pacific Western Airlines. So certainly I support the motion and I have thought this contribution might be useful. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 17-84(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Abstentions? The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

Motion 19-84(1), Special Committee on Housing, Mr. Pudluk.

Motion 19-84(1): Special Committee On Housing

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my motion I would like to announce that I am very, very pleased for you, Mr. Speaker, that you came back to us again.

---Applause

We did not know where you were and we were going to come and see you. I am sorry we did not come and see you because we did not know where you were. Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the provision of housing is a high priority with many people in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS it appears that the needs of communities are not being met by the NWT Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the NWT Housing Corporation was formed in 1972 and it now appears time for a review as to the effectiveness of the present Housing Corporation;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mrs. Lawrence, that according to Rule 87(1), that a special committee of this Assembly be established to be named the special committee on housing;

AND FURTHER, that notwithstanding Rule 87(2) that the special committee on housing consist of three Members from the East and three Members from the West;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the special committee be mandated to review the operation of the NWT Housing Corporation and report with recommendations to this Assembly at the fall session.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that I could introduce this motion. In the past, in the Ninth Assembly I used to be concerned about the NWT Housing Corporation. There are a lot of problems now that we are facing with the NWT Housing Corporation in the communities. I would like a review and if this motion could be passed, we could get to deal with the NWT Housing Corporation and also the communities. I do not think they have been communicating well. We all know that the individual communities have different policies to follow on housing for this reason and also they have been having problems. Even if the communities would like to get more housing, it seems like they cannot get what they want for their needs, nor for renovations for the older housing in the communities. If my motion could be supported I think the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation is welcome to travel with the special committee to visit with the communities in the NWT, but it does not say in my motion that he is welcome to travel with us if he wants. I really wanted to work on this, I also am aware of the problems in the communities and we would be getting more information about what the communities need when we start visiting these communities. The NWT Housing Corporation will be getting more information about what the people need in each community. With them here in the head office in Yellowknife, I would be inclined to work with them and try to have them understand exactly how they are serving the communities. They do not seem to understand. This is why I want you to support my motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. As seconder of the motion, Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: (Translation) A few years ago when the Housing Corporation moved into the Northwest Territories they said to the people that anybody who wants a new house can get it for two dollars a month rent and over a period of time they will own the house. I am a victim of that with my parents. My parents moved into the new house immediately and they destroyed the old house. It was a well-kept house. There are houses now that are older and now in worse shape and still standing up. When my mother died they wanted my dad to move out and in all this process the rent was increasing and my dad had a hard time keeping up with the rent. They threw my brother out and that was the end of my parents' house. Today, when I come back to my home town it seems I have no place to stay. Because of this it is not like the old times. The housing, the rent costs a lot nowadays and that is the reason why I support this motion. I would like to see a committee formed to look into the housing problem. That is all. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am supporting this motion. For a long time I have been a member of the board of directors on the housing association since they started in the Baffin Region, up to the present, I am the member of the board of directors. I am aware of the problems they are facing in each community. We all know that the NWT Housing Corporation should get to know what the people need in each community and also we Inuit people who are the tenants should find out about our housing. This motion would be helping everybody a lot. I am supporting it but I just did not want to vote before I had something to say about this motion. Our constituents all have concerns about their housing. Also the rent is very high and they are not making that much money to pay their rent. Just when rent is going up very quickly, even the carvers are not making that much money now on their carvings. These are the problems that we are facing right now. I am supporting this motion and I think we would get into agreement if we could pass this motion. Thank you.

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

Long-Term Solutions To Housing Problems

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this motion. I think it is about time for a special committee into housing, about time that something like this was done. There are a lot of problems with housing in the Northwest Territories. There are a lot of problems around people paying rent. There are problems around construction, administration. There are problems around just the provision of housing, basically. In a lot of communities there is overcrowding, so that, for myself, I would just be addressing the provision of housing in the Northwest Territories. Never mind people being able to pay their rents and all of those other problems. I think everyone should support this motion because housing is such a basic thing. I just want to say, too, that when we reviewed the budget of the Housing Corporation we gave the new Minister of Housing a hard time, but he has taken over a job that is very difficult. I think if we all get together and the people from communities have input into housing we could arrive at some good solutions, some solutions that could last for a long time so that we would not always have to be dealing with housing. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: (Speaks in Slavey)

(No translation) Mr. Speaker, do we have a translator?

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am afraid you do not have a translator. Rules of the House require that you give us 24 or 48 hours notice if you wish to have a translator here, but you are quite free to speak in your own language if you wish. The only problem is you are the only one here I know of, in the immediate vicinity anyway, that would be understanding you but you have that right to speak if you wish.

MR. GARGAN: I must say, Mr. Speaker, I thought there was a Slavey translator. I thought it was made available all the time. I will speak in English for the benefit of the other Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

MR. GARGAN: I was just saying to my good friends from the Eastern Arctic that we people from the West -- the motion that was brought up by Mr. Pudluk I would support whole-heartedly. Basically the situation in the West is that we do have a lot of timber, it is quite accessible and we could use timber to build our houses. But the situation in the Eastern Arctic is different because there are no trees and they have to rely a lot on prefab buildings to build their houses.

For that reason I am supporting the Member whole-heartedly. The other thing I wanted to mention too, is that I do support the committee to look over the whole housing situation in the NWT. One of the reasons for that is, as far as housing committees, housing associations go, basically a lot of times it is a sort of relationship where the housing committees usually give houses to the immediate family or give houses to the people that do not really need them. For that reason if there is a committee formed, they would look at the whole situation and come up with a good definite policy so that it could be a guideline for the housing committees to use and also the Housing Corporation to use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, in the fall they will be finishing this I know... (No translation) ...like for example in Sanikiluaq, if they are going to be dealing with these problems in Sanikiluaq and also in Pangnirtung, maybe it would take three weeks to deal with these problems. There are a lot of problems as we all know -- it is a big problem. They will be making many comments on this and when we do go ahead with this it is going to be very beneficial, beneficial to the people concerned, the tenants and the communities. Perhaps sometimes they do not deal with it because they do not understand it, but when they do understand it, it will be very beneficial. It is very close to me. In the future I know that they will be making a lot of comments on this and it will be very beneficial to everybody to have this committee.

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

A Prime Concern Of All Residents

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, support the motion. I think it has really come out this year during the finance committee discussions and in former years, that housing is a prime concern to the residents of the Northwest Territories. We are talking about all the residents. The whole issue of housing can go from one example of the need for public housing in the Eastern Arctic to the need to encourage the private sector to build housing in some of the larger communities in the West. I think this committee can touch on the high cost of utilities, the high cost of building a house. What can we recommend to the Executive Committee and to the Housing Corporation, is how they can better prioritize the needs of the Northwest Territories. I think the other speakers have said very well that needs are very different in different parts of the North. I think all of us have to be able to understand the other person's needs. People from the Eastern Arctic must understand there are some real problems in Yellowknife and Fort Smith. We must understand there are real problems in the Eastern Arctic and the Dene communities. So I fully support this motion and I think it would be a very, very positive thing, not to be perceived as a negative thing by the Housing Corporation, to really get the feelings of the communities, bring them to this government and ultimately we can implement some very positive policies in the future. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the motion, mainly because last year when the Housing Corporation budget came up, I helped sponsor a motion that said that we should just pass the Housing Corporation budget without debate because I felt that at that time, when I was an ordinary MLA, everything had already been determined and what was the sense of debating such a budget, when the fundamental misunderstandings at the community level were not addressed. I had spent up to four years as an ordinary MLA trying to express those concerns, but we appeared to continue to go on without really addressing the fundamental issues that concerned people. I know that, also as a past member of the housing board of directors, there was a misunderstanding about why there was a squeeze to have people pay more and more. It was basically a misunderstanding -- to say it in the mildest of terms -- because from the inception of the federal government's policy to provide houses, people really did not understand exactly what was being done. Neither was there political involvement of people to the degree that people really felt they had an input in the first place. The general attitude, at that time, was that there was a "Big Daddy" from some place that came out and gave people things. There never was a full explanation of, when you got something for nothing, there was a price to pay. I do not believe people understood that. That was never discussed in its fullest intent from the very beginning of time that the government came in with programs.

Policies Misunderstood

I was brought up in the time when, to my understanding and my belief, there was no government housing. When I was brought up most of the people I knew had one or two or three houses and they were all owned by the people themselves without any help. Times change and environment changes. I would be remiss not to say something about this issue, mainly because as an ordinary MLA in my constituency, 60 per cent of the time that I am dealing with community issues it has to do with housing. Misunderstanding. For example, as Mrs. Lawrence explained, in her area people at one time did have housing and it was understood that the government, when they offered alternative housing, was to replace their house -- without the full understanding by the people that they would have to pay and then pay some more. In most instances pay for the kind of house that they could not use or they really did not want, but they did not have a choice. So the problems at the community level give a real feeling among people, particularly in my area, that there was a little job played on people politically as well, not only in providing housing, but politically, because when you live in something that belongs to somebody else every little thing you do is scrutinized. You cannot move, you cannot put a nail here and if you do not look after your house -- when it comes to looking after it the government says, well you should do this for your own house, you should do that, you know, for what we have given you. Then we have the problem between what the federal government provides and what the Housing Corporation provides. In our area people see that very clearly that if it is government housing for a federal employee or for a territorial government employee, if something breaks somebody comes immediately to fix it up. If it is the Housing Corporation, then we have to go through all the hoops of having people in the community try to answer why they destroyed a house that does not belong to them. So there is a great deal of misunderstanding, first in what was taken away which belonged to the individual as opposed to what replaced it and was given to the person and now what is demanded from the person to reconcile the decisions that were made, basically without input from the people.

So 60 per cent of the problems in my area are misconceptions with housing; the feeling that the government owns people because they live in a government house. If any kind of thrust is put forward saying, "Well, who are we, what can we do?" Then we get the big handle, "Look what you have got." But basically the people feel that they have not had an input into what they have got and what was taken away. So certainly, if some resolution can be found within a small committee that is going to be reporting in a short period of time, which I feel this House can do because all of us are faced with basically the same problems, I feel that perhaps there could be some very meaningful solutions. Thank you.

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

Ministerial Position

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the new Minister for Housing I sort of was shellshocked in the first couple of days at the criticism that was received. However, I think one thing that the criticism did show is that there was a lot of problems at the community level never mind the headquarters level. So I think it has to be understood that when we are talking about housing we are talking about problems from the community up and not necessarily just in Yellowknife. The Housing Corporation was formed because of a task force which recommended, in I believe 1972, so 12 years later with the many changes that we have had in the North, perhaps it is time to relook at the whole structure of the organization to see if it is still capable of meeting the needs of the Northwest Territories.

The housing is a very high priority with this government. From talking to my fellow Executive Members I know it is a very high priority with them and I think it is time we started to realize that. Not only in speaking about it, and putting the money into it. I am sure that hopefully, if the motion passes, I will be able to work with the committee because I would welcome any direction that this House would give me because I think that housing is so critical to all of us that it is something that should be achieved through a joint effort. So I am looking forward to working with the House to see if we can straighten some of the problems out. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. Mr. Pudluk, would you like to conclude the debate?

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few words. I would like to see this corporation reviewed from headquarters down to the community level. The reason for that is there have been so many concerns in the communities and it seems to me that headquarters never seems to know what they want. That is the reason I moved the motion. I ask for a recorded vote, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Motion 19-84(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: A recorded vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Paniloo, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Gargan, Mr. T'Seleie, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Ballantyne, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. Butters, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Angottitaurua, Mr. Pedersen.

MR. SPEAKER: Abstentions.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Wray, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Curley.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: I understand the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is prepared to address the Assembly. I would like to have unanimous consent to stand down the orders of the day and have the Minister address the Assembly shortly and then at the conclusion of the address to dissolve into committee of the whole for a question period. Do I have unanimous consent to alter the orders of the day?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? I take it I have consent. Inasmuch as the Minister is not here at the moment, he is just going to be on his way down, would you please keep your seats. I will remove myself from the chair so those with nicotine requirements might be able to get a few puffs on their cigarettes but would everybody please stay in their chairs. I will recess then temporarily for just a few moments until the Minister comes down.

---SHORT RECESS

Please be seated. It is my pleasure today to introduce to you the Hon. John Munro, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. He is prepared to address the Assembly. Mr. Munro, you have the floor.

---Applause

Hon. John Munro's Address

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Executive Committee, Members of the Assembly, friends. It is a very real pleasure for me to be here at the beginning, more or less, of your 10th Assembly. I say that because I think we have all gone through some rather exciting times and I think the short-term future is very exciting for many of us. In terms of the exciting past you have just gone through an election and I want to congratulate you all. There are many familiar faces from the Ninth Assembly that I see here. I want to congratulate them specifically for the confidence that they earned from the electors. A great many of you were returned with majorities indicative of the good will that you have earned from all the people here in the Territories. To the new Members I know it must be a very real experience for you and I offer you also my sincerest congratulations. I guess it is a first in Canadian history, certainly a first in the Territories that you have an Executive Council of which eight are elected Members, all except for the Commissioner, and that all portfolios are in the hands of elected Members except for the one for Personnel that includes Finance which is in the hands of an elected person; a very significant further step toward full autonomous government for the Northwest Territories.

Also another first, certainly in the 20th century, is the nomination and election of Richard Nerysoo as your Government Leader. He is the first northern native to head a government and I thought at one time, and so did Richard, that he was the first Canadian native to ever have been elected to head a government, but when we suggested that, I guess at a constitutional conference not so long ago we were corrected, Richard. As I recall we were corrected by somebody from the Metis delegation who indicated many, many decades prior to 1900 that there was a Metis elected to that government. In any event it is really a very significant first and I want to congratulate all the people in the Territories and all of you for bestowing the confidence on Richard Nerysoo whom everyone knows will discharge those responsibilities, both native and non-native alike.

---Applause

I think perhaps it would be most becoming for me too to pay my respects to Commissioner Parker who I know shares affection in the hearts of you all for the work he has done in terms of being a symbol of continuity between elections and one who symbolizes all the best in terms of the federal presence in the North and its willingness to co-operate with you to the fullest. So may I offer indeed my congratulations at this step and for his encouragement all the way along the road to greater political autonomy here in the North, Commissioner Parker.

---Applause

You know, some say the evolution to full political responsible government in the North has been rather slow, but I think the 10th Assembly is on the verge now of seeing it speed up considerably. Perhaps the latter part of the Ninth Assembly, instead of the evolution being slow, it was really rather rapid when we look at it and I think that will be even more accelerated during the next few years and indeed few months. The last Assembly was noted for its great emphasis on political accountability and that was set out in your statement of priorities and planning in May of 1983 which clearly enunciated how you wished to assume control. I think that was a milestone. And then of course the second one, in terms of showing your political maturity equal to any other government in Canada, as far as I am concerned, was the leadership role you took at the aboriginal conferences. Setting out your position there, was a great deal of credit to all of Canada.

Thirdly, a real sign of the degree in which the people of the Territories regard you as such an important level of government -- and there is no greater acid test than this -- was the rate of voter participation at the last election here in the Territories -- very, very high, much higher than in fact in many of the provinces. So I think that augurs well for the political future of the Northwest Territories and indeed is a compliment to you all. So the 10th Assembly, as I see it, faces some of the challenges of the last one and perhaps even more accentuated in terms of the urgency for resolution.

I am talking about first the continuing issue of northern political evolution and constitutional development all of which has to be sorted out by you within the federal framework. Second, the transfer of powers and responsibilities to regional and local governments has got to be a question that is worrisome but challenging to you all. The very, very complex question of your own internal boundaries you have to determine and, of course, central to all that is the question of division, perhaps the most complex question of all.

Conditions To Be Met Prior To Division

You will recall I think with a good deal of support and agreement from many of you there were four conditions set out with reference to a determination of the question of division. May I just repeat them very quickly? I set them out when I addressed you last year, that we have agreed in principle to divide the Northwest Territories provided that: first, northerners reach consensus among themselves and agreement with the federal government on the boundary; second, northerners reach consensus and agreement with the federal government on the distribution of powers to local, regional and territorial levels of government; third, all comprehensive land claims are settled; fourth, a majority of NWT residents continues to support division.

This process of resolution of the question of division is going to require accommodation of several factors. These would include: a sound economic base; equity between any new territories; recognition of a community of interests which develops from geography, history, culture and systems of administration and, last of all, transportation. All of these factors have legitimacy and no single one -- not even culture -- can override all the others. The solution will require that all these factors be given proper weight and an appropriate balance struck.

I hope then that in the future the Western Forum and the Nunavut Forum will work under the umbrella of the Constitutional Alliance to develop a formula for settling this issue. I recognize that both groups have been working hard individually to develop coherent proposals and positions. Nevertheless, I feel that if the groups could engage in more joint meetings, they would gain a greater appreciation of the differing views and objectives and begin the process of searching, and we all know that process has to start soon, searching for compromises and solutions.

Federal Government Pressing For Settlement Of Claims

As this constitutional process continues, both I and my officials remain willing to meet with the constitutional forums and provide federal perceptions and reaction to proposals as you are developing them so that northerners will not be faced with any surprises. That is one thing I know that concerns you. Meanwhile, friends, the federal government on another front is pressing and that is the federal government is continuing to press for the successful conclusion of comprehensive claims negotiations, which bears in such a real way also on the question of division.

Significant progress has been made in the Northwest Territories, notably on the COPE claim. On December 19, 1983, the chief government negotiator and the chief negotiator for COPE initialled an agreement on all outstanding issues relative to this claim. It is this document which is presently being reviewed by my cabinet colleagues. This will be followed by a ratification process involving all eligible Inuvialuit voters.

Last week, may I say and I appreciated it, I was glad to receive a letter from your Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, Mr. Dennis Patterson, informing me that the Executive Council endorses the final agreement as initialled. The one proviso was to ensure a fair and balanced resolution of the overlap issue. I am also pleased to report, and I am sure that you are aware, that progress, real progress, has been made on that score. A memorandum of agreement was reached on February 9th by the chief negotiators for COPE and the Dene/Metis and the respective chief government negotiators. Discussions are also taking place between COPE, the CYI and the TFN. With all of this I am confident that a final agreement on the COPE claim is very close, very close indeed.

Progress, I think, is also being made in negotiations with the Tungavik Federation in the East and on the Dene/Metis claims. On the basis of my meetings with both groups over the last few months, and in particular over the last few days where with respect to that particular claim, I am confident now that we have leaped the hurdle to temporary settlement, at least of this claim. That hurdle being the wildlife agreement over which considerable misunderstanding has arisen. I believe we resolved that a few days ago. So it is the hope of the negotiators there and my government, certainly myself, that we will be able to have an agreement in principle for that claim, hopefully before the summer.

I could go on to some of the other claims but these are three of the four that will have a major impact in getting ahead with the political evolution of the North and the fundamental question of division here.

Federal Financing Formula

Another area, friends, which we are working hard on, with you, is that of a formula-based approach to federal financing in the North. I announced that last year and we are closer to it now. Both cabinet and the former Executive Council have endorsed a change to formula financing which will provide you with a much better basis for fiscal planning and confirm the principle that planning and accountability for territorial government actions rests with this government, your government. Because of our joint commitment to establish a federal financing formula, I hope to bring appropriate proposals to the cabinet within the next month or two.

Discretionary Revenues Relating To Resource Development

As an additional measure to strengthen the economic stability and self-reliance in the Territories we are also developing proposals for some form of discretionary revenues relating to the costs incurred to the North in resource development. That also was a promise and I would like to see it realized before the termination of the life of this government. I am referring to the federal government. It is a complex issue but various proposals and options are being developed for discussion between the federal government and your government.

Much of your energy and attention during this 10th Assembly will be directed also toward strengthening the economic condition of the North. At a time of upturn in major economic activity, it is important that our two governments continue to work closely together to ensure that this activity not only benefits the North and northerners but benefits them in a way that is most useful for economic, social and cultural life of the northern people.

Exploration Agreements

We have come a long way in the past few years in increasing both the Canadian and, more particularly, the northern content in the developments undertaken by the oil and gas industry. Today, I can announce that 16 more exploration agreements have been finalized, worth some \$152 million. While I will be releasing specific details about each agreement shortly, in total, seven companies will be drilling 15 wells over the next three to six years. These latest bring to 78 the total number of oil and gas exploration agreements which have been negotiated under the provisions of the Canada Oil and Gas Act. That is an investment of \$4.3 billion in hydrocarbon exploration in the North over a six year period roughly, commencing two years ago.

Think then, if you will, for a moment about the millions of dollars which will accrue to northern businesses in construction, transportation, supplies, food and lodgings. And remember that the Canada benefits plan associated with each agreement will result in hundreds of challenging jobs for northerners, jobs which will increase the level of technical expertise and capacity of northerners. But, to ensure that the economic benefits that flow from resource development are put to the most effective use, I believe we must encourage even greater input at the regional and community level to the economic planning of the Territories. A good example, and with your help it will be realized, of this sort of mechanism which can help accomplish this, is the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea co-ordinating office which our two governments have agreed to establish to provide a focal point for concerns about the impact of resource activities on the communities in this area. Mr. Fred Koe, who has worked both for your government and the federal government, has taken on that role. He is a highly respected individual and I am very thankful for it.

Northern Benefits Committee

In a similar vein, I believe that the northern benefits committee can make a real contribution to maximizing the benefits to northerners of resource exploration and development. I expect this committee, which will be involved in reviewing exploration agreements at an early stage, will work closely with the Beaufort co-ordinating office and other groups representing regional concerns relating to resource development. I hope, and I am glad to see that your government is actively considering this proposal to co-chair this benefits committee. I hope you will agree very soon, so that we can ensure that full involvement of all major players concerned with the social and economic development of the Northwest Territories takes place. For, after all, basic resource development supplies the major underpinning for the northern economy. But I also believe we must continue to work together to promote a stronger and more diversified economic infrastructure.

Economic Development Agreement

I was very pleased to announce, together with my territorial colleague, Mr. Arnold McCallum, that the economic development agreement is now officially open for business with the opening of EDA's office in Yellowknife. This agreement means, as we all know, that \$21 million is available over the next four years for promotion of inter-settlement trade, the forestry, fisheries and fur industries, tourism and human resources training. That gives some diversification but yet further stimulus to the northern economy. I look forward to working with the new Minister, Mr. Tagak Curley, in the implementation of this program.

Creation Of Territorial Parks System

Moving on to another front, I think it is important that we work together to create a territorial parks system. That is one of your objectives. To this end a task force has been established to provide me with recommendations for a comprehensive conservation policy. This task force is a representative group which includes the deputy minister of Renewable Resources of your government, Mr. Jim Bourque. I am hopeful that within three or four months I will have a final report from this group and that future park proposals may be initiated and can be considered within the framework of this comprehensive policy.

Land Use Planning

Another area of close co-operation and collaboration at last has been achieved, I think, in relation to the northern land use planning program. Since I last spoke to this Assembly, co-operation among your government, native organizations and my department has resulted in the drafting of an agreement on land use planning in the Northwest Territories. Through effective planning, I believe we can minimize land use conflicts, and allocate lands and resources in the most effective manner.

These then are many of the challenges that face your government over the next few months and indeed perhaps few years. They are very substantial indeed. They can, as they have in the past, be achieved through co-operation between your government and the federal government.

Responsible Government

As I reflect in conclusion, friends, on where we are now, in our relationship between the Northwest Territories government and the Canadian government -- where we are now compared to where we were when I first came before you many years ago as a federal Minister, it seems very significant progress has been made indeed. In fact, as far as the whole political responsible government is concerned, I do not know what more can be achieved in that direction, except complete and absolute de facto full political responsible government for the Northwest Territories. I believe that that would not present a problem for the federal government to agree to right now if your request were to be obtained now.

---Applause

As we all know, and I think you would agree, if I interpret it correctly, you are not asking for it now. You have asked for just about everything but that now. It is my understanding and I will deal with this in a moment, but if you want full political responsible government now in a de facto way, I think we would be agreeable to it. Just indicate to us how a government that has lost its

confidence can have resigned and a new government replace it and in fact that equates your own situation to the Yukon government. We are prepared to give them de facto full political responsible government now and why should we not do the same for you. It all hinges back, I take it in my interpretation that that is the final step which we are prepared to co-operate with you in achieving as soon as you wish it. I take it before you do, that you wish to resolve some of the fundamental questions which I just elaborated with respect to division. If that is obtained, as well as many of the conditions achieved as a prelude to that objective, well, then you will probably be able to cope with that fundamental question of how a government can lose the confidence and replace itself within a very short interval of time.

So if I am correct or even near correct in that perception, think just how far this government has moved. It has moved as far as it could, I hope with our full co-operation, moved as far as consensual government could move to full political responsible government. If there are one or two steps left to be achieved before that actual reality takes place, I hope to assure you in conformity with many of the things I have said during this discourse and said previously, I hope we can be positive in agreeing to them. So to you all again on facing the challenges that are upon you, all of you as Members of the 10th Assembly, you carry my very best wishes and thank you for this opportunity to address you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Would you like to have the chair for just a moment, please? I believe it is the wish of the House to resolve into committee of the whole. I would suggest to the chairman of the committee of the whole he might wish to break for coffee but we will go into committee of the whole, have the break and then we can hear further from the Minister. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. We will resolve into committee of the whole, with Mr. Wah-Shee in the chair.

ITEM 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER HON. JOHN MUNRO'S ADDRESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will come to order and we have the honourable Minister as a witness. Thank you very much for appearing before our committee, Mr. Minister. Is it the wish of the committee to break for coffee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The committee will now come to order. Before we begin I would like to indicate to the committee that the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs has made a kind offer to the Legislative Assembly. Does the committee wish to become a province at this time? Agreed?

---Laughter

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Is it agreed that we will have one question and one supplementary to the Minister and then return for the second round of questioning?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. I would like at this time to recognize our Government Leader, Hon. Richard Nerysoo to start off with the questioning. Correction, our premier.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, just let me express, on behalf of the GNWT and the Executive Council, our appreciation to the Minister for appearing before this Legislative Assembly. While there obviously will be questions which the Minister alluded to and more questions that were not dealt with in the comments that were made by the Minister, Mr. Chairman, like my colleagues of which you are one, I guess I am a bit encouraged by the comments that were made with regard to the Minister making the offer to hand over de facto to the GNWT full political responsibility. I am a bit, I guess, concerned or at least I sense that the Minister was suggesting or at least alluding to full responsibility that was based upon party politics or the southern style of government. I think that it is clear at the moment, upon recommendation by the Members of this Legislative Assembly we serve as Executive Council Members, that when we are required to resign and requested to by Members of the Assembly in the majority, that we must in fact resign. I am wondering whether or not in view of this particular convention that we have established and the uniqueness of our present Assembly, whether or not in fact we do have responsible government in the NWT.

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

Consensual Government In NWT

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have always felt that as we took all these steps together the last four years that really we are pretty well up against the last step now here in the Territories, as indeed it should be, and I happen to sincerely believe this. I think the degree of political astuteness here is as good as anywhere else in the country, if not better, and certainly as far as the Yukon or any place else is concerned. It is because there are certain problems you are confronted with that are unique to the Territories as opposed to, say, the Yukon or elsewhere, or you would have asked for it and obtained it by now as indeed the Yukon has. The only reason that you have not really asked for it is that there has not been, I take it, and I could be wrong, but I take it that there is not a desirability in the context of a sufficient number of the Legislative Assembly who have concerns about the tremendous vast land mass of the NWT that they wish that final step to be taken until other fundamental questions are decided. Because they are such searing questions, such momentous questions in terms of the future of the North and the future of the Territories, rather than create a climate that is divisive you have decided to in a very unique way, I think, you have embarked on an experiment, an experiment in a sense it has not been tried anywhere else in Canada, a consensual type of government that is working very well.

But I feel it is not so much, Mr. Nerysoo, a question of some southern style of government, but under our constitution and so on there has to be a provision for a government to be defeated and returned in terms of full political accountability, to meet that criterion. I think it is more or less a fundamental characteristic of any democratic form of government. Now, true, you have to go to the people every so many years and you do that and that is very democratic, but the fundamental situation is that at any given moment if the majority of the Members of the Assembly lose confidence in the Executive Council, then the Executive Council and you have to resign and if it is a majority it usually calls for lack of confidence and a new election in the Territories. A consensual type of government avoids that type of polarization, which perhaps in your own wisdom you have decided -- I do not argue with you it is the best way of dealing with the matter. Whether I or another cabinet Minister could ever somehow argue, that until you come up with some trigger that could force that election other than a party system -- there may be some other trigger -- but until you come up with that I do not think I or any other Minister, no matter what his political complexion, would get very far in making that final step to full responsible government. So it is your ingenuity and mine put together -- I am talking in the sense of a collectivity -- to see if we cannot come up with some trigger or can carry on with the type of government that you have until you are ready for the normal type of triggering arrangement that takes place in most democratic countries, unless you come up with something rather novel on your own as I say.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all on behalf of the caucus I would like to welcome the Minister again to Yellowknife and I would like to extend an invitation to have lunch with us at the conclusion of this session. For me it is a bit of a special pleasure because it is the first opportunity I have had to question the Minister in this forum. The Minister and I have locked horns in many other forums in the past and I am quite enjoying this forum at this time. However, as a follow-up to Mr. Nerysoo's question, I think that political responsibility, of responsible government is only one aspect of it. Before this government can really achieve responsible government we will need some sort of a strong economic base and I think formula

financing, if we can ever work out enough of the details to safeguard the North, could be one step toward more economic responsibility. But really, for this government to achieve any form of responsible government, I think we have to look at a different way to achieve our revenues. I think that resource revenue sharing is a logical step. I wonder what are the Minister's feelings about the federal government agreeing with the concept of resource revenue sharing with the GNWT?

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

Discretionary Fund For Impact Of Development

HON. JOHN MUNRO: It has been discussed rather thoroughly, I can assure you of that, in the cabinet. We came in a sense close to trying to satisfy those aspirations of the territorial government and we did the same for the Yukon when we said we would set up a discretionary fund. In other words, we would work out a discretionary fund with you that would be there every year. It would not be tied in any way to any other formula funding or any other financial arrangement that you would have in order to have adequate funds to carry out your responsibilities, so that in that sense you could legitimately say that you are politically accountable to your people. You set your own priorities in how you allocate that money.

It is based on the theory -- and you can see why we are getting very close without saying resource revenue sharing -- it is in recognition of the fact that developments take place up here. It is the communities here that have to go through, often, the agony of adjustment because of the impacts from that resource development and it casts burdens of one kind or another on you that can have financial implications, so there should be a discretionary fund tied to what is happening in the resource area. You can see where it is a step in the right direction. Just as a revenue sharing arrangement, whether it gives you a discretion as to your own prioritization without having some federal department of government prioritize for you, the formula funding thing -- you made a passing reference to it, Mr. Ballantyne -- and I can just tell you that I do believe we are so close now that I can go to cabinet within the next month or two and have it approved. There is a fundamental readiness of my colleagues to come to grips and get on with it.

I quoted to your Minister of Finance, Mr. Butters, just the other day a letter I got from Mr. Gray and talking to him he wishes full endorsement of formula funding as quickly as possible. So, we are very close in that too. We will give the type of real political accountability that you want in the sense that again it is, it locks in a block grant way, really, as you know, moneys calculated by a given formula. Then you would determine your own priorities, you would not need to come down like a government department itemizing each area. So in that sense, with those two elements you are very, very close to full financial and political accountability to your own people for what you do with the resources.

Future Form Of Government In NWT

I think that the resource revenue sharing thing in the purest form, in addition to discretionary financing, may at some stage be countenanced here in the Territories. I think it will have to be either through the development into provincehood, or through some unique form of institution that we will set up here in a relationship between the territorial government -- full political responsible government -- and the federal government, of a nature that has a lot of the attributes of a province but because of different circumstances is something just a little different. Because, and I think I have heard you make some reference to it in speeches, because of the native, non-native element in the Territories you will come up with some type of governmental institution that may be just a little different than a province but have the same things. It certainly would formulate the funding. Now, pretty well endorsed by the government in its details, subject to being worked out in the next month or two, I think we are very close on the discretionary funding too. I agree with you that there is more to it than just that. I totally agree with you that you need an economic base.

Let me say that the Yukon has said to me, and I think you know, said to me time and time again that we have de facto full political responsible government now. Why do you not recognize, amend the Yukon Act because of the thing we did with the Commissioner, there, that all of you in the Territories are aware of. We made the Commissioner simply ceremonial and so on. I said we were quite prepared to do that but there is a significant minority in the Yukon that had not really urged us not to do so. That is something in the federal government. The Council of Yukon Indians said until you resolve our land claims we do not want any more devolution of political duties and

obligations to the Yukon government and to our land claim, because we are holding you responsible to settle our claim, primarily. If you keep changing the rules and giving more authority to the territorial government, before you know it we will have to get our land claims settlement from there. Too many components to satisfy us. So they called halt. They called halt to the block transfers of land to the government. Here in the Territories I suspect you will find similiar things going through the history of our land claim negotiations, Mr. Ballantyne, you will find the interest as you get closer to agreement, you are heavy in negotiations with them, they do not want you to change the rules too much. They are primarily holding federal negotiator in the role of the federal government with their financial resources and their jurisdiction to come through with a settlement in the end. If we devolve too much we do not really see that we will have the wherewithal to make the kind of settlement they want. That has been an impediment and that is one of the fundamental reasons why I have always felt that, even with formula financing and everything else, you could have full political responsible government just like the Yukon. But in fact a significant number of your people are saying hold it for now until the land claims are settled. And then that last step -- go for it and you ask for it in a very formal way. In such a way that no government will have any defence to say, any valid reason to say no. Because they will equate it with the Yukon. How can we treat one territory different from another? I just do not see how we can.

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

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a supplementary to that, Mr. Minister, it is my feeling anyhow that the aspect of political responsibility and the aspect of resource revenue sharing could be dealt with separately. The specific question I would like to ask is, in the future, in return for territorial government support on potential large megaprojects, whether that be new mines or whether that means an extension of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline or whether we are talking about liquefied natural gas tankers, would the federal government consider the possibility of a quid pro quo with territorial government support of those projects, in return the federal government would endorse the concept of resource revenue sharing?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: I cannot comment on that because it is such a fundamental thing, there is not a readiness to come to grips with your aspirations for some type of formula on the resource revenue sharing now, although we are getting close. As I say, we are getting close, we discussed the whole principle when we discussed the discretionary funding as a compromise. Because that fund, in a way, is resource revenue sharing in the sense that it is a separate fund set up. The Government of Canada pays for it, it takes it out of its revenues from sources including developmental projects and sets it aside for your own priorities. So it is very close but I have already made that point.

To get to the fundamental concept, I guess the federal government's position is that we have got such a horrendous obligation there to still discharge. It is mustering political will now, for the settlement of the comprehensive land claims for one thing. Now as you know they are coming to fruition and a calculation has been made to the year 2000 of just what this is going to involve in terms of the fiscal framework of the federal government. I suppose they feel that since that is a prelude -- you yourselves have said it -- it is a prelude to, really, the economic, social and political development of the North, in terms of resolution of that, in order that all peoples can participate with confidence together in the development of the North, those claims must be settled. I suppose the government wants to know that it has some offsets against it, albeit I think you would have to agree, the resource revenues we are getting now are quite marginal as against the liabilities that we are obviously prepared to assume as a nation North of 60.

So, I think that as the development proceeds now that the North is opening up -- because of the job, primarily, that you people have done up here -- and because the land claims are now getting settled, you are going to settle some of your questions about division and so on, I take it there will not be the polarization around development any more, there is not any more, near to the extent you recall five years ago, Mr. Ballantyne, and I think that the economic base and revenues flowing to Canada, to yourselves, will be of such significance that the argument will gain ever increasing momentum in terms of its validity, its offsets against expenses. In the meantime we will go for full political responsibility of the type we are talking now vis-a-vis the Yukon and discretionary funds and so on, and bargain. In the meantime we will have all the political powers you want short of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I wonder if we could impose on you, Mr. Minister, to provide shorter answers if possible, because we do have a number of people who would like to ask you questions.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: We should ask Mr. Ballantyne not to ask such complex questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The same should apply to Members as well. Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Inclusion Of 10 Per Cent Preference Clause

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Minister, my question generally revolves around the recently initialled COPE final agreement. In general the question is, would the Minister explain the federal government's rationale for including the 10 per cent preference clause in that final agreement? If I can just explain briefly why I ask the question, the Minister will see the context in which I would like it answered. It seems that if the 10 per cent were intended as a direct benefit type of provision that it might have made more sense and less hassle to merely increase the financial compensation package and then recover it generally through the tax regime across Canada rather than at the expense of, you know, particular businesses in the area where this is going to be in effect.

So, since I find it hard to see that it was intended as a direct benefit I must conclude that it was intended as an affirmative action in order to enable Inuvialuit corporations to overcome disadvantages that they might have on entering the business scene -- to make contacts, establish connections, gain experience in the business world, train personnel. If it was intended as an affirmative action, then my question more specifically is, should that not be tied to some very specific criteria and what about the time frame? I understand that the matter is merely to be reviewed in the year 2000. All this is supposition because I am unable to get a copy of the agreement, but it seems to me if it is affirmative action and tied to definite criteria, that time frame was just pulled out of the hat. Since it is precedent setting, I do not think it was initially a part of, in all fairness, the land claims proposal. Is the cabinet going to have a serious look at that particular provision?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: I just want to indicate that the negotiator got a mandate from the federal government to do the best he could to arrive at a deal in this particular area and he did it. I think COPE indicated a degree of compromise, too, when they accepted it because, when you look at this particular element of the agreement you have to judge it against what was in the agreement in principle. There are economic benefit packages of this kind there, generally worded but I think, of such significance that this was a compromise in effect downward, on the part of COPE, to agree to the 10 per cent. That agreement in principle was confirmed and signed by the federal government back in 1977.

Since that time, despite the fact that our predecessor government had broken off negotiations and were, I guess, not really ready to recognize the agreement in principle, we were urged by everybody here to recognize that agreement in principle and this was a trade-off against those economic benefits in that agreement in principle which, I think, on anybody's rational assessment were very, very significant indeed and unique and peculiar and attached to the Inuvialuit in the land area covered by the agreement. So, if people are taking issue with the 10 per cent, in my view they really are taking fundamental issue with the agreement in principle in the first place, upon which the final agreement was based and I think that would come out as we study it. But you know what the position of the Assembly was with respect to the agreement in principle; it was to get on with it and endorse it. Certainly that was the majority view here in the Territories and one with which I agree. The 10 per cent only applies to federal contracts. It has not been resolved yet. I am taking it before my cabinet colleagues. We will be discussing it. Mr. Delury of COPE is going in with me to the Yukon this afternoon to meet with the business coalition there to discuss it and find out their concerns. I think there is some feeling that maybe it is not as serious as everyone thinks.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes. I am certainly not taking issue with the agreement generally. I am glad to see that it has essentially been signed. That is a good thing and I am not necessarily taking issue with the concept of affirmative action in that sense, but merely saying that it seems to me

that it is very important that if that type of thing is included as a provision that it be very clear why it is included and the terms under which it is included. Can we expect that this could be a precedent for other claims settlements?

HON. JOHN MUNRO: It applies only to federal contracts. Why COPE wanted it and why that was preferable to any block funding arrangements as a substitute from us was that it would ensure the training we have all talked about. It would ensure their involvement as artisans and participants and managerial talents and trade talents and everything else in the development that took place and, from that point of view, it is hard to argue with. I think there are precedents and all sorts of Treasury Board submissions now, procurement policies and affirmative action provisions of this kind, so in that sense I hope I am answering your question, but I do not think there is anything terribly novel about it in terms of its nature.

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

High Cost Of Living

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If someone could help him with his receiver. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for coming up to the Arctic. I think I realize his responsibilities and his role as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Years ago when I was much younger and any time I had a problem I would go over and ask my father what directions I may go, also for disciplining. In the Arctic it is the same with the Minister. Every time we have problems in the Northwest Territories, in the Arctic, we usually go to the Minister with our problems.

Regarding the high cost of living in the Northwest Territories, particularly in the High Arctic, I would like to identify two problems regarding the products that we buy in the Northwest Territories. For example, I am going to talk about meat products. T-bone steaks cost \$4.10 per pound here and the same amount of T-bone steak in my area of the country costs \$10. So you see there is a lot of difference between these two areas for the same meat products and the price is increasingly different. Also, regarding air fares in the Northwest Territories. For example, if I were to go from Halifax to Vancouver it would cost me \$600 return and if I were to go from Montreal to Resolute Bay return it would cost me \$1208. These two I am using as examples because the distance is almost the same. For those people with their own businesses in the private sector, it is too costly for them. The federal government, I think, should start realizing the extreme differences that I am talking about and also I am asking the Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to support my concerns and the problems that we face in the High Arctic. There are a lot of other examples that I could mention to you, but I am not going to mention them at this time. Thank you.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pudluk, I am aware of your concerns about the high cost. We tried to address those through one type of subsidy or another and it does not directly impact on food costs. It does indirectly, in energy subsidies for instance, and with regard to transportation, it has some marginal influence on reducing that, so we try to keep up those subsidy arrangements and we are studying further ones. There is a perhaps not too exciting proposal but as you are aware we are having a joint study with the territorial government on food costs. I think the most fundamental way we can treat it is building into our budget -- and I am endeavouring to do that with the Minister of Transport -- more improved airstrips in the High Arctic so bigger planes can get in there and that will perhaps have the most significant impact on reducing your costs. I would be more than prepared to have my officials meet with you and go into the thing in far more detail if you think it would be helpful in terms of some really stark, drastic situations that may have developed in your area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Members are reminded again that the Minister is pressed for time, so please state your questions as briefly as possible. Mr. Appaqaq.

Threat To Livelihood Of Hunters And Trappers

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions. My question concerns the problem of the hunters and trappers because they are given a bad name by those people who are against hunting and trapping. All these people that are trying to stop the hunting and trapping, I

think they have a lot of money and they seem to have a lot of power. They travel all over the world. These people who are against hunting and trapping seem to have a great deal of power and they are using that power to try to stop such things as leghold traps. They are using their power and money to travel all over the world to try to stop people from buying clothing made out of fur bearing animals. We are very concerned but we do not have very much power or money to stop those people from giving us such a bad name. The kind of statements that these people are making about how we kill animals and how we use them is having a very bad effect on our ability to make a living. We do not have the support or power to find a way to change the way we live. I understand this is of concern to other native people in Canada who also make a living off the land. Mr. Minister, we are very dependent upon the land and the animals. Even though we are harvesters of the animals it is in our interest that the wildlife populations stay healthy. It is not in our best interests to overharvest. I am going to ask you, as Minister responsible for native people, if anything big enough has been approved by your department, does anyone care enough to help in a meaningful way? Thank you.

---Applause

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: I am just checking what Moses Appaqaq has been saying, Mr. Chairman. We have a cabinet submission which has the support of our northern caucus who feel very strongly, just like you -- mostly made up of Inuit Members including Senator Watt and Peter Ittinuar, to say nothing about Senator Willie Adams who met as recently as two days ago in support of a cabinet submission that I am going forward with, along with, the Department of the Environment, to spell out in some considerable detail the type of campaign that the federal government can undertake together with External Affairs, to try to educate and get our point across to some of these nations that have been swayed by many of the people that you are talking about, Moses, people whose arguments, we believe, are totally irrational, but, as you know, have gained a lot of following. We have to undertake and show the political will necessary which we set out in this political document to set aside the financial resources, if necessary, to mount a counter-campaign and that we intend to do. We are fully in support, in other words, of what your concern is.

---Applause

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

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) On another question on a different subject, I want the Minister of Indian Affairs to know that even though we have different cultures and different lifestyles in the Assembly, we all understand each other along with the territorial government. I know now that four years ago the territorial government recognized our needs and they have been able to ask us questions on our needs and Members have been able to respond and have been able to respond to the needs of our people. I want you to ask the federal government to understand our concerns too. It is very important to us even though in the NWT we have different cultures and lifestyles, what we deal with is very exciting right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: I am pleased to hear that, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your comments.

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

Response To Motion Regarding NCPC

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, last week this Legislature passed a motion concerning NCPC. Essentially it said what the Ninth Assembly had said with respect to dividing the commission, creating a territorial corporation, relocating the corporation to the NWT, forgiveness of debt and the debt-to-equity solution and also the Public Utilities Board as the regulatory agency for the new crown corporation. We heard this morning that Mr. Nickerson in fact announced that you would be making a response to that motion that was made in the Legislature and in fact to the Penner report and to the NEB report before us. You did not mention in your opening remarks, anything with reference to NCPC. I wonder, when can we expect a response on this very important issue?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Very soon but I am not in a position to announce it right now today. But very soon.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Supplementary, Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Minister, I would hope that it would be very soon. It is of urgent nature for the people of the NWT. There is one other point and that is that the role of the chairman and the chairman's position on the NCPC, I believe, is an "at pleasure" position and I hope that if there is an opportunity to appoint a new chairman, you will consider someone from the NWT. I think it is time there was recognition that we have expertise here as well.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: I certainly agree that you have expertise here as well. Obviously, there is somebody occupying the position so I cannot comment on that at the moment. I have your representation and I will take it very seriously.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The next Member is Mr. Gargan. I hope it is not in regard to a community hall.

---Laughter

Airport Development Program

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Honourable Minister, I am one of the newer Members elected just recently in the new riding. But I also know that you hold the purse strings -- you know, my five dollars. You mentioned the importance of transportation and this is with regard to transportation. I have a few concerns relating to the development of airport facilities for the northern communities. I am aware that many communities in the NWT now have fully developed airports. The airport development particularly in the South Mackenzie area has progressed at a much slower pace than in other areas of the NWT. I feel that air transportation is of equal importance and a high priority with the residents of the NWT. I would like to see significant progress in respect to airport development at communities which now have substandard facilities or no facilities at all. There are 11 communities at which airport development under the arctic air facilities policy has not yet commenced. I understand that the arctic air facilities policy has expired. Can you tell me when a new policy will be approved and when airports such as the one in Fort Providence would be built?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: We have a submission that I have under discussion now with Mr. Axworthy, the Minister of Transport, with respect to an airstrip policy of the nature you are talking about in the Arctic. I must say we have not concluded the negotiations with the Department of Transport, where we are going to get the additional funds necessary to do the job we want, but it is on the table and we are trying to get some agreement from Transport on that. I will keep you advised on how it is going.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of my major concerns in respect to airport construction is the fact that much of the work on these projects seems to go to southern contractors who seldom employ the local labour force. Can you discuss this problem with the Minister of Transport and ensure that in future projects there are conditions specifying that use of local available labour is mandatory and if it cannot be done by the federal government, could those projects be turned over to the GNWT who are able to ensure utilization of local labour?

---Applause

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Yes, I undertake to do that. I am disappointed to hear that they are not involving, in your terms, sufficient native involvement. I will undertake most certainly to see that that is corrected and take it up with the appropriate authorities.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to join the Members of the Assembly here in welcoming you but I certainly hope that we would, in the future, have a little more advance notice of what the Minister is prepared to be saying because we just do not have that kind of access, to approach our colleagues in Ottawa to deal with the major issues that face us up here. We cannot do business at very short notice, particularly an hour or two. I think it would help us to have a real process where we can at least have real political negotiations or whatnot, but at this moment that does not exist. Only with you, I think; you have such a very important opportunity to appear before us.

Role Of GNWT In Negotiations With Industry

I share with you, Mr. Minister, in your statement that in the time of the upturn of major economic activity, the two governments should work closely together, in your words, to ensure that this activity not only benefits the North and the northerners but benefits them in a way that is most useful for the economic, social and cultural life of the northern people. So, in view of that, many of the Members are expressing the need for better protection for employment opportunities and to ensure that northern businesses do benefit. We certainly agree that that is the objective of this government and certainly as the Minister of Economic Development I must pursue that. We can only achieve those benefits, I believe, if this government has a direct access to negotiate terms and conditions of the possible benefits that would accrue to the North directly within industry. I do not think your statement could be substantiated at all or become a reality by our continuing to be a third party, as we are now presently through the Canada benefits process. We are just a third party in that exercise. COGLA has direct negotiations with the industry. My question to you is, Mr. Minister, would you be prepared to accept our recommendation that this government have a direct negotiating process with the industry through COGLA, Canadian Oil and Gas Lands Administration and not just be involved in an advisory capacity through the northern benefits committee?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Well, I think that the territorial government probably could go directly to COGLA and make representations there as to what they are doing. They are a government agency. As you know, that agency reports to myself for its activities North of 60 and to the Ministry of Energy South of 60. I thought that really a good start would be the co-chairing of this committee that I have suggested be set up, co-chaired by ourselves as the federal government and yourselves as the territorial government, the reason being to review all these benefits. The reason I hope that you will respond positively to co-chairing that with us and have some equal say. The levers that you may wish to exercise on COGLA, you can exercise, in a sense, through my department, through myself as Minister, through co-chairing on this committee. The legislation setting up COGLA made them responsible to the Minister of Northern Development, North of 60. They required my consent for exploration agreements, and so on, to take place North of 60, so you can see the degree of leverage that we have. You can have a direct impact on what COGLA does through participation on this committee. You can see at a very early stage the exploration agreements, you can see at an early stage the negotiations as to northern benefits and Canada benefits and do so in a co-chairing role. So I hope you will not minimize the degree of very real leverage. If COGLA are aware that we are co-chairing this benefits committee they are going to have to take the suggestions very seriously indeed or they may meet intransigence on the part of the Minister of Northern Development in terms of approving what they want to do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not at all disputing the fact that we should be co-chairing any federal committees established to deal with the government position and advising the first component that deals directly with resource companies. What I am trying to say is, sure we will take any position, co-chair any committees or whatnot, but what I am trying to say is, would you not agree that our representative would have more direct input into any negotiations as a member of the first party? That is, COGLA represents the government, all the agencies, when dealing with the exploration agreements and therefore would you not agree that we would have more input and possibly a better opportunity to make sure the benefits that you talked about in your statement would be best utilized by having our representative as a member of the COGLA, negotiating exploration agreements and so on, and therefore be involved not only at the advisory group through the northern benefits committee, but also taking very much involvement through COGLA representation when they deal with the resource companies? That is what I am trying to say.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Well, I will take that under advisement. I am clear what you want now. I think you are saying you would like to have a public official, an employee of the territorial government involved, you know, in a very close relationship with COGLA and be participating almost as part of the COGLA team, participating in negotiations with the oil companies. I am willing to explore how far we could go in that direction with you at a subsequent time. It has got its interesting elements. Let me just say a good start in that direction would be getting under way with this co-chairing role simply because that will be a message to COGLA right off the bat that you are directly involved in advice prior to our approving a lot of the things that they do.

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

Funding Requirements, Nunavut And Western Forums

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I would like to thank you for your support for the work of the Constitutional Alliance and your wise advice which we will heed, that the alliance should meet more often. I think that is just about to happen. I would just like to take a minute to explain a few problems that we have had. The forums, both of them, have been operating under severe time constraints. The funding, and we were very grateful for it, which was expected to be sufficient for the entire task came late, not until September 1983 and was authorized for expenditure only in that fiscal year. Then along came the Dene Nation election, the president being a member of the Western Constitutional Forum, and the NWT election, Christmas holidays, the need to replace Legislative Assembly Members on both forums. Notwithstanding, we have tried to work hard and fast. The NCF, as you know, produced a detailed proposal in a few months in three languages and we visited 35 communities. This was accomplished at a certain cost. Many communities complained they needed more notice and more time and wished further visits, probably from smaller contingents. We also, in the NCF, feel that we should, now that we are close to making real progress on meeting the federal government conditions, establish a presence and an office in Ottawa. The WCF has taken a more cautious approach. They have done extensive research but decided to wait until after the election for the community consultation, so as a result they still have funds remaining which they wish your permission to carry over into the coming fiscal year. They have also identified, as has the Nunavut forum, further funding requirements for the coming year to carry on this important, and as you have acknowledged, complex work. You have just been given letters today on those needs and I appreciate you have not had a chance to look at them, but in sum my question is: We have worked hard and have made progress, will you allow the WCF to carry over unused funds and would you use your good offices to support further work that now appears, mostly at the direction of the public, to be required on this complex question on the part of both the forums? Thank you.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: On the first one, the answer is I will endeavour to be as positive as possible, Mr. Chairman. As far as carryover is concerned, yes, I can go and argue that probably with Treasury Board but, subject to that, the answer is yes. I think they should be allowed to carry over. On your second one, I would like to sit down and talk to you about that too. I do not think anything should be done to hamper your activities in terms of involving the public in a question as serious as this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I am not sure, Mr. Patterson, whether you have already used up your time, but go ahead.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, very quickly, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased with that response. I think the material you have will demonstrate that we have a legitimate need to do further work and that if the people are telling us that one visit is not enough, we are sure we will have your support for this costly business of proper community consultation. Thank you.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: That is fine.

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

Use Of Local Labour And Businesses

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, what I would like to talk about is Hire North. I do not know if this rings a bell with the Minister but that is the organization that did work and training in the early 1970s, first on the Mackenzie highway and then more recently on the Liard highway until it was completed about a year ago. The federal government last year announced, I believe, \$300 million for the construction of northern roads and I believe the federal government is committed to finishing a 10 mile stretch of highway to Wrigley and then maybe carrying on down to Norman Wells. In our area, the Deh Cho region, people want to have Hire North resurrected again, but with some modifications, and the proposal for this has been sent to the federal government last fall. We have not had a response to it, so can the Minister say firstly, when work is to begin on the highway in the Fort Wrigley area and secondly, if the federal government is committed to using the Hire North approach with modifications of using local established businesses to do the work?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Would you give me a moment on that, please? Mr. Chairman, my advice is, this is not a money issue. We think we have got the money for it. We have a Treasury Board submission now factoring in the Hire North proposal which, Mr. Faulkner advises me, we are discussing with the territorial government now.

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

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, supplementary. My other question deals with Forward Resources. Mr. Minister, this is a southern company working in the Fort Simpson area and it is, I believe, operating with a PIP, Petroleum Incentive Program grant which just means the federal government is giving them 80 per cent of the money they are spending in their exploration activity. That company has really angered the people in the Simpson area because it simply is not giving work to local businesses and hiring very few local people. In fact, one of the companies -- I do not think the company will mind me saying, that Simpson Air in Simpson had made a verbal agreement with the company that it would provide all of the flying for Forward Resources and eventually when the company went out and expended money to buy or lease a plane, Forward Resources says now it is not interested or is not even prepared to use it. So instead of helping a local business it has really resulted in the company incurring debts and losing money. Another instance is Forward Resources wanting one of the local contractors to do work for it, but not guaranteeing anything. It wants the local company to provide equipment and have equipment out at its seismic operation without any guarantee at all that it is going to be providing work to it. The company has refused and so again it is another instance of local business not benefiting. I wonder if the Minister could see what he could do to deal with a company like Forward Resources, to make it generally smarten up and live up to its commitment to provide business opportunities and work to the people of the North.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, I have had a lot of complaints, as Mr. Sibbeston knows, from many different sources regarding this particular company. We have endeavoured to squeeze them to be more forthcoming in terms of local participation. I guess from what you are saying we have not been very successful, so we will have to look and see if we cannot insist that they improve their act in some way.

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

Release Of Confidential Document

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, my question of the Minister deals with the final initialled document between the Government of Canada and the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, not the cabinet document, but the final initialled agreement. Mr. Minister, I recognize the confidentiality that you have reached with the Executive Council who, via Mr. Patterson, then transmitted its support to you of things you were able to reconcile. We, that is the Legislature, have requested through Mr. Patterson as Minister of Aboriginal Rights and through the Government Leader, Mr. Nerysoo, if we can have this particular document. Given that the Executive Council has taken a position and because of the confidentiality, we are unable as a Legislature to debate that decision though the Executive Council is accountable to the House for its actions. Otherwise we

may get into a situation that Mr. Nerysoo posed to you in the beginning, how do things topple? So my question, and I have a supplementary to it, Mr. Chairman, my question to the Minister is, are you prepared to remove the confidentiality that you have reached agreement with the Executive Council so that we as a Legislature may then discuss it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Let me just tell you that there has been an undertaking between the two negotiators that we mutually agreed to a release date and until that mutual agreement is arrived at, neither side would release it. So it would be fundamentally a breach of faith on the part of the federal government if we unilaterally released it in view of that undertaking. Having said that let me just tell you that I respect the Executive Council for respecting the confidentiality of it as they said they would do. I think the time is coming where the public are insisting -- I think both sides realize that this situation cannot carry on indefinitely. But they wanted a reasonable opportunity to explain it to their own people before other people started to explain it for them and sometimes other people explain it without really understanding it, thus allowing distortions to creep in. So, I will take it up with both of them in the next couple of days and see when a soon approaching deadline can be adhered to with regard to the release of those documents.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, again a very quick question of the Minister, given that the original agreement in principle was signed by the Government of the Northwest Territories on October 31, 1978, is it expected that the government, either through the Commissioner or the Leader or the Minister of Aboriginal Rights, will sign that agreement? Because if again they are to be a co-signer of that agreement then it would be incumbent upon the rest of us in this House to have some kind of say in the position taken by the Executive Council, in total, as regards that agreement. If we are unable to discuss the agreement or discuss the document itself then it would place the Executive, I would suggest, in a very difficult position. Their position is different from the majority over on this side.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Number one, obviously I think COPE and ourselves would very much want the involvement of the Northwest Territorial government to sign it. You signed the agreement in principle. You have had a representative as part of the federal team in all the negotiations, you have been very helpful getting to the successful conclusion they seem to have arrived at. So it stands to reason that having had that co-participation or very adequate participation we would be prepared to sign. Obviously, the Assembly needs to know what they are authorizing their people to sign. I have answered, yes, we would like you to sign. Number two, yes, I agree you will have to look at the agreement before you make that decision.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I had a series of three questions but I do not believe that I will be able to have the opportunity because of limitation of time. I am not asking for an answer but I just suggest to Mr. Munro that the two questions that I probably will not have an opportunity to ask are related to the impact funding and the ongoing work at Tuk that the regional government has been doing in order to resolve that community's concern as well as the long outstanding issue of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation which we have been discussing for four or five years. Perhaps at another time you will be able to answer those or if I have time after everyone else has had an opportunity.

Forest Management And Fire Suppression Programs

As a broader question, the Northwest Territorial Executive Council will be considering a decision paper on forest management and fire suppression very soon. The efficiency and delivery of these renewable resource management programs in the North and responsiveness to northern interest are reasons we feel that both the fire suppression area and the forest management are very important to be looked at together. There has been some difficulty in the past whereby one area of the responsibility, the headache area, is willing to be transferred to the Northwest Territories but not the funding part or the suppression part. We would like to see that there be some

consideration to aim at the April 1, 1985 date for transfer of administration of the forest fire suppression and the forest management. That gives us a certain amount of time to consider the aspects of how that is going to be done. The forest policy paper and the way that we will be going about it, in terms of the mechanism and implementation both on administration and legislation, will be forwarded to you once we have been able to discuss that at the Executive level as well as discuss it with some other Members. We hope that that will be coming forward soon.

I feel that we would like to see if we can have a commitment from the Minister responsible, Mr. Munro, which is yourself, that you would not take a formal position on forest policy until you receive such a position from the Government of the NWT. As well, once you receive that, would you make a commitment to us that you would support a hasty transfer according to the guidelines that we have set? Certainly, Mr. Minister, people have, in the past, made an awful lot of delegations to you from every level. The resolution of the Dene and the NWT government has been reconciled at this time so we would like your commitment on those two points.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Well, Mr. Chairman, you have my commitment I will not make a decision until I get your paper. If you are saying, do I agree with the criteria in your paper before I have it -- I sense that is what you are saying -- I wish you would let me have an opportunity to see it. I will tell you this, that I agree that it has been hanging around long enough, this whole question of transfer. I would like to see us attain whatever we are going to do, do it with speed and get it done certainly by the deadline you suggest, I believe 1985. If you can let me have the paper right away I will undertake to respond to it very quickly and try to work toward that type of deadline you are saying. We may want to talk to you about the criteria. I am not quite sure until I see them.

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

Regulation And Control Of Northern Waters

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister in regard to the Northern Inland Waters Act and its implications. As the Minister is probably aware, recently the Dene Nation and Metis Association raised their concerns in regard to this particular issue. I believe it was intended to open the water use review process to greater public scrutiny to make it more accessible to northern residents. As you may know, there have been no public statements or announcements concerning passage of the order in council which deletes the need for licensing a broad range of water use in both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask you, what is your department's long-term intentions as a way to solve the current problem? Will they continue to use land use permits or will they further amend the Northern Inland Waters Act to provide a statutory basis for the controller and water authorization? Mr. Chairman, I have a supplementary to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Yes, it is being studied now, Mr. Chairman. We intend to amend the Northern Inland Waters Act to get over the deficiency highlighted by the courts. In the meantime, because of the uses that I think we all agree must be recorded, we will have to grab those users and use the land use policy as a means of making them adhere to certain conditions. That is just an interim treatment until we amend the act.

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, do you support greater public and northern access to water planning and regulations and how do you intend to accomplish this, if you do support it? As well, will you consider a Dene/Metis request for representation on the NWT Water Board? Will you consider a special review or hearing into this question of access?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: I would certainly be prepared to talk to the Dene and Metis about representation on the Water Board. I was under the impression we had in the past. I will have to check it. We have nominated and recommended Dene and Metis people on the Water Board. I will have to

double-check that. The answer to that is yes. Number two, how we intend to get involved in the exercise is something I would very much like to discuss with the territorial government. I believe some discussions have been going on already.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Wray.

Devolution Of Responsibilities For Highways

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question centres around the highway system which, as you know, is very important, particularly to the western part of the Northwest Territories and to the development of the West. In light of your remarks this morning in terms of more responsible government for the Territories, highways are a normal provincial-type responsibility. The federal government, in the past, has given a commitment to devolve to the Government of the Northwest Territories the responsibilities that would ordinarily be provincial-type responsibilities. A previous commitment was made by your department in 1981 to devolve all, and that is the key word, "all" road programs in an orderly scheduled process. Highway maintenance was transferred to the GNWT in 1981 but the process of further evolution has been delayed because of the new northern roads policy. Within the new policy reconstruction of the intra-territorial highways is to be transferred to the GNWT effective April 1st of this year. A Treasury Board submission for this purpose is currently being finalized by your staff in Ottawa. Also within the policy, though, your department retains the responsibility for inter-territorial highways construction and all new construction. Would you, Mr. Minister, confirm your support of the transfer of the intra-territorial highway reconstruction program effective April 1st with the resources which have jointly been identified by our respective staffs? Would you also advise me if such support would extend to the transfer of the remainder of the highways programs and when such transfer might realistically take place?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: To your first question, yes, I think you mentioned, Gordon, we are already locked into that type of arrangement with you. On the second one I will check on the "intra" aspect of it. I do not know whether I would get much support for that because I think that probably would be within federal jurisdiction or a responsibility we would have to assume as between two different governments and two different territories including the provinces to the South. Clearly that is within federal jurisdiction. I do not know how you could delegate that to different governments who may or may not ever get together to agree on the interconnections of highways, in which case there could be paralysis and the federal government having delegated the responsibility could not serve the national interest in any way. I would like to look into your second question and the legal implications of that.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I do not have a question. I have a comment. I would like with my colleagues to thank the Minister for taking the time to appear before this Assembly, as he has done through the life of the previous Assembly. I think that we should recognize too and also congratulate the Minister, Mr. Chairman, on the fact that he has almost completed, I think, four years as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and I believe March the 19th is the time when he will have completed the four years. For those of us who remember our relationships with Ministers prior to the time of his appointment -- I think either we went through five Ministers or five Ministers went through us in the period of as many years -- it has been good to have been able to relate to a Minister who has retained the portfolio and has worked so very well for this government. On that point I would like to thank the Minister, Mr. Chairman, for the excellent advocacy that he has provided this government in seeking supplementary funding and extra funding for the special needs of northern peoples. Sometimes federal bureaucracies centred in Ottawa and Canadians who live in a semitropical climate do not realize that costs of living and surviving in the North are very, very high.

Consultation On Formula Funding Document

Just to close my comments on the Minister's statement with regard to the formula that he mentioned, there has been an endorsement of the formula by both the federal and the territorial governments as I am sure he recognizes when he indicated that such endorsement is conditional on both governments agreeing to the formula that is developed. The position of this government, I think,

is still current and that is contained in the letter of November 15th by the then Government Leader, the Hon. George Braden, who indicated some of our conditional concerns and also outlined a number of technical items that will require joint consultation. So we look forward to such consultations taking place in the near future with the Minister and his officials and I pledge my availability and the availability of my staff to get at that very important objective.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your kind remarks, Mr. Butters. I appreciate them most sincerely. As for getting together on the formula funding document, yes, we need your involvement as you know very much and the sooner we can get at it the sooner I can get into cabinet which, as you know, is not too far off. Thank you again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Lawrence.

Contract Awarded To Southern Based Company

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I will just make it very brief what I have to say and then I will come to my question. In the spring of 1983 a four month catering contract for Frank Channel was awarded in Yellowknife to Beutel International Catering Services, a southern based company. They brought all their manpower and supplies from the South. The Rae-Edzo Dene band was one of the several northern groups that were unsuccessful in their bid for the contract. The Rae-Edzo band would have been able to provide catering services using local people trained at Thebacha College in Fort Smith and their bid was only a few thousand dollars more than Beutel's bid. It seems that northern residents do not have a chance when they are forced to compete with big international organizations. My question is, what is your department's policy on the contracting of services in the North and have there been any recent changes made in this policy to help qualified northerners to compete for northern business opportunities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you very much, Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, would you tell me the name of that company, please, again? I did not get it at first.

MRS. LAWRENCE: It is called Beutel International Catering Services.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, the position of my department is one that I hope is reflective of what northerners want. It is to bargain very tough where we have any leverage. If it is a federal contract, federal procurement policies for supplies ensure that there is maximum native involvement, native and northern involvement generally, native and non-native businessmen, both big and small. We urge the bigger companies to break down their tenders into smaller lots so northerners can have access to them and we try to get generalized undertakings from them that a reasonable proportion of their business will go to northerners to the degree that when they make the announcement, they indicate in ball park terms what southern Canada will get versus northern Canada in terms of the allotment. Just in the oil and gas area alone the negotiations on the Canada benefits can be quite severe. That does not mean they cannot be improved but they can. That is the policy to get training commitments, to get commitments to the maximum extent possible from these companies and to tell them that it is in their own self-interest to do so if they wish to continue to do business in the North. Otherwise their resistance will be such that they will start complaining very much about a very restrictive bureaucracy in terms of the necessary permissions to carry on business. I will look into this particular instance that you are talking about. Maybe my officials know of it, but I will certainly look into it. This does not sound like a federal contract, but it is still something that if the main company that sublet the contract is one that is getting permits and permissions from the federal government for activities it is undertaking, all of which are factual situations I should know and do not, then we would have some indirect outreach on this particular company and it is something that I will have to look into.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. I have been advised it most certainly is a federal contract in the fire-fighting area and that there was a complaint. I am advised we think we have

worked it out to the satisfaction of all concerned. If this particular contract has been treated in such a way that we have found a solution now, you perhaps would be in a better position to say whether that is the case or not.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Have they found a solution for next year's contract?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: The answer is yes.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you.

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

Treasury Board Submission For New Hospital

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister a question regarding the new hospital for the greater Yellowknife region.

---Laughter

I took a lot of care with that definition and I hope it meets with the acceptance of my colleagues across the room. I understand a submission by the territorial government, supported by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, was made by the Minister of Health and Welfare to the Treasury Board supporting a new hospital facility. The project has been delayed for a number of years until many of the details have been worked out with those two departments. I guess our problem is the present hospital does not have the capacity to properly serve the needs of northern residents and the building itself is reaching a critical stage in its physical deterioration. I think the Minister is aware that this government has already expended over two million dollars on this project and has budgeted another million dollars and I know this government would not want to be perceived as having wasted three million dollars. The GNWT has been very supportive of federal government initiatives in the total area of health care. I think it is one of the few jurisdictions that have been. Will the Minister continue to lend his support to this vital project and bring the project to a successful conclusion?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Would you give me a moment on that, Mr. Chairman, please? Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Parker tells me, Mr. Ballantyne, the submission you are talking about for \$34 million over three years, as you quite rightly say, is in a Treasury Board submission. It is probably going to come out of Health and Welfare within the next month to go to Treasury Board. Will I support it? Yes, I will. I will flag it and support it to my colleagues in Treasury Board.

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

Establishment Of National Parks

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I noticed your comments regarding national parks in your address to us. There is quite a bit of concern in my constituency, particularly in the Bathurst Inlet area and I think in the NWT generally over what some people perceive as a push by the Department of the Environment and the senior officials in that department to speed up the establishment of a number of national parks or wildlife areas. I would ask the Minister's assurance that there will be some consultation with this Legislature and with groups who are interested in maintaining their existing hunting grounds and hunting rights before any new national parks are established in the NWT. I guess basically I am asking, sir, for your assurance that there will be no unilateral decisions in this respect.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: I am aware of the concern. DOE has agreed not to go ahead with any further initiatives on parks until such time as the task force report that I referred to, which we hope will be ready in three or four months, is done and we can all look at it.

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

MR. MACQUARRIE: Just a very brief one again. The Minister stated that the idea of a preference on bids with respect to COPE was not unique or unusual and indicated in subsequent remarks that his department certainly encourages other companies when dealing in the North to give preference to business and employment in the North. I wonder whether the Minister would consider a northern preference policy for the spending in his own department. For example, in the fire service I know that northern helicopter firms, for example, find it difficult to get the business through the northern fire service. So, would the Minister consider such an approach in his own department?

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Well, I would like to leave my answer the way it was before. We just have to ensure that there is involvement of northerners in these contracts. The various departments, Treasury Board and everyone else adhere to what you are talking about, Bob. Whether you want to be more explicit or not I do not know. I do not know if it is in your interests or mine to get down to the nitty gritty and talk about, you know, fixed policies over a long term and so on in view of some of the legalities involved. Certainly that is our objective and I am prepared to discuss, as I indicated, and hope to get the involvement of the territorial government in co-chairing so we will evolve jointly a more specific policy if you like, provided we are sure that we can enforce it. That would come through the joint experience on this committee. In the meantime, before they get any permits from us or any leverages from us, we try to extract the maximum commitments necessary within the constraints of the present law.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to elaborate on my first question that I asked previously. I just want to clarify the matter to the Minister. In the High Arctic, in eastern communities there are no highways. People can only get to their destination and bring food by air and some of the communities have good airstrips but some of them do not. The prices of everything are still going up. I just want to let the Minister know that.

Fisheries And Oceans

The other thing is that the Northwest Territories government does not have any responsibility for fisheries and oceans and there are a lot of problems coming up in the communities regarding the fisheries and oceans responsibilities. I wonder if the federal government can start giving power to the Northwest Territories regarding fisheries and oceans. I think it would be a lot better for the communities concerned if the federal government could start transferring some of the responsibilities that they have to the territorial government. Here in the Northwest Territories there are a lot of sea mammals that are hunted by the hunters. So, for that reason, the responsibility that the federal government has on fisheries and oceans should be transferred slowly to the territorial government. I wonder what your thoughts are on this. Thank you.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Well, Mr. Chairman, I can only say that there are a good number of enumerated federal jurisdictions set out in section 91. Fisheries is certainly one. The Department of Fisheries is the department with which, on the behalf of northerners, together with the territorial government often, we are negotiating all the time to get a greater degree of delegation and they are prepared to delegate in some areas. In others they are not. I would like to offer, through you, Mr. Chairman, to sit down and talk about this and have my officials talk with Mr. Pudluk and go into this in some particular detail to find out in just what areas he would wish greater flexibility and involvement in terms of hunting and fishing.

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

HON. JOHN MUNRO: I was just going to add that since we have talked about the Eastern Arctic, through the TFN claim, as I mentioned, I think we have finally negotiated an arrangement with the Fisheries department that meets with the approval of the TFN with respect to the wildlife agreement wherein the Inuit of the Eastern Arctic do have a considerable amount of say with respect to how the Minister of Fisheries exercises his authority.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I believe this concludes the committee discussion with the Minister. On behalf of the committee Members, Mr. Minister, we would like to thank you very much for taking the time to answer our questions. Thank you very much.

HON. JOHN MUNRO: Thank you very much.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): What is the wish of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Okay, I do not have a choice.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM 16: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF HON. JOHN MUNRO'S ADDRESS

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has concluded discussions with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. John Munro.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Could we have order in the gallery, please. Members have heard the report of the chairman of committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any announcements? Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, just to say that quite a number of MLAs are travelling to probably the best part of the North tomorrow, to Fort Simpson, to see the way that the pipeline is being constructed. So I would welcome them and look forward to a really good time.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. If there are no further announcements, Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): There will be a caucus meeting immediately after recess this morning. There will also be a regular caucus meeting on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, February 20 at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Oral Questions
5. Written Questions
6. Returns

7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions: Motion 20-84(1); Motion 21-84(1)
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 1-84(1); Tabled Document 4-84(1); Bills 2-84(1), 3-84(1), 4-84(1)
16. Report of Committee of the Whole
17. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 20th.

---ADJOURNMENT

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Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.
\$1.00 per day; \$30.00 for 1st session, \$20.00 for 2nd and 3rd session; or \$50.00 per year
Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories