



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1982

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Evaluarjuk,
Mr. Fraser, Mr. MacQuarrie, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. McLaughlin,
Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Noah, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pudluk,
Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Hon. Don Stewart, Hon. Kane Tologanak,
Hon. James Wah-Shee

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for February 3rd.

Item 2, replies to Commissioner's Address.

Item 3, oral questions.

Item 4, questions and returns.

Item 5, petitions.

Item 6, tabling of documents.

Item 7, reports of standing and special committees.

ITEM NO. 7: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mrs. Sorensen.

13th Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report of the standing committee on finance on the 1982-1983 main estimates is ready. However, Mr. Speaker, the committee would like the permission of this House to move the report into committee of the whole to be read and discussed following Mr. Butters' budget speech later on this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Possibly the chairman of the committee of the whole can note that request when you are in committee of the whole. Reports of standing and special committees.

Item 8, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 8: NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. McLaughlin.

Notice Of Motion 1-82(1): Extension Of Time Limit For Replies To
Commissioner's Address

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that at the appropriate time later today I will be asking for unanimous consent to move the following: That the period provided in the rules of this Assembly for the presentation of replies to the Commissioner's Address be extended so that replies may be presented for the duration of this session.

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

Item 9, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 10, motions.

ITEM NO. 10: MOTIONS

Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I would like unanimous consent to proceed with my motion to extend the days when Members can make replies to the Commissioner's Address.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought. Are there any nays?

MR. FRASER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Nay has been...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call it once more. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Go ahead, Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion 1-82(1): Extension Of Time Limit For Replies To Commissioner's Address,
Carried

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Fraser.

WHEREAS a number of MLAs were unable to arrive in Yellowknife at the start of this session as a result of illness or other important commitments;

AND WHEREAS these MLAs should have equal opportunities to reply to the Commissioner's Address as all other MLAs;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Great Bear, that the period provided in the rules of this Assembly for the presentation of replies to the Commissioner's Address be extended so that replies may be presented for the duration of this session.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. Proceed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 11, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 12, second reading of bills.

Item 13, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislature and other matters.

ITEM NO. 13: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

Bill 1-82(1), Appropriation Ordinance 1982-83, commencing with the Department of Renewable Resources, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Bill 1-82(1), Appropriation Ordinance 1982-83; 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, with Mr. Fraser in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-82(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1982-83; 13TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Item 13, consideration of Bill 1-82(1). Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Assembly...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): You can sit down, Mr. Butters, if you wish or you could stand up.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I thank you very much for your courtesy, but I would prefer to remain standing. It is easier to dodge brickbats when you have got a little flexibility of movement. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present to this House my second budget as Minister of Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Butters, just before you start, if you are going to exceed the 10 minutes, I wonder if we could get unanimous consent before you start...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): ...so you will not be interrupted. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Butters.

1982 Budget Speech

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present to this House my second budget as Minister of Finance. I believe you will find this document to be a responsible financial plan for 1982-83 and one which reflects our government's response to public demands made through this Assembly for programs and services, and which embodies the fiscal reality that there are limited funds available to our government.

As is the case with governments across this country, our future economic health is very much reliant on economic conditions in Canada.

Economic Forecast, Canada

It is now certain that the Canadian economy is in a recession phase and that any recovery will proceed slowly. Current forecasts suggest that there will not be an upturn until the spring of 1983. Canada is continuing to experience high interest rates, inflation, increased business failures and high unemployment. At the same time there are also positive economic indicators, such as low industrial inventories, low value of the Canadian dollar in relation to the American dollar and increased capital investment, particularly in the resource industries. In the face of these uncertainties we believe that government and resource spending will have a significant impact on our economy over the next few years and it follows that the 1982-83 Canadian outlook will be very regional in nature.

Economic Forecast, NWT

Over the past year the Northwest Territories has experienced modest economic growth. Overall employment and average employee earnings have increased. There has been an increase in the number of companies incorporating in the Northwest Territories and there are indications of improvements in retail activity.

The impact of government policies and expenditures on the northern economy is significant. At this time the Executive Committee is increasingly concerned with the expenditure difficulties being faced by resource companies operating in the North and by NWT residents. Energy prices continue to escalate disproportionately and mineral prices have declined to the extent where the number of operations appear to have become marginal. Federal recognition of northern dependence on fuel-generated power and of costs associated with northern living and business activity will be critical to continued economic stability in the North.

I think every one of us recognizes how important that statement is when we receive our power bill at the end of each month. I was shocked to learn that with the NCPC projection for energy increases in my home constituency -- I will be paying some 20 cents per kilowatt hour.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is the major employer and one of the major purchasers of goods and services in the North. This government's emphasis on northern purchasing and northern business preference has contributed to increased economic activity. While there is still evidence of growth in the northern economy, there is also continued concern that this growth is not providing sufficient direct benefit to NWT residents. Although some communities have benefited through increased employment and spending power, it is also evident that many of the resource based expenditures provide earnings to non-residents who do not pay NWT income tax and spend their earnings in southern Canada. It is also obvious that many NWT communities are deriving minimal or no benefit from northern resource development. The Executive Committee has been and continues to be actively working to change this situation.

Funding For Capital Infrastructure In Resource Development Communities

As the budget presented to this House primarily addresses the ongoing provision of established government services and programs, it does not include funding for infrastructure related to major resource developments nor for new major initiatives. The Executive Committee and the administration have been addressing the issue of the impact of resource development and there are currently three in-house activities related to resource development in the Norman Wells and Tuktoyaktuk communities. These items are:

- 1) At Norman Wells, the Government of the Northwest Territories participation in a special impact funding program, which was announced by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development -- some \$21 million, announced last summer when he visited this community.
- 2) The Beaufort Sea development and the Arctic Pilot Project. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has co-ordinated a project to identify the funding requirements for research, studies and preplanning.
- 3) The capital infrastructure needs for the communities of Norman Wells and Tuktoyaktuk.

Over the past year the Executive Committee and especially the Commissioner and myself have worked energetically with the federal government to attempt to identify and determine appropriate funding mechanism. The administration is currently finalizing the submission on the funding requirements for capital infrastructure in these two resource development communities.

In examining departmental spending proposals, the Executive Committee placed a high priority on fostering stability in the northern economy and attempted, wherever possible, particularly through the capital and economic development programs, to redirect expenditures to communities with the greatest needs.

New General Development Agreement Sought

As Minister of Economic Development, as well as of Finance, I have expended considerable effort in working toward the introduction of a new general development agreement. I believe that this vehicle is essential if this government is to ensure that residents participate in the benefits of northern resource and community developments. Unfortunately, I must advise you that a general development agreement has not yet been signed for 1982-83, and I am not sure of the degree of priority at which the federal government currently holds these agreements.

I would wish to indicate that my staff have been very active in the planning of the new general development agreement -- some \$21 million. They have developed -- and sophisticated -- the five elements which we had in the previous plan, and worked with the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion to include a sixth element of equity participation in production activity. I think that the delays which they experienced, and I experienced, in the fall of last year were explained somewhat when, a few weeks ago, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion was, as some say, "hung out to DRIE", and the whole organization restructured.

I am optimistic that, with new approaches being made to Senator Olson, who now has the responsibility for the policy area of this new department, and to the Hon. Herb Gray, that we can pick up some of the lost ground. But it is very worrying to me, because the general development agreement that concluded on September the 30th has been a very successful program and has allowed communities and individuals throughout and across the North to become involved in developmental activities, both in the renewable and the non-renewable areas.

Federal-Territorial Financing Arrangements

Considerable effort continues to be expended in federal-territorial funding arrangements. While it appears that some federal officials desire to have more influence over our expenditures because, obviously, we are 80 per cent financed with federal grants. I am very grateful to the personal interest and involvement of the Hon. John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, who has been very helpful to myself in the financial role, to the senior officials of this government, and to senior people in the Department of Finance.

I regret that I was not able to attend the last two days of the previous session, but on those days I was in Ottawa, waiting to appear with the Minister at the Treasury Board level. I sat with him before he went to defend and put forward our estimates, and I have some indication of the difficult role he had to play at that time, before the hearing board ministers inquiring as to why the Territories should be seeking the percentage that we were after. I was delighted that Mr. Munro's appearance before the Treasury Board was totally successful, and the proposal and financial position that we had put forward -- which had been developed and put forward by this government -- was accepted and adopted by the Treasury Board, and forms the basis of the budget before you today.

Federal Budget

The Government of the Northwest Territories is entering the 1982-83 year within a federal atmosphere of deficits and restraints, but the federal Minister of Finance, the Hon. Allan J. MacEachen, revealed on November 12th, 1981, that the federal government is planning for overall expenditure growth in 1982-83, of only 11.7 per cent.

Growth in the Social Affairs envelope, which includes the Government of the Northwest Territories, is proposed at a growth rate of only 8.9 per cent. By contrast, the Government of the Northwest Territories budget is growing at over twice that amount, or approximately 19 per cent, and in so saying I do not think anybody should take away the idea that there is a lot of fat in the figures that have been placed before you. You will find, on examination, that the increases are, in many cases, directly related to the forced growth requirements of this government, and the non-discretionary moneys that we need to carry out the programs currently in place.

Budget Overview

I am convinced that you will agree with me, on study of the 1982-83 operations and maintenance budget of some \$352 million, and of our capital budget of some \$73 million, that these budgets respectively are not expansionary, and that they provide an adequate level of funding for most government programs. The total operating expenditure budget calls for an overall increase of approximately 19 per cent over 1981-82 levels. It represents a level of funding which should ensure delivery of present programs, at current levels, with some allowance for the priority areas.

In 1982-83, the financial management board of this government intends to examine current programs and levels of expenditure in order to facilitate the recognition of priority funding areas through the development of performance indicators as the next step in the completion of the accountability based budgeting system. The financial management board will have a solid base for program evaluation and, hopefully, reallocation of funding into priority areas.

Main Estimates, 1982-83

The proposed operating expenditures of the 1982-83 main estimates exceed budgetary revenues by approximately \$1.4 million. The Executive Committee will be proposing amendments later on in this session to the fuel and tobacco tax ordinances to provide increased revenues to offset this deficit.

The revenues in the main estimates are shown at the approximate level which was projected in September, 1981. More current information, obtained in the past few months, indicates that this level of revenues will be exceeded by approximately three million dollars. It is also expected, however, that actual expenditures will exceed estimates as they did during 1980-81. Supplementary estimates for 1981-82 are expected to be at least \$15 million. Expenditures in priority areas are expected to significantly influence supplementary estimate requirements in 1982-83.

Capital expenditures for 1982-83 exceed the capital grant by approximately \$10 million. This government will be drawing down on its capital reserves to meet the funding deficit. In 1982-83, for the first time, the government's payroll is budgeted to exceed \$100 million, approximately one third of total government operating expenditures. Of the total budget, approximately \$53 million, or 15 per cent of the budget, is for expenditures on government utilities and leases. Another \$49 million, or 15 per cent, is being spent on payments for health and social services. In total, over \$280 million, or approximately 80 per cent of the budget, is spent in non-discretionary areas.

Operating costs for basic government programs of Health, Social Services, Local Government and Education are proposed to increase by 22 per cent. This growth rate does not include new initiatives or enhancements in government programs, but rather is a reflection of the cost of government delivery in the North. To achieve an average budget growth of 19 per cent, the government has been required to hold the line on administration related expenditures.

Government Priorities

Much effort has been made to reflect Legislative Assembly priorities in this budget, and it is expected that this direction will become more apparent in future years. The Executive Committee has now approved spending priorities which reflect Legislative Assembly recommendations, and which will be used in future budget development. Government programs will be classified into priority levels to facilitate funding reallocations. This is a major achievement in the budget process, and one which will have significant influence on funding allocations in 1983-84 and subsequent years.

I would just like to stress that, in effect, we are adopting an envelope system, that is somewhat similar to the federal government, to determine where our priority money should be spent. In the new levels we will have a level one which will be the high priority expenditure programs which have been identified to us by Members of this Assembly; level two will be a hold-the-line program delivery area; and level three will be sunset programs or reduced programs, where the expenditures money could be less than in previous years. So that, in effect, we feel that we are developing a responsible attitude and direction toward the fiscal challenges that face us in the next decade.

Taxation Of Northern Allowances

As a final note, I would like you to know that I place an extremely high priority on the satisfactory resolution of the question of taxation of northern allowances. Removal of the federal remission order will introduce new fiscal inequities into the Canadian taxation system between remote and central areas. I cannot overemphasize the impact that this decision will have on employment, resource and community development, business, industry, and government expenditures and general well-being in the North. I think Members will recollect and remember that the Executive Committee introduced, a year ago, a recommendation and a proposal to the Department of Finance for dealing with this whole problem of northern benefits. Regrettably, we have not received from the central government much more than an acknowledgement of our recommendation's existence, but we are hopeful that in the weeks ahead that recommendation will receive serious consideration at the federal level and in both Departments of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and of Finance.

Obviously a resolution must be found which will recognize differences in the cost of living for the North, which will complement and ensure compliance with the federal taxation system and which will be equitable in its treatment to all northerners. I can assure you that your government is actively seeking to work with the Yukon territorial government, with northern industry and northern labour and with the federal government to develop a new and acceptable policy option. I thank you, sir, for this opportunity to present this material.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Are there any replies to the Minister's opening remarks? Thank you. Mrs. Sorensen. Mrs. Sorensen, would you like permission to go beyond your 10 minute limit? Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed. Carry on.

13th Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, your standing committee on finance met in Yellowknife during the week of January 25th to the 30th to review the 1982-83 budget development documents in detail. Witnesses for each department of the Government of the Northwest Territories were called and your elected Ministers were all in attendance as their departmental responsibilities were discussed.

The detail received by the committee for this years review was again by accountability and task. The committee would like to re-emphasize to the administration its support for this manner of budgeting and further recommends that the highest priority be given by the Minister of Finance to full implementation of the accountabilities based budgeting system.

The review of the main estimates was particularly late this year. The material was received from the administration on January 18th, which was one week before our review. Members received the documents only upon arriving in Yellowknife. The Minister of Finance has explained to us the difficulties experienced in the budget process and he has assured us once again that measures are currently under way to advance meeting dates and improve the intergovernmental committee negotiating methods. We are hopeful, although not necessarily optimistic, that next year may be different.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the less time your committee has the financial documents the less comprehensive the review. We, of course, are concerned about that and this year we sought a means to work around that difficulty.

Last year we approached and received permission from the Legislative Assembly to engage the services of an independent financial adviser. Mr. Bill Mearns, representing the Yellowknife firm of Adams, Mann, Hinchey and Company, was engaged to assist us with our 1982-83 main estimates review. The adviser analysed the material for your committee and he assisted us with the technical questioning and helped decipher the financial terms. The committee feels the assistance was very valuable and would like to continue using the services of a financial adviser from time to time as the need is identified.

To some the decision of the finance committee to seek independent financial advice might appear to show a lack of trust in the administration. We wish to make it quite clear that trust or the lack of it is not the issue here. What is the primary issue is the evolving role of your standing committee and its need to reassure the Legislature and the taxpayer, and most of all the federal government, our major source of funding, that this Legislature and its standing committee take its responsibility very seriously. To us it is the very essence of the move toward responsible government.

Priorities Being Reflected In The Budget

Mr. Chairman, with respect to priorities and whether or not they are reflected in the budget, each year your committee sees more and more of this Legislature's wishes reflected in the main estimates. This year we have seen a genuine effort on the part of our Executive Committee to translate the Legislature's many formal and committee motions into action through the allotment of and/or

reassignment of man years and finances. While it is true that your committee intends, as individual MLAs no doubt intend, to question Ministers regarding previous recommendations not as yet addressed in the budget, we do wish to reaffirm our support for the Minister of Finance, the Ministers of our government and their administration. Obviously, however, not everything is perfect and later on in this report our specific concern regarding the Inuvik region will be discussed.

We are certainly aware of the difficult negotiations which took place between Mr. Butters and the federal officials late last fall and Mr. Butters kept your chairman up-to-date as the events arose. We are aware too of the hard work and dedication of the administration in translating those last minute changes into the budget documents. We certainly support and encourage the efforts of the Minister of Finance and the Executive Committee in attempting to convince the federal government to move toward a more suitable means of negotiating our fiscal needs.

Members will remember that the priorities as set by the Legislative Assembly and as they have evolved over the last two full years since our election are: education, particularly training; language; economic development, particularly training and our ability as a government to respond to impact of resource development; constitutional development; and energy. Members will also remember that these priorities referred to activities in all departments of government rather than the individual department and all of its activities.

In other words, to use an example, if this Legislature is serious in saying that economic development, particularly our ability to respond to resource development, is a priority, then it stands to reason that if mine safety or labour standards needs an increase in order to respond to certain economic development initiatives, and those increases can be substantiated, then they must become a part of the priorities and should be funded even though both activities are in the Department of Justice and Public Services.

Similarly, activities in Local Government directed at assisting small community councils to increase and expand their capabilities for local control would be seen by your committee as a priority. It fits into the constitutional development and education priorities. I would, therefore, Mr. Chairman, re-emphasize that the priorities this House sets down are not so much departmental priorities but are very much governmental.

How Priorities Find Their Way Into The Budget

Priorities are usually reflected in two ways: Internal restructuring and realignment of departmental dollars and man years and/or the addition of new dollars for new programs and services. Your committee does not see in this budget a great emphasis placed on evaluation of current programs and services and realignment of man years and funding to respond to the priorities.

Because we know that new money is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain, we strongly recommend that over the next two years a greater degree of emphasis be placed on evaluation of programs and services and that a base review of each department for effectiveness and efficiency be conducted.

In this age of inflation and scarce financial resources a responsible government and its legislature cannot continue to ask for new or additional money from the taxpayer if it cannot be guaranteed that the programs already funded are meeting their objectives and again, I will give you an example. The Department of Economic Development has been given 207 man years, \$17 million in operation and maintenance, and one million dollars capital for 1982-83. This department's major accountability task are directed at:

- 1) stimulating economic expansion to maximize socio-economic opportunities and benefits to northerners;
- 2) developing strategic plans and policies for renewable and non-renewable resources;
- 3) managing the general development agreement;
- 4) stimulating employment opportunities for northern residents;
- 5) expansion and promotion of the tourism sector and,
- 6) development of new and assistance to existing businesses in all sectors.

In our role as elected representatives we must ask ourselves and our constituents whether this department and all departments are achieving their objectives. If not, we must, on behalf of the taxpayer, demand an accountability and most certainly it then falls on our shoulders to give direction to rectify that situation. If the department is meeting the objectives, then we simply approve the budget, add further recommendations if needed, praise the officials and the Ministers responsible and move on.

It is for purposes of accountability that your main estimates book breaks down each department into divisions and provides a brief written explanation of what that division does or is supposed to do. If Members take the time to read these accountabilities and question the department officials on work done in the past and work planned for the future year in order to meet those accountabilities, your committee suggests that much will be learned by this House.

An elected person's role is to represent the public, the taxpayer, and questions such as "What will the public not stand for?" must be constantly on our minds as we review the 1982-83 main estimates. Mr. Chairman, your committee knows that the public will not stand for government waste nor will it stand for government growth if the present programs and services are not serving the needs of the people or meeting the objectives set down by this Legislature.

The second way that priorities are reflected is through the addition of new programs. Of the \$52.6 million increase in the main estimates a total of \$5.1 million is contained in this budget for new programs. The major new programs and services, we are pleased to report, are linked to the Legislature's priorities.

Within the Department of Education, money has been allocated for the development of a high school certificate program, a new community related curriculum is being designed for the Keewatin regional high school and money has been set aside for this activity. Special education and continuing education has received additional funding.

Within the Department of Renewable Resources, additional man years and money has been set aside to establish an environmental planning and assessment capability for our government. A new secretariat has been established within the department of the Executive to provide for a central headquarters agency responsible for, among other things, this government's advocacy and response to resource impact areas.

However, Mr. Chairman, your committee is not satisfied that this budget reflects the Ninth Assembly's, and in particular this committee's, urgent concern for the small communities and the effect that resource development projects have on the local governments and the peoples of these communities. The Inuvik region is, in our opinion, the region where most significant changes are taking place in the North. Immense pressure in the coming years will be placed not only on our government's regional offices in Inuvik, but even more importantly, on the municipal and community governments located in this region. Both the Norman Wells production and pipeline plans and the Beaufort Sea exploration has resulted in high impact already. The Dempster highway and the Mackenzie highway have brought specific changes and influences to the Inuvik region and the Mackenzie area far in excess of what regions in more isolated areas have yet had to face.

Your committee thought that this budget would single out the Inuvik region as a priority area. It does not. Perhaps the problem lies in the fact that the finance committee did not move a motion calling specifically for priorities by region. It is our opinion that the planning and assistance to the Inuvik region is a dismal failure. We do not see the dollars reflecting the need to offset the problems in that region in the 1982-83 budget. We have been informed that some in-house activities are proceeding on this issue, and we look forward to learning more about the details of those in-house activities as we review the various departments. What we do see, however, is a central body with eight new man years, and \$633,000 being established as headquarters. We see little expansion for the region, and it is our opinion that we must do both, and do it quickly.

Mr. Chairman, your finance committee does not wish to appear overly critical of the Executive Committee. We wish once again to acknowledge that our elected Ministers have made an excellent beginning in addressing this committee's concern regarding the government's ability to meet its obligations for the socio-economic impact of resource development through the resource secretariat and we support that initiative wholeheartedly. However, major concerns still exist, as I said, within your finance committee with respect to the Inuvik region and its ability to handle the many pressures which it is facing now and will continue to face in the future.

We therefore recommend that the regional director, the departmental superintendents and support staff, along with the community councils and native organizations, meet immediately to discuss a team approach to managing the affairs in the Inuvik region. We further recommend that this government provide adequate resources to the regional administration in both O and M and capital and man years with which to do the job.

B Level Funding

It has been indicated that many departments will be preparing B level submissions to present, through the Executive, to the federal government for priority requirements and impact area funding. Continuous comments have been voiced by departments expressing the lack of funding and the need for new funding to be used to meet this Legislature's priorities. Your committee does not deny that there is a need for new money. We have great difficulty, however, hearing constantly that the priorities as set by this Legislature belong in B level submission.

Perhaps it is because B level to us means program and service dollars this government would like but could live without. Perhaps the problem really lies in a misunderstanding of the term. Your committee does not believe that the dollars needed by this government to offset the impact of resource development are dollars which we would like but can live without. We believe that they are essential to this government's ability to do its job properly. It is for this reason that we strongly recommend that if the B level submission is unsuccessful, that the money be found to fund these impacts through supplementary estimates within the 1982-83 fiscal year. We, of course, realize that this may mean reviewing existing programs and services with a view to stopping some and reallocating resources -- a difficult task.

A New Process For Planning And Priorities

Mr. Braden, as chairman of the subcommittee on priorities and planning, and as Minister responsible for priorities and planning secretariat, has presented the standing committee with a booklet entitled "Priorities and Planning Handbook on the Executive Planning Process". Your finance committee has reviewed the process as outlined in the handbook and certainly supports the concepts outlined within. However, unless the financial management and the priorities and planning segments are melded together, the budget development process will break down as it has in previous years. The finance committee, then, would recommend that the financial management secretariat, when assisting departments with budget development papers, be fully briefed on the priorities of the Legislative Assembly.

This committee further recommends that the first call letter requesting departmental financial submissions for the 1983-84 budget contain reference to the priorities of this Assembly. If that letter has already been sent out, we ask that it be recalled and those identified priorities be added.

Your finance committee would like to commend the work of Mr. Braden and his committee for developing the priorities and planning process. We would, however, like to see it in action before the Ninth Assembly dissolves in October, 1983. It is imperative, therefore, that the process be applied to the planning of the 1983-84 budget and we urge that Mr. Braden and Mr. Butters take appropriate action.

Operation And Maintenance Overview

As an overview on O and M, or operation and maintenance, our consultant confirmed for us that if the non-controllable items such as salaries, housing allowances, utilities and the 14 per cent inflation factor were eliminated from the main estimates, the real growth would be some \$11.6 million, or a mere four per cent. As we said earlier, \$5.1 million of that is spread over several departments for new initiative, including some additional man years. This clearly indicates the lack of flexibility in this years main estimates, and the major reason why your committee has recommended a base review. The standing committee does have some recommendations specific to each department and will discuss those as each department appears before this House.

Capital Overview

Mr. Chairman, with respect to capital, it is evident that the process is still evolving for the preparation of the capital plan and, in particular, for this government's desire for a comprehensive five year capital plan. Once the process for consultation and review has been established and is working properly, we recommend that the capital planning task in the regional operations secretariat be relocated to the financial management secretariat. This will result in the combination of logical areas of responsibility, something already recognized by the Executive.

The capital plan tabled during the finance committee review detailed 1982-83 plans as per the main estimates, with indications for 1983-84, 1984-85, and the future. Unfortunately, anything after this fiscal years estimates was quickly identified by the departments as being very "soft" and was not worth spending very much time on. In addition, once again this year, we have not been provided with the operation and maintenance costs of the capital projects in the 1982-83 main estimates. We therefore recommend that a special category or column identifying O and M costs for each capital project be identified in the five year capital plan and as part of the main estimates.

Joint departmental capital projects must be more readily identified. Presently, a number of departments could be providing capital money to the same project, yet the total dollars for that project might never appear in the capital main estimates. This is confusing and should be rectified. Your committee, therefore, recommends a change in the format of the capital main estimates which would allow for easy identification of joint capital projects and which would provide information on total dollars estimated for the joint capital project concerned.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the standing committee's opening remarks to the Legislative Assembly. Recommendations and comments on individual departments will be made as each department appears before the Legislature. The standing committee does not intend to move the recommendations made in these opening remarks until Members of the House have had an opportunity to think about them and perhaps question the finance committee if they have any comments or concerns. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Are there any comments to the report of the standing committee on finance? No comments. Is it the committee's wish, then, that we go into Renewable Resources, as indicated on the orders of the day? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just a general comment and a question for the Minister, if I could, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie, proceed.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Well, first of all, I would like personally to compliment the Minister. I feel that he is doing a very good job in two difficult portfolios -- and also congratulate him -- and if he says along with the help of the Hon. Minister Munro, who sometimes is much maligned, but I personally believe that he takes his duty of attempting to represent the Northwest Territories to the Government of Canada very seriously, and I believe does a reasonably good job in a difficult portfolio -- so I would congratulate the two of you on securing adequate funding, at least, in a year when there are economic difficulties throughout the country.

Tax Benefits For Northerners

One point that I wanted to allude to specifically is the question of the ending of the moratorium on benefits. That the benefits themselves for some people in favoured positions never have been a final or a complete answer to the problem of the high cost of living in the Northwest Territories, and the fact that the moratorium will end at the end of this year and, if nothing else is done, benefits will become taxable is very regrettable, but that fact does enable us, maybe, to adopt a totally new approach. As you said, Mr. Minister, the Government of the Northwest Territories did present a paper on this very matter, analysed a number of alternative solutions and, in the end, recommended a particular course of action, that is, that people in the North should receive an extra deduction from net income to arrive at a smaller taxable income. That seems to me to be a very fine approach. I know when the paper was tabled nothing really happened with it, and while many people expressed concern about this problem, there does not seem to be any focus to a solution.

So could I ask you, Mr. Minister, if you would perhaps table your paper once again, and move it into committee of the whole where we could discuss it and perhaps have this Assembly endorse that specific position. That may be a focal point or a rallying point, then, for attempting to get a favourable tax break, not only for certain favoured employees in the North, but for all people who are taxpayers in the North. Would that be possible, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Minister. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Member for his suggestion and I will retable that document tomorrow and take the necessary steps to move it into committee of the whole for discussion. I think that there is a much greater degree of urgency with regard to that recommendation and our concerted recommendations to the federal government because as one knows the remission order has lifted the former moratorium on taxation of benefits and that affects everybody who is employed in the North, I think.

I would just like, while I have the microphone, to indicate to the chairman of the standing committee on finance that B level funding is not that funding that we would like to have but could do without. B level funding is absolutely necessary new moneys, absolutely necessary new moneys to put into impact communities, absolutely necessary new moneys to put into impact regions. The new method of obtaining this money which was brought into vogue with the Clark government has created another way of seeking these necessary funds and it is an auction process that is outside the intergovernmental committee process. It is a process which we are just getting into and I am hopeful that we will be successful in obtaining these required and very necessary funds. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Are there any further comments on the 1982-83 budget? Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I just wanted to question Mrs. Sorensen on some of her conclusions, particularly those on page four. She says in one part, about the middle of the page, "The major new programs and services, we are pleased to report, are linked to the Legislature's priorities." Then she gives some examples of some of the new programs that are being undertaken. Then, later on down the page, she says "...your committee is not satisfied that this budget reflects the Ninth Assembly's...", and continues. I am a little bit confused. She says on the one hand the additional moneys do reflect what the Assembly's priorities are, but on the whole the budget does not reflect this Assembly's priorities.

Priority Of Dene Language Programs

Also, I seem to recall in Hay River that the number one priority of this government was the Dene languages and I am frankly disappointed that, although I may be told or convinced otherwise, I do not seem to see any change in the territorial government's spending or programs of the Dene language. I am just wondering, is there something for the Dene people more than what has been provided for them in the past?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes. I think Mr. Sibbeston might be right in saying that there is some confusion but I think what we are trying to say is that there is so little new growth -- represents four per cent of the budget, but within that five million dollars which is spread over all the departments -- you know, it is a meagre amount and it is meagre because it is spread over all the departments, but within that five million dollars the money was put towards priorities that we had identified. But at the same time there has not been a reorganization of departments or an evaluation, an efficiency evaluation, of departments to see if there was a way we could free up money that we already have that was not, perhaps, being used efficiently. So, on the one hand we are saying, "Well, when you found new money you put it toward priority areas, but overall the total budget still does not meet the priorities for economic development, language and those kinds of things."

With respect to your question on language, I know Mr. Patterson can speak probably more directly than I can to the priority on language, but I do detect that within the Department of Education, and certainly as a result of the work that the special committee on education has been doing itself, that we are spending money. It is just not up front at this point, because we are not sure, with respect to the special committee, on what direction we are going to take, but certainly within the Department of Education there has been, I think, some \$400,000 spent last year on some special bilingual studies. There has been at least one regional meeting that I am aware of where people got together to discuss language in schools and I am sure Mr. Patterson can expand on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Are there any further comments? Mr. Sibbeston.

Lack Of Progress In Area Of Native Languages

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes. I will just make a general comment. I guess what I am concerned about is that there is just this basic fear, basic suspiciousness of this government that despite what we say, despite all the efforts made by Members in terms of suggesting certain things, making proposals and so forth, that nothing -- after all is said and done -- nothing really changes. This

government is still basically the same, you know, and there is a basic gut feeling, a suspiciousness of this government. You know, occasionally we talk about things. We talked, for instance, in Hay River about the importance of the Dene language -- the importance of this government doing something in the area of native languages. Recently there was a motion by Mr. Wah-Shee that the Dene language become an official language of this government. You know, these are nice things and I suppose a lot of talking energy goes into these things, so once these motions are made you feel good and you think, "Gee, there are going to be some changes now." Then you eventually come to the budget and you get a budget of \$400 and some-odd million and you do not see that much change. It is just the same old thing, as it were. So, it kind of makes me sad and makes me feel as if, well, what is the use of me being here? What is the use of me trying? What is the use of talking to this government? What is the use of me being here if nothing is ever going to change? I guess what I am trying to say is that this basic gut feeling, suspiciousness or dissatisfaction if nothing happens is the very reason that the Dene people want out of this government. They want a better and different system of government in place than this.

You know, in the last few years there have been a few changes and the smallest little change means so much to people. It really does not take much to satisfy me or my constituents. Some few little changes here and there and I am as happy as could be, and my constituents are that much happier. But when you do not see any change at all, when a lot of my efforts and other people's efforts go into suggesting changes and nothing happens, it really makes you feel like there is no hope and just saying, "To hell with it", and give up on this government and just go away and try that much harder to make the Denendeh government a reality.

So, maybe I do not know all the facts. Maybe through the course of the next few weeks I will be told that there is going to be that much more money for the Slavey language programs in the schools, there is going to be maybe some money for the Dene interpreters and so forth. I do not know. I could be surprised, but from reading Mrs. Sorensen's report I get the feeling that there is no change. I frankly expected, with the Hay River emphasis on the Dene language, that all efforts by the Department of Education in the Dene language area would be maybe doubled or tripled. I know there is a Slavey program just being started in Providence that has been funded by government over a year. There are just a couple of people working on it, but they are making significant strides and I was frankly hoping that their program could be doubled or tripled this year.

No Funding For Dene Interpreters

I know that this government spends a million dollars on Inuit translators and not one cent on Dene translators. Now, we would have thought that maybe there are 10 dollars or one dollar or \$50,000 or something going toward Dene interpreters. I mean, are we going to get any money for Dene interpreters or not? Do we not rate the same as the Inuit people?

There is also now a suggestion or a motion made that the Dene language now is an official government language. Can this government communicate with the Dene people? What is this government going to do? Are we going to hire maybe a couple of Dene to sit up on the sixth floor to meet any Dene who walks up to the office and wants to deal with government? Or what are we going to do? How are we going to translate this good idea about the Dene language being an official language into something concrete? These are the things that I would like to spend -- I do not know. I have not quite given up yet. I see people's heads a little low. I will give it a try again, but please understand that I do represent people and they are obviously reasonably happy with my efforts to date I think and I come here really optimistic that we can make some changes or influence this government. I will keep trying but there comes a time when you do wonder if it is worth it, if all your efforts are materializing at all and obviously, if they are not materializing, I think one would be smart to just forget it and wash one's hands of this whole affair. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Any further comments?
Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to try to respond to Mr. Sibbeston's concerns about language and make a few points. I agree that there does not appear in the budget to be any significant area where you can look and say, "Well, this is being done in the area of native languages." I think we have to be very careful when we are talking about a major initiative such as this Assembly advised the government to take, that you do not just suddenly, for example, make any languages working languages of government, as much as I would like to see that happen tomorrow. What would happen if we were to do that, I would suggest, is that we would create positions where the incumbents have to be bilingual, where the incumbents would have to read and write and speak a native language. That is how it seems to be working in the Eastern Arctic and I am happy that so many Inuktitut-speaking people are working in public service in the Baffin and Keewatin regions. I think it is somewhere in the area of 50 per cent of the entire public service. Now, we should have the same thing happening in the Western Arctic, but let us recognize that we still have a lot of work to do to get to that stage. We have to develop the human resources. We have to upgrade people who are younger and have lost their skills. We have to develop writing systems that can be universally used.

MR. SIBBESTON: Do not give me a sermon. I have heard that b.s. before.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, I am not trying to give a sermon but I am just saying we cannot just throw money at projects.

MR. SIBBESTON: Is there more money or not? Is anything being done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Order! Order! Mr. Patterson.

Responding To Community Based Initiatives

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I was trying to say, Mr. Chairman, that I do not think simply providing money to a project is the answer. Now, the Slavey project in Fort Providence, for example, was started by people who are already working in the school and I think that if you gave them three times their budget they really would not know how to spend it. These are community based projects where initiatives have come forward from the community. They have asked for a certain level of support based on what they think they can realistically do, given the human resources in their community, and we have pretty well been able to provide their needs. I think we have to do much more in the coming year and the Executive is committed to doing much more to respond to these community based initiatives in the coming year.

I was just at a conference in Inuvik where people in all the major Dene languages areas who are working in the field, in the schools or in the band councils or in community groups came together to give the government advice on just how we would go about this massive challenge. Now maybe this kind of meeting should have taken place earlier, maybe we could have moved faster, but I found that there were 50 to 60 recommendations made as to what we can do and what needs to be done. I think we have to put all those recommendations into a framework, make a fund available to meet the first priorities and I think this will happen in the coming year, but it has to be done with some planning and some logical framework in mind.

Now, the issue of a language commission should be addressed. The issue of how to implement working languages has to be dealt with, but we have to assess where we have been to date and what tasks have to be done. I hope when education is discussed we can get into this in more detail, but I do feel Mr. Sibbeston's impatience and I am just as anxious to see something happen in this area, I want to assure him. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. We will take a 10 minute coffee break, and then we will have the Renewable Resources witnesses, I hope. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Fraser, are you not assuming that discussion on this is finished already?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): No.

MR. SIBBESTON: I mean, you should not assume that. We ought to be able to...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Discussion on the budget, general discussion, will carry on as long as we want. We will just take a 10 minute coffee break, and we will come back.

MR. SIBBESTON: Okay. You talked of dealing with Renewable Resources, as if to say the discussion on the committee's report is more or less finished for now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Sibbeston, I am the chairman here, and I am only taking orders from you guys. If you want to discuss it for the next three weeks, I could not care less, but we will just take a coffee break now, and then we will come back, and we can discuss it in general, and then go into Renewable Resources when we are finished discussing it. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. The committee will come back to order. Order. We are dealing with the general comments on the 1982 budget. Any further comments? Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering whether the finance committee has any suggestion with regard to what I would consider its major conclusion, being that the committee is not satisfied that this budget reflects the Ninth Assembly's -- what the committee is saying is that this government's budget does not reflect what this Assembly wants, or has spoken about, or has recommended in the last number of years since we have been here.

What does the committee suggest, or recommend? Do we just pass it anyway, or do we try to take measures in this Assembly to deal with the people -- either the Executive Members are not listening, they are not actually being accountable to us, or else the civil service is so powerful that, despite what we say, despite what the Executive Committee says, they insist on continuing things as they have always been. Just what does Mrs. Sorensen or her committee suggest we do?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mrs. Sorensen.

Evaluation Of Government Programs And Services

MRS. SORENSEN: The committee discussed that very real problem, Mr. Chairman. When the department of the Executive came before us, one of the questions we asked Mr. Parker, who spoke for that department, was whether there had been any real evaluation of the programs and services that this government provides over the past two years, whether each department had been looked at, and the programs and services that it provides had been looked at, from the point of view of whether it was efficient, and whether the programs were actually doing what they were supposed to be doing. The response that we got back was that there had been very little of that over the past two years.

That was why we made the recommendation in our report that over the coming few months, and the two years remaining for the Ninth Assembly, that a serious base review of each department take place. That means that every program and every service that each department provides is evaluated from the point of view of whether it is doing what it is supposed to be doing. In that way we hope that either man years that can be freed up, or man years that can be shuffled, and money that can be freed up and money that can be shuffled, will be identified. Whether that will happen or not certainly remains to be seen because, certainly, as each department came before us, they indicated that they were barely holding their own with the kinds of responsibilities that they had been given, and certainly we found that in areas like Local Government, Renewable Resources, the Department of Education and other departments.

Importance Of Motions And Recommendations

So it becomes an exercise in frustration. We were not prepared to come in and lambaste the federal government for not giving us an awful lot of new money during this fiscal year, because we could not, as a committee, say that those kinds of reviews of the departments had been done, to see whether they were efficient or not. We do not have any other recommendations, other than a base review, other than individual Members telling the Executive exactly how the Member sees certain priorities being reflected.

For instance, Mr. Sibbeston and I, Mr. Chairman, were just discussing how he could bring about some of the things that he would like to see in terms of language within this budget, and there are simple ways of doing that, I suppose. Mr. Sibbeston immediately came up with some ways -- right off the top of his head -- that language could be seen to be much more in evidence, and I would recommend that he bring forth those ideas as recommendations and motions to this Assembly. I remember back when Tagak Curley made a motion that we all thought

was a little bit ridiculous. He said, "I want porches on every house in the Eastern Arctic during this fiscal year." We said "Ah, that is irresponsible" and "The money is not in the budget" and "It just cannot be done." But it was done in that fiscal year. Porches were put on by the Housing Corporation on those houses.

So what I am saying is that the motions that are made and the recommendations that are made within each department, as we review them, are very important. I have seen many of those motions -- those simple little motions -- being acted upon by the Executive Committee. So if you do not make them, you are not giving the direction. So maybe we have to get much more active, again, during this budget session, as we were the very first time we sat down to review the budget, and make those kinds of specific directions if we want to change the way things are reflected in each department in the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Further comments? Mr. Parker.

Executive Conducted Intensive Financial Reviews

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked to speak because Mrs. Sorensen made reference to comments that I had made before her standing committee that I think are part of this debate.

First of all, during that committee meeting, when I was asked if the government had conducted evaluations of our programs, the answer that I gave to her was -- if I remember it correctly -- that we had not, in the past year, in the formal sense -- but I indicated to her that programs are in a constant state of review. Now, I would like to correct something that she had indicated today concerning a base review. We conducted a base review of every single one of the government's programs 18 months ago. When we were preparing for the budget which we have been using for the past year -- we were doing this work in August of 1980 -- we looked at every position and every accountability in every department, so we conducted a base review 18 months ago. There is no question about that.

The Executive Committee met hour after hour after hour because we were in such a condition of constraint that we were trying to do exactly what Mrs. Sorensen is referring to; that is, to find areas where we could hold back funds to reassign them to meet the priorities of the government. So we did that, 18 months ago.

Now, in the preparation for the budget that is before you today, we conducted fairly intensive reviews through the accountability system, but they were not as intense as they were 18 months ago. If I could just perhaps question this matter a little more, I do not find, within the report from the chairman of the standing committee on finance, the lack of support or even condemnation that Mr. Sibbeston seems to see for the attention that we paid to priorities. I seem to see -- as far as I can read in here -- a fairly high level of support, except in the area of responding to the impact of development in the Inuvik region.

Now, we may not have been able to reflect those priorities to the extent that we either should have or would like to have. We will have more to say about those priorities in our response during this session. I recognize that as one area in which the report is critical of the Executive's approach to the budget but I do not really see the other areas that Mr. Sibbeston has been talking about.

Perhaps a final word; I realize Mr. Sibbeston's frustration with the actual identification of funding for the Dene language development and use. Rather than try to recall the things that we are doing from memory -- and I could name some of them, but rather than take up your time fumbling in that area, I am having this material brought together, and I would hope that we could tomorrow be very specific as to where some of our funding is going. I think that, although we have not dedicated, perhaps, the kind of funding that Mr. Sibbeston would like to see, I think that he will see that we have made a very definite start in that direction.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Any further comments?
Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: All right. Mr. Chairman, I guess I reacted, really, because of what the standing committee on finance is saying, basically, that the budget does not reflect this Assembly's wishes. It is just the same one that has probably been in for the last 15 to 20 years. Also, any new moneys have been allocated to different things.

Native Languages Should Be A Number One Priority

I guess I was concerned because, in Hay River, it seems to me that Dene language or native languages was a number one priority, and apparently, as far as the Department of Education, the sorts of new things that they are doing is working on a high school certificate program, which is fine in itself but it is not enhancing or improving or having more Dene language programs. Then I notice another; a new community related curriculum is being designed for the Keewatin regional high school. Well, that is fine, but, again, where do I see the enhancement of the Dene language for our area in this? Likewise, more money is being spent on special education and continuing education.

So it seems that the government has used any new money that has become available to them for other things than the Dene languages, and it seems to me, after listening to this Assembly in Hay River, that they would have put any new money into the Dene language.

I do appreciate, as Mr. Parker said, there have been some initiatives made. The most notable one is Fort Providence and basically what that is is not new moneys. It is just a Dene woman who happened to be a teacher is now assigned to work specifically on the Dene languages. I think she has one girl helping her, and they have had some help from government for developing and producing Dene materials. So we are talking here of, maybe probably \$15,000 or \$20,000 that this government has put in. Like I said, we are very pleased. That is a little bit. It is well appreciated and accepted. It is just that, if we were serious about doing a good job, you have to put a lot more money in.

What is fundamentally more important is that, when this Assembly makes a motion saying that something ought to be done, well, it ought to be done, and those people on the Executive -- whoever decided that money should go to these other things -- should be made to account for themselves. If the Executive Committee does not agree that Dene languages ought to be the first priority, then they ought to have said so at the time, and if they still cannot stand it, they should resign and get out, and get other people in there that are more -- I am beginning to wonder, frankly, if I should now be on the Executive and make some of these things happen...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. SIBBESTON: So who is going to resign?

MRS. SORENSEN: Are you letting your name stand?

MR. SIBBESTON: No, but it just makes you wonder. If you want something done, it seems, in this government, you have to do it yourself or else have it on a sheet outlined and say "Here, do it this way." It seems that this government, with millions of dollars, does not have the ability to react, does not know how to do what I would consider a fairly simple matter. It is easy to me. If I was told to do something about Dene languages, you would bet it would be done. I would not stall and spend money on other things. It seems to me that whoever is the Minister of Education should do likewise. I notice Mr. Patterson shaking his head. Well, can we scrap these programs that you have assigned moneys for, and reassign them to the Dene language?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Patterson.

Education Department Response To Assembly Concerns

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, first of all, Mr. Chairman, I do believe that the Executive Members should be accountable for what is in this budget, and I am looking forward to discussions of the main estimates of the Department of Education, and if we have gone in the wrong direction, I am sure the Assembly will tell us and we will go in the proper direction.

Now, as far as spending money outside the Assembly's priorities are concerned, I would just mention that the areas Mr. Sibbeston was concerned about -- the high school certificate program and continuing education -- are specifically responses to the concern about training people for jobs in the Northwest Territories. That is one of the five priorities that is listed on page two, and I got in on the tail end of some real concerns about cutbacks in adult education when I was new in this job, and before I had this job I was part of the chorus of critics. So we have done something about that.

There are complaints that high schools are too academically oriented, that students are dropping out of school because they see nothing at the other end, so we have implemented the high school certificate program. That is training, and I am willing to defend it when the budget comes forward. If we are wasting money anywhere, I certainly would like to know about it, and I would also like -- perhaps not at this time -- to go into the whole area of language in more detail. I think one of the problems with this area of language that we have to confront at the executive level is that it impacts in a number of departments. The Department of Information is involved, to the extent that research and history is important. There are impacts in other departments, such as museums. I think we can get into a good discussion on what we are doing and not doing in language, but I accept the principle of accountability and -- I am not sure if this is the place.

I would just also like to add, Mr. Chairman, that I think one department that certainly we can say has been very carefully reviewed and scrutinized by an independent process through a committee of this Legislature is the special review on education that has taken place over the last year and, while I do not like to make excuses for not having moved faster, it has been pointed out to me by many people -- even those who are concerned about getting moving on native languages -- that we have some invaluable advice to receive from the special committee on education. Their report is due this session. I know the area of languages is an area of large concern with the special committee, and maybe the course will be a little more clear for all of us when that report is tabled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): General comments? Any further general comments?
Mr. Sibbeston.

Assembly Members Have No Effect On Government

MR. SIBBESTON: Okay. I guess I reacted earlier to Mr. Patterson saying "Well, you know, we have to have planning...", and so forth and like wait until his report comes out. Our term will be up in two years and I will not be able to say, look, I have harped and talked about Dene languages for these four years and really nothing has happened. That is what I am concerned about, that you put four years of your good life into being on this Assembly, making suggestions and recommendations to government and nothing will have transpired because now Dennis Patterson says, well, wait now until the education committee report comes out. Can you imagine how long it is going to take to have changes come about?

So, I guess what I am basically saying is that I think everybody in the North should know that Legislative Assembly Members for the most part cannot affect this government. They can talk, they can make nice motions, but if you are not on the Executive, if you are not in some special position or a special influence, then nothing happens. I am getting that feeling and I think that the people of

the North should know how limited an Assembly Member is and can be, because there is not use having the public of the North think that people that they elect can go to Yellowknife, can effect changes in government. People of the North should know that Assembly Members are very ineffective and despite how well they can talk, how much pressure, how many motions they make, it can result in nothing, zero, over the course of four years. People should know that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. General comments. Any further comments? Mrs. Sorensen.

Comprehensive Audit Of Government Departments Essential

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond in part to something that Mr. Parker said about something that I said. I am aware, certainly, of the 18 month ago review that took place, but that to me is not what I would call a base review of a department. What you describe and what I witnessed was the Ministers and Mr. Parker and Mr. Pilot, Mr. Chairman, sitting on the sixth floor agonizing -- certainly agonizing -- about where things were going and what they were going to do and where the cutbacks that we might have to experience were going to take place and then calling the deputy ministers in and saying "Look, you guys, where are the problems and where can you give up money and what can we do about this financial fix that we are in?" Well, human nature has it that no deputy minister is going to give up man years nor is he going to give up dollars. It just does not happen.

So, to me, the only proper way to do it is through special types of audits. You do not do it in a month, you do it over a process of time. I am certainly aware of the additional costs of that, but comprehensive audit is a way of measuring how effective and efficient your programs are. I think that it is time that certain areas -- and I am not specifically talking about every department, but certainly I can immediately identify DPW as being a department that needs a comprehensive audit. I am not sure about Local Government, but feel that certainly that area is very questionable with respect to the programs and services that it is providing. I think that we have to look very seriously upon asking maybe the Auditor General to help us with this kind of thing. I know that he has provided similar assistance to the Government of British Columbia. The Auditor General is very, very keen and interested on comprehensive auditing and is quite willing to offer that service in relation to working in concert with your own auditors within your own government. It is something that I am very aware has been done in other regions of Canada because of their need and wish at the federal level to see that taxpayers' money is not being wasted.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: What good has it done the federal government?

MRS. SORENSEN: So, I think that what you are talking about, and what the finance committee is talking about are slightly different. I think that it is time that we went out in the regions as well and asked the people whether the programs and services that we are providing are really meeting their needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Noah, general comments.

Reason For Varying Assistance To Inuit And Dene Language Development

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully support what Mr. Sibbeston then had mentioned. He mentioned when he started his speech that the Inuit are being supported by the Education department more than the Indians. I think they have one syllabic writing form and I think that is the only

difference -- I think that is the only syllabic difference between the West and the East. I would support Mr. Sibbeston's suggestion, but I think there would be a problem. The syllabic writing form that is used by the Dene is different from the eastern writing form. How would we be able to solve this problem? They have different dialects and different writing forms.

If there were to be a motion passed to recognize the Dene and Metis languages, I would support it, but I think that we will have to understand that the education system and the recommendations made by the Legislature, by the MLAs, should be given to the people for consideration and to direct them to the MPs in Ottawa. Maybe ask the Inuit people in the House here -- we are quite lucky because we have -- in the Inuit language we have one writing system and that is the easy way that we have. The Inuit that speak their own language are more than the Dene and they have been recognized by the Government of the Northwest Territories, because we have dealt with them quite long. The federal government has always recognized, from the beginning -- maybe that is the only way that we are lucky as Inuit people, whenever we request something.

I wanted to state this because if anybody wants to make a motion to do with that the Dene could be assisted more by funds -- but if we are going to be debating it for a long time and do not make a motion, I do not know which way to go about fixing it, but if somebody wants to make a motion in this House to that effect, I would be in support of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Noah. General comments. Mr. Patterson.

Regional Input Into The Capital Plan

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I just had one concern about the discussion of capital on page eight of the finance committee report. There is a sentence in there about relocating the capital planning task from the regional operations secretariat to the financial management secretariat and I found it a bit unclear and I wonder if the chairman might kindly clarify that the committee is committed to the important role of the regions in the development of the capital plan. I think some real progress has been made in involving the regions this year. I just wanted to confirm that that is not what the sentence refers to -- that the regional planning process will still be an integral part of the plan. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, I can absolutely confirm that for Mr. Patterson. Mr. Bob Pilot, the member of the Executive Committee who speaks for the regional operations secretariat, revealed to the standing committee on finance a new process that his division of capital planning had put together which emphasized greatly the regional input into the capital plan. We realize that that process is somewhat different from previous years. It is very much expanded. It is very much cognizant of the importance of the regional bodies being involved and that was why we did not move a motion directly recommending that capital planning go under the financial management until that process had been worked out -- until we had gone through a whole season using that process to make sure that things were happening as the little papers said they would. That is why we say in paragraph two of our report: "Once the process for consultation and review has been established and is working properly...." We then recommend that capital planning and financial management be melded together, because once that happens the process will be automatic.

The reason that we feel so strongly that they have to be together is because capital dictates very much our operating and maintenance dollars and unless the two are working together, and certainly with deep consultation with the regions, then our capital plan is just not going to work. As I said, we felt that we wanted to give the process a chance to work and then transfer it over.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Any further comments of a general nature? Mr. McCallum.

Use Of Dene Language As A Communicator

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would just want to comment on some of the comments that are put forward by the standing committee on finance as regards the direction in which the government and, quite obviously, the Executive Committee have been taking in terms of responding to the kinds of concerns that have been expressed here.

I appreciate, at the outset, the comments on page two, where the chairman of that committee indicates that the standing committee sees more and more, each year. I would appreciate that in the last two years there has been quite a bit, but I believe that we have been able to respond as an Executive quite a bit in terms of the kinds of directions that we are getting -- not just in the last two years, but I suggest to you, over a period of time -- and I see it in relation to what Mr. Sibbeston has been saying, in terms of the use of native languages, and specifically the Dene languages.

I think that the Executive Committee -- and I do not have the material here, but I will indicate that we have that material, and bring it to pass around, in terms of various departments, where we have, as a government, made not just efforts, but we have brought about the use of various Dene languages -- Slavey, Dogrib, Loucheux, Chipewyan -- as a communicator; the use of the language as a communicator to indicate to the people in the Territories what this government is able to provide in services.

I think that has been one of the criticisms, a legitimate criticism, against the government for a number of years, that the government is not making use of either the oral communication, written communication or, if you like, something visual -- something you can see -- in communicating to people of the Northwest Territories, and specifically in the western part of the Northwest Territories, what this government is able to provide in terms of services for people. So I think that there has been a marked improvement and I would -- as I indicated to this committee, Mr. Chairman -- I am able to table examples of the government using languages as a communicator.

Government Response To Northern Preference

I think, as well, the Executive Committee has responded to the idea of northern preference, that is, using local northern contractors to do particular works. Now, not to the extent that we would all want to see, but there are concrete examples where we have used northern contractors, and let me give you examples of that in the area of DPW, and in the area of housing.

This government, for staff housing, or for social housing, is using a northern based form to provide that kind of housing for people in the Territories. The people in the Territories, East and West and North, have a say in the kind of design, and those units are being put together, utilizing northern people, with a contractor in the North.

We utilize supply services that are run by northern businesses. We utilize contractors who are general contractors to do the work of either building construction or rehabs or improvements of government facilities, whereby northern people get the benefit. We are not totally along as much as we would want to be, but we are gradually giving a preference to northern contractors, where we have these northern business people do it, where northern workers -- and the money stays in the North. It is not going to a contractor from the South.

I think, then, in terms of language development, that there is -- as Mr. Sibbeston says -- some beginning. It may not be as much as we would want, but I think the government is using native languages, both Dene languages and Inuktitut, in the area of a communicator, because I think that that is very important, that people of the Territories should know what is available. For too long it has not been.

I think we have been, as well, giving northern people a preference in the kind of work. I think that there is a long way to go and -- as I said in the beginning -- I see more and more that this Legislature does respond to the kinds of concerns that are being raised.

Government Response To Change

There is no question -- as has been indicated in the report of the standing committee on finance, that there is not enough work done in terms of areas of large impact, but that is where -- as I read this report -- that is the only area that the standing committee has said that we are not responding properly or adequately enough, and it isolates a particular region, but I think that to say that this government does not respond to change -- we have put more money in terms of northern housing. We have utilized more DPW contracts or, in fact, in local housing associations. In terms of the kinds of social or health services that we have at our disposal to involve other people, you simply have to look at the kinds of local involvement that is being developed across the Territories, where people in a community are getting more and more say in how particular operations should be run, be managed; boards of management of hospitals are classic examples.

I think it does not suffice for us to say that we should be satisfied with that particular amount. There is a great deal more, but I think we have changed the direction of government. We have changed the kind of expenditure of government over the last -- if you like, the last two years, but I think it had its beginning prior to that, and I think that we have been able to respond. I do not accept the idea in here that we cannot -- we, as legislators or people on the Executive -- cannot turn around the thinking in government, in the bureaucracy. It has turned around, it is turning around and I would hope that it would continue to turn around to better meet the kinds of needs or concerns that are being expressed by people in this community and in other communities.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would simply like to indicate that I will take the report of the standing committee, accept the accolades that they give to the Legislature in terms of trying to work toward it, and I would indicate in very concrete terms that there are areas -- and more and more areas -- where we are, as an Executive, responding to these, and utilizing the resources in the best possible way to give the greatest amount of services and benefits to the people of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Any further comments?
Mr. Butters.

Improper Time And Place To Discuss Standing Committee Report

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, a point of order. I suggest that we have lost track of the purpose which we are here for this afternoon. In my recollection, while the standing committee on finance report was made to the committee, we discuss it, usually, as the last debate, almost, of the session. We are here to discuss the budget, but for the last hour we have been discussing the report of the standing committee on finance.

There are many questions and matters, anomalies, which I would like to raise in that report, but I think the time to raise them is after we have gone through the budget detail. Many Members in this House have not had the opportunity -- as the Executive Committee has, as the standing committee on finance has -- to

have examined this budget. They are sitting here listening to a debate which is probably going over their heads. I suggest we get into the budget and, when we have completed the departments, we come back to the standing committee's report and we can determine whether or not the positions and recommendations made by the chairman and her committee are reasonable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Butters. We are open for general comments right now, and the standing committee on finance brought in a report to the Assembly which deals with the budget directly. If it is the wish of the committee that we put it aside, fine, but I am just going by rules. What is the wish of the committee? Do we deal with the general comments of the report and the budget, or deal with the budget? Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Members will remember the last recommendation of the finance committee was that this report be dealt with at the end of the budget review. Mr. Butters is quite right. We realize that our recommendations have not been in the hands of the Members for very long, and I think that is good advice. I would like to get into the budget, myself.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mrs. Sorensen, why then was the report brought forth at this time, if you want to deal with it at the end of the budget? It was brought into the House. It is up to the committee now, whether they want to deal with it or deal with the budget, so what is the wish of the committee?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Butters, point of order.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the procedure has always been that the chairman of the standing committee's report comes in with the budget -- or as close as possible to the time the budget is introduced. The recommendations that pertain to the different departments are examined and moved at the time that department's estimates are discussed, and any of the general recommendations that are made are looked at at the end of the budget discussion. That has been the practice in the past that I recollect, and we are now getting out of step with that practice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is it the committee's wish, then, to deal with the budget and stay by the orders of the day? Mr. Sibbeston.

Members Should Be Free To Comment On Finance Report

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is realistic or fair to suggest that a finance committee make its report and then expect us to simply wait until after the whole budget is dealt with to react to some of the things they have said. I think now is the appropriate time. I would, if possible, like to just say a few more words on the finance committee's report and some of the comments that were made by Messrs. McCallum and Butters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I am told that Mr. Butters' statements were correct, so it is up to the committee now. I am here as chairman. If it is the wish of the committee -- if somebody wants to move a motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I certainly have no difficulty with listening to what Mr. Sibbeston has to say, because I think that his comments can be related right back to Mr. Butters' comments quite easily. Mr. Butters talked about priorities. He talked about responding to the direction of this Legislature and the standing committee. I think that the Members have the right to continue with general statements, and make comments about our report.

I just said I would not move our recommendations yet, because we would like Members to be aware of our recommendations, and then, as they review each department, to be aware of the recommendations that will come at the end. So I have no difficulty in listening to what Mr. Sibbeston has to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Well, I have to get consent from the committee to deal with either one or the other, or both. Is it the wish of the committee that we deal with the budget?

MRS. SORENSEN: General comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): General comments. Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed on general comments on the budget.

---Agreed

General comments. Mr. Sibbeston.

Possibility Of Making Changes To Budget

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering. I think it should be made clear to people that this budget is presented to us and it is obviously, therefore, for our consideration and our approval or so we think. The experience in the past has been that, inasmuch as Members have not liked the way some of the things are set out, or do not particularly approve of certain expenditures, or the way that the government are doing things, nothing has really changed. Members have not been able to really change any allotment of money, either increase it or decrease it.

I am just wondering. Can we have from some government official whether this proposed budget here is available for change, or is the government fairly set on insisting that it goes through as it is? I know Mr. McCallum indicated that the Executive was flexible, or appeared open to doing things according to the Assembly -- he talked of certain changes that were made -- and I am just wondering, is it possible, during this session, to make actual changes to that budget so that, in my case, for instance, maybe some moneys could be put for the Dene language.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the Member's question, it certainly has happened on previous occasions where the Executive Committee has, even during the budget debate, taken the advice and direction from the House and made modifications to the budget, and I should think, as we go through the budget on a department by department basis, there may well be occasions when it will be possible to accommodate the preferences of the House.

Past practice has indicated that when matters have been thoroughly discussed and explained, the numbers of changes suggested have not been large, but I would think that if the House can come up with areas in which the Dene language, for instance, could be highlighted and treated in a fashion more to the Members' liking, then there is every likelihood that those kinds of changes could be accommodated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Any further comments? Mr. Commissioner.

Government Engaged In Delivering Services That People Want And Demand

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Again, I should not be debating with the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, but she was not present when the reviews were conducted 18 months ago and I can assure her the Executive Members did not simply take the advice of their officials. They value the advice of their officials but they examined the programs themselves on the basis of the usefulness of those programs.

Now, I think some of us here could probably write a book on audits and efficiency. A few years ago management auditors were called efficiency experts and they served some valuable functions, but in a government the size of ours, which is relatively small, where we have Executive Members very close to their operations and their deputies similarly able to manage the full span of their responsibilities, we are in a very good position to know and understand -- and helped by the advice of this Legislature -- as to what programs are working and what are not. Basically this government is engaged in delivering services that the people of the Northwest Territories both want and demand.

I think if you recall the debates in the House here you will notice that there are more requests for additional services and expansion of services than there are for reduction of services. We stand by ready to reduce services in some areas if that is the desire of the Members, but we are still dealing in times of tremendous inflation and even with a 19 per cent increase in our budget, as Mr. Butters explained, that really provides practically no flexibility.

I would just like to underline one other thing that he said and that was this, that the program departments, the departments whereby the services are being delivered to the people of the Northwest Territories, increased 22 per cent. That means that the sort of administrative structure had to be pared down and held down and that is exactly what happened.

I think that if you examine the record you will find that you are doing yourselves a disservice if you say that your words have fallen on deaf ears. There are hundreds of examples of changes in the style and structure of the territorial government in recent years that have been made in response to the directions of this Legislature. Even in Mr. Sibbeston's own constituency you could point to the direction that was given to us to not extend to southern contractors additional contracts for highway maintenance and that highway maintenance is now being done by the people of Fort Simpson. We are right now engaged in negotiating contracts for the new highway from Liard to Simpson with the people of Liard and, furthermore, parts of it with the people of Simpson. Turn to the area of education. Look at the difference in the proportion and the pay and the level of pay to native teachers. There are far more native teachers than we ever had before and they are getting better training and they are getting better pay. Those are just a few examples and I think you do yourselves a disservice if you do not recognize those kinds of changes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Any further general comments? Is it the committee's wish then to proceed with the budget?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Renewable Resources

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Department of Renewable Resources. Mr. Nerysoo -- finally.

---Laughter

Mr. Nerysoo, do you wish to call in some witnesses?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed. Mr. Nerysoo, for the record could you introduce your witness, please?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. The witness is my deputy minister, Ted Bowyer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Ted Bowyer. We are on main estimates, 1982-83, page 12.01. General comments. Have you some opening remarks, Mr. Nerysoo?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Proceed.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, it is sort of a unique situation. I am the person on the firing line this year. I think that we have developed, in my opinion -- the department and people in the communities -- a closer working relationship over the past few years. We have had a situation where we have difficult times with the community, we have had difficult times with our relationship to the users, but I think that overall during the past two years and the past year we have developed a very close working relationship with a number of the regions. We have tried to develop, certainly, as close a working relationship as possible with the communities. We have made major changes with regard to structures in the regions, with regard to the recognition of the chiefs and band chiefs and the presidents of the hunters' and trappers' associations, as ex officio wildlife officers. At times it has been questionable as to whether or not they should be recognized as ex officio officers, but that has been accomplished.

There are still a number of problems that have to be dealt with -- I think the very nature of training to ensure that the chiefs and the presidents of the hunters' and trappers' associations can carry out the responsibility that has been given to them by this Assembly.

With regard to including the community and people of the community in departmental decisions, we are in a situation now where we recognize and have participated through negotiations and given approval by this Executive Committee to the agreement in principle that was negotiated by the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. The department, along with the Executive Committee is in the process of developing further options and further public boards in which people can participate directly in the management of wildlife. We know that there will be some difficulties, but I think those can be overcome.

Increasing Of Quotas

There are still a lot of questions as to whether or not the Members of the Assembly have had influence on increasing quotas of various species of animals. You know, there are always questions as to whether or not they should be increased, but I think that if we look at the numbers as compared to those in past, you will recognize that there have been major increases. I know there are difficult times when I have to refuse to allow for an increase in quotas, but that is the very nature of the responsibility that you have. I only hope and wish that I could always abide by the wishes of Members of this House, but I think that if you look at the amount of time we spent with the communities and the regional organizations and certainly with the help of, in the Keewatin region, Mr. Curley, Mr. William Noah -- the amount of time we spent with the Keewatin wildlife federation in trying to improve our working relationship with that region -- the improvement in the Baffin region between our regional officials and our staff in that region. We are working on the situation in the Central or Kitikmeot region, trying to improve that relationship. We hope to be further improving our relationship with the Dene Nation and the chiefs of the Mackenzie Valley.

If you notice, there has been a number of changes within the department. We have created a new section which will be responsible for environmental planning and assessment. The development of this section is due to the concern expressed in this House that we do not have a lot of expertise with regard to major project development. So, we have tried, as an Executive Committee and as a department, to respond as professionally as possible to the issues that are raised in this House and by people in the communities.

There are still a number of questions, I assume, that will come from the Members in this House. There are studies that have been carried out in the past. We will continue to carry out further studies. The actual details of that I can answer if Members of this House have questions. I can give you the details of those. The studies will include the issue on polar bear, the issue on caribou, just to name a few, but I think that once we go through the details you will realize that we have responded as well as we could under the circumstances.

Gyr Falcon Project

We have had some situations over the past year that have caused some public criticism, especially with regard to a project that we, as an Executive Committee and as a Minister, agreed to and that was with regard to the gyrfalcon project that occurred in the Central Arctic or Kitikmeot region. Although we have received that criticism, I think it has only been because we have wanted to work closely with the Inuit organizations and as much, it was through a negotiation process that we developed that experimental project. It may have been that the criticism with regard to the numbers that were suggested and negotiated -- may have been because of the research we have and the data base -- that improper -- but I think it was wrong and it is wrong for people to assume that a decision of this nature has been a bad decision. I think in our own opinion, and certainly in my opinion as the Minister responsible, because of our very nature and our relationship to the people of that region we had the responsibility to respond to their wishes and we did so.

The major criticism has originated from people in the South -- major wildlife federations, major conservation organizations -- but I think too often they forget there are other problems and other concerns that they ought to be addressing, rather than worrying about the political decisions that we make and we think that we have a right to make those political decisions.

Now, there are a number of issues that I think have to be recognized as well. We have created, again, with regard to the Western Arctic Inuvialuit Development Corporation particularly, a closer working relationship. We have, I think, developed a very sound management plan with regard to the decision, again, that the Executive Committee and myself as Minister made, to allow for the harvest of musk-ox on Banks Island. There are still some, I think, concerns as a department we might have, but I think those can be worked out between the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, COPE and the Inuvialuit game council. I think presently they have been pretty successful and we will continue to work very closely with the Inuvialuit.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mrs. Sorensen, you mentioned that you would have some specific points to recommend to each department as they come up. Have you anything to add to the Minister's opening comments?

Increase In Man Years

MRS. SORENSEN: I just have a very brief opening statement, Mr. Chairman. I would like to indicate to Members that there is an increase of nine man years within this department -- four man years because of the new Central Arctic Region and five man years in the environmental planning and assessment area. The growth from the revised 1981-82 estimates is 23.7 per cent in this department,

approximately \$1.5 million, and that growth is made up of salaries, wages and benefits, the Central Arctic region, the study that will be done on the gyrfalcon. Certainly inflation plays a large part, some 14 per cent inflation, finally the environmental planning and assessment division, which is approximately \$350,000.

I wish to say that this was the only department which provided the standing committee, in advance, with documents that carried a complete identification of accountability by the Assembly's priority area in those papers. We would like to say that we appreciated the Minister's recognition of the priorities and his recognition by the reflection of them in the preamble that he gave us when we reviewed the department. If you eliminate some of the things that we have no control on, the real growth in this department is around 13 per cent, so it is a bit more than many of the departments, but not an awful lot. We have no recommendations to present to the Legislature on this department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. We will take a 10 minute break now for coffee and continue with the Renewable Resources.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The Chair recognizes a quorum. General comments on the Department of Renewable Resources, page 12.01. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I just wanted to ask Mr. Nerysoo a number of questions in respect to the native people working for his department. I am just wondering, can Mr. Nerysoo say, in the past year, whether there has been any significant number of native people being attracted to his department either as just beginner employees or whether there are native people that are climbing up that ladder, as it were, in the management sphere? It seems to me that of all the areas of government where the native people have an interest or knowledge, it is to do with the wildlife that exists in the North here; native people obviously have a special interest in this area. I am aware that ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, has come to an agreement with the federal government in respect of wildlife management. So the question is, is the department doing anything important or significant in terms of attracting native people to the department as just first time employees or upwards? Are native people climbing upwards in the department with the view that native people will eventually take over the department?

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

Participation Of Native People In Wildlife Management

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, I could answer the question in two parts. Firstly, with regard to the comment on the agreement in principle reached by ITC, it is our intention and certainly my intention to try to develop some public mechanism, public structure, by which we could ensure participation of the Dene and the Inuvialuit and the public in general to participate in the management aspect of the department. I do not say that there will be a solution in the very near future but certainly the direction of the department is to try to come to an agreement of some sort and certainly to try to work out a public structure.

With regard to native people entering our employ, as you already know, Mr. Peter Ernerk is the regional superintendent in the Keewatin region. We are in the process of training an individual in Inuvik to take over the responsibility as regional superintendent in that region. We took on during the past year, I believe, five graduates of the renewable resource training program into our service and that basically is the information I could give you at the moment. Most of the assistant wildlife officers in our employ are all native people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I would like maybe some more information on whether there is any special program or any special attempt by the government to have native people move upwards, I guess, in the echelons of the department, obviously with the idea that eventually native people will either take it over as part of an organization or simply as part of the whole government structure. Is this government interested in or doing anything special about native people becoming involved in the department as wildlife officers or in management positions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Nerysoo, did you get the question?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I think that if there is an individual that wishes to get involved in the department, certainly it is our intention to make every effort to bring him into the department if possible. If it is a situation where we can train an individual to become a manager, I think that there is no hesitation at all on the part of the department or departmental people to help that individual and, in fact, I would personally encourage that if people were interested.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Does that answer your question, Mr. Sibbeston? I think you asked a direct question. I do not think you got an answer. I think what your question was "How many?" Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. BOWYER: Mr. Chairman...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Bowyer, will you answer that?

MR. BOWYER: Yes, Mr. Fraser, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Address the Chair.

MR BOWYER: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. In response to Mr. Sibbeston's question, I can provide him with the actual numbers in terms of increase of native staff in our department and I can have those for him tomorrow. I could give him a breakdown of the native staff we have in total on staff but I cannot give you an exact figure on what percentage increase that represents at this point, but I can have that figure for you if you like.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Could you have that information before we are finished with the Department of Renewable Resources?

MR. BOWYER: Yes, sir, we can.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Any further comments? Mr. Arlooktoo.

Training Of Native Wildlife Officers

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister concerning the count they have on wildlife officers who are not trained. I am wondering if you will be hiring some more native people. For example, there are some native people training as officers and others are non-native. Are you going to be looking into that matter in the communities? If you want to approach this, is this going to continue? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I was not quite clear on the question. What I caught was that with regard to increasing the amount of native staff members -- it certainly is not my intention to decrease the number. I would hope that, in fact, they could increase. There is always a problem -- I assume that the dollars in the budget just do not allow for as many people as I want to recruit.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Yes, I understood the answer but, however, over in Cape Dorset there is a very large population and also in the area of Cape Dorset there are hunters going out. So I think it would be a lot better if there were two officers in that area. There is a very large amount of hunting in that area and other Baffin communities. It would be really better -- for example, there are two officers stationed in Pangnirtung and Dorset. Cape Dorset has been requesting a native officer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, if you might allow me to look into the question and the problem that has been brought to my attention by the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Is that agreed, Mr. Arlooktoo, if he brings you back a reply?

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Yes, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say, first of all, Mr. Curley made a motion in the 1980 session concerning rifles. He made a motion that they would not appear to be used here so I am saying that we never had a response, whether those rifles would be on sale or if it is possible for those rifles to be on sale. We have never heard any more response since then about the flare guns. If flare guns can be used for the hunters when hunters are lost, they are very useful in emergency cases. I would like to hear some more comments. What has been done about this matter?

Funding For Research On Musk-Ox

Secondly, page 12.01, while we are still in that area. Those harvests are being counted in our area. However, when we request for a data base research to be done on the caribou, they reply that they do not have enough available funding so I am asking why -- if there is more funding available for a survey done on musk-ox. The musk-ox are increasing in some areas. For example, on Banks Island and somewhere in the West, the population of the musk-ox is increasing so when will the study be done on musk-ox? In the area of Keewatin or even the Baffin region, I am wondering if there will be some action taken on that.

I have noticed that there was a motion passed that they would have musk-ox in the country food stores; that was the motion made. So I am concerned about musk-ox. When they are alive they should not be hunted by helicopters or aircraft and we should transfer some musk-ox to other areas. I would not want to buy any musk-ox. I think it would be better to transfer some from areas to other areas. I will have some more comments to make further. I will stop here for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Noah. I think you have about three or four questions there. I just wondered if the Minister picked up the questions and could answer them. I think there was the gun law, the musk-ox survey, plus this sale of musk-ox meat. Did you get all of those questions, Mr. Nerysoo?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I think so. The translation is not clear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): If we could maybe keep to one question and let him answer it. Otherwise he forgets.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: That is for sure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Carry on.

Changes In Types Of Guns

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, with regard to changes to various guns being used, we did make a change, an amendment, to allow for the inclusion of a number of guns. Maybe I could ask the departmental officials to provide that information, so you will know what the types of guns are.

With regard to flare guns, the Executive through the regional operations and emergency measures group in the Executive, have been developing a policy on search and rescue, and that really the whole issue of search and rescue is under the jurisdiction of the emergency measures manager, which is the regional operations director.

With regard to the issue on transfer of musk-ox, certainly, again, we could look at it, but that is a joint responsibility with the Department of Economic Development as to whether or not we can or cannot transfer those musk-ox. I certainly think

the efforts of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation to market musk-ox and to develop a proper way of marketing, should be recognized, and I think that possibly to have someone speak on that issue from the Inuvialuit Development Corporation might be an easier way of getting further information from them as to what their intentions are.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. I think there was one question in there on the sale of musk-ox meat. Mr. Noah, I wonder if you could just rephrase that question and ask about the sale of musk-ox meat. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation) My question was this. When we met in September, I think, somebody moved a motion that the musk-ox meat should be sold. That is not my problem, but my question was about transferring musk-ox alive from one area to another. For example, on Banks Island there is an increase in musk-ox, so they could transfer musk-ox alive from Banks Island to areas in the Keewatin or Baffin, because if they get too many on Banks Island they might not have enough food to graze on. That was my last question. I will have a further comment later on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Noah. Did you get the question, Mr. Nerysoo?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I will ask the deputy minister to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Yes, Mr. Bowyer.

Transferring Live Musk-Ox

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Noah's question, the department is aware, of course, that there is a surplus of musk-ox on Banks Island, and we have been looking at ways of trying to utilize that surplus and spread it around the North. We have done that with the Inuvialuit game council.

There are two or three things involved with what Mr. Noah is suggesting. The first is that we should make certain that the area that you are going to transport musk-ox to is capable of keeping them alive, that there is enough food available. The second thing we have to do is to ensure that the people of the area are happy with that kind of a transfer. Now, on Banks Island, for example, the people of Sachs Harbour believe that the musk-ox compete for the caribou range, so there may be some nervousness about that. Thirdly, transferring live musk-ox is an extremely expensive proposition, and it is a long-term solution to a problem. You know, if you transfer 20 musk-ox, before you have a harvestable herd of animals in an area it may take 10 or 15 years, so it is a very expensive, long-range kind of program. The markets for the meat that he referred to earlier, that was harvested on Banks Island -- the Inuvialuit game council were marketing that, and they had difficulty getting people to accept it. I think the suggestion is a good one. It becomes a matter of priorities and how much the government is prepared to spend on that kind of a transfer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. I do not know if that -- Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any further questions at the present time, but I have a few comments concerning the caribou and the musk-ox. I understand you clearly that we have to do a long-term plan before we start transferring musk-ox to other areas, but I want you to understand, Mr. Bowyer and Mr. Chairman, that when the big game grow old, they die of old age. I am just saying that I am concerned that if they increase too much in one community, they might not have any more food, and they cannot just die of old age. That is my concern. I do not think that people in the community would be too disturbed about getting musk-ox transferred from one area to another, as long as they are not hurt.

Tagged Caribou Have Disappeared

My second comment is that the biologists who study and count caribou have been coming to our communities for a long time. Many times they have been criticized by the people in the communities. I think if they were given -- if they put a stop to biologists coming in, it would be better. They have been coming into our communities since 1940 and the 50s, and tagging the caribou's ears, but the caribou who get tagged in the ear -- the people in the community have never heard where the caribou went that were tagged, and a lot of people have said that the caribou that were tagged are nowhere to be seen in the Northwest Territories. I wonder where they have gone. Have they died? Where have they disappeared to? Maybe 15,000 or 16,000 were the numbers of caribou tagged. You should know, because you are Renewable Resources. I would like to know what happened to the caribou that were tagged, because people have not seen them.

The biologists who do surveys on caribou have always asked the communities if they would not mind if they did a survey by putting dyes on the caribou. The people are not agreeable to this sort of surveying, but we understand that the dye, or the colour, is not harmful to the caribou, but they disturb the caribou, and by trying to get away, their meat starts to taste different.

Communities Do Not Receive Information On Surveys

We are always told when the biologists go to our communities to survey caribou, but we do not hear about them. They do not give the people of the community any information in writing on the surveys that they have done. That is the comment that I wanted to make right now, but I will have further comments later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Noah. I think the question is what happens to the reports on the surveys. Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Bowyer.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I am not sure about what happened to the situation in 1940 and 1950, but I do know that the reports that we have done by our officials are public and are made available to the hunters' and trappers' associations upon completion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Are you satisfied, Mr. Noah, that you could get those reports?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Yes, that is fine, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Comments of a general nature. We are dealing with page 12.01, Renewable Resources, main estimates. Ms Cournoyea.

Problems With Price Of Musk-Ox Meat

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, just to comment on some statements that were brought forward and not answered by the Minister of Renewable Resources.

In terms of the musk-ox transportation to eastern and Keewatin areas, what was found is that by the time that the development corporation's and the Banks Islanders' harvest was done, and because we had to abide by regulations we were not allowed to waste any part of the musk-ox but had to transport it out, as a result, the cost of that meat -- by the time it is delivered to Keewatin -- would probably be much more than beef or any other kind of meat bought from a store. So it was a recommendation that a transportation subsidy should be looked into to deliver the meat to other northern communities at a rate that would be more allowable to the kind of money that people had to spend on their food.

Relocation Of Musk-Ox And Reindeer

As for negotiations with the area of Keewatin and Baffin, it was felt that they would prefer to have the animals relocated on the hoof. Certainly, in terms of the Banks Island people, they are quite happy to allow animals to be taken to other parts of the Northwest Territories in that manner, and be relocated and restocked in areas that they have been before, so we felt that there was no real problem, because these animals have existed in those areas before. In regard to caribou, the reindeer herder was over to Keewatin at one of the wildlife meetings, and he had offered and said that he would consent to work with the people there, to have reindeer relocated in that area where there was difficulty with caribou populations.

Again, the problem is that there is planning required. However, perhaps the kind of question that should be put to the Minister of Renewable Resources is what has been done with those overtures? What kinds of action have been taken in terms -- let us deal with the reindeer. Has his department looked into how long it would take to, perhaps, herd a fairly healthy number of animals from Tuk through Central Arctic to the Keewatin area? What has been done in terms of laying out a plan? Certainly the desire of the present owner of the reindeer herd is very supportive in accommodating that. He is excited about being involved with that kind of operation. It was done from Alaska to our area before and we feel that it is quite possible to move a fairly significant herd -- taking about 500 to 1000 from the 5000 to 10,000 animals in the herd.

Perhaps you could answer the question on what your department has done in terms of planning a possible movement of that reindeer herd, in co-operation with the herder. In terms of the musk-ox, have you made any studies on how a subsidy on transportation could be made available if the meat was able to be transported in cut form rather than on hoof?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Might I answer the transportation subsidy question first? That issue I have already discussed and brought to the attention of the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. We will hopefully, after further discussions with the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, develop some kind of method in which we can provide a subsidy upon presentation to the Executive Committee. The issue on the reindeer herd I am not particularly up-to-date on nor am I aware of it so maybe I will ask the deputy minister to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am afraid that at the moment I, too, am at a loss with regard to the transfer of reindeer. I will have to check with my officials and provide an answer before we are through with Renewable Resources if I may. I was not aware of this initiative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

Request For Information Re Action On Motion

MS COURNOYEA: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, another question that could be answered. There was a motion, indeed, from this Assembly to allow the musk-ox meat to be sold at a more reasonable rate to allow wastage, certain parts of the animal to be wasted. Perhaps the Minister can advise us what action his department has taken to see the change in this regulation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: The departmental officials could give more detail on it but I do believe that presently there are discussions taking place between officials in the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, the IDC and the chief of wildlife, Mr. Monaghan, as to how we may resolve that problem, and we have taken the initiative to try to respond. We would like to look at possible options and certainly, if possible, to discuss the issue. In fact, I was going to give the Member an option of having a discussion with her to come up with a solution that might be more appropriate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the Minister more appropriate than what?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I think that it would be more appropriate than having a situation where you could be given a transportation subsidy, that there are ways in which you might be able to utilize the meat. There are possibly regulations in place already which would allow, when necessary, the chief of wildlife service to give you permission to have or to allow for wasted meat, or meat wastage, I should say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: I believe that the motion that was put through this Legislature and the recommendation attached and the argument was exactly for that. I am wondering if the Minister of Renewable Resources could suggest how long this study into possible action is going to take.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe that it will take longer than this session. I think that possibly the solution could even take place after the discussions are concluded with the Inuvialuit Development Corporation this week or after discussions with you as soon as possible. So if the Member is available, certainly I would like to have her and the chief of wildlife service sit down and talk on the issues that have been brought to the attention of the members of the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement and the Inuvialuit Development Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister of Renewable Resources could possibly indicate to the Legislative Assembly Members just how far behind he feels his department is in conducting the kind of studies that would accommodate many of the issues that are raised here. This would include matters such as caribou transfers, reindeer transfers and the ability to make decisions based on fact population. How far behind is the department and what has he been doing in terms of -- if he feels that they are behind, what action has he taken to generate the kind of resources necessary to take care of this fact finding that is required from his department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo.

Up-To-Date Information From Department

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, that is very difficult to say because I think that there are a lot of studies and a lot of work that has already been done. In fact, I would be prepared to look at all the motions and the kind of work that has been suggested and to provide the information up-to-date as to the things that have and have not been done. We have a list from the Executive Committee that shows the things that we had to respond to and the things that we have not responded to and would be prepared to provide that information to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Comments of a general nature? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Something, Mr. Minister, that you said rather concerns me. It is of a general nature. In your earlier statement you mentioned that your department is trying very hard to respond to the wishes of people in the Northwest Territories and in a democratic system of government that is entirely appropriate and I hope that you continue to do that. But there is no doubt at all that as a Minister you have an additional responsibility in your department for arranging for the wisest possible use of renewable resources because, of course, renewable resources, if they are not managed wisely, can become non-renewable resources, unfortunately. The aim of trying to manage them wisely is so that in the future you can go on and on responding reasonably to the wishes of people in the field.

Purely Political Decisions May Not Be In Best Interests

You did not mention that second aspect of your responsibility and, in fact, you said something that made me think that perhaps you are not paying the attention to it that it deserves. That is that you mentioned you would not accept the criticism or suggestions of, I think you put it, "people in the South" about our right to make political decisions. Now, I say certainly we have the right to make political decisions in the area of renewable resources, but if they are purely political decisions, they may not be the right decisions. They may not be the decisions that are in the best interests of long-range use of resources and so sometimes when groups in the South -- and I hope you will be more specific in your response to me -- but I am assuming that you refer to groups like the Canadian Wildlife Federation. While sometimes we may not like what they have to say, that is not the real issue. The real issue is, does what they have to say have any validity or not and if it does, then we ought to pay attention to it, and if we are not persuaded entirely by what they have to say, we still, nevertheless, have to take account of the fact that groups such as that do have their lobby groups and they do have impact.

Witness what happened in the case of sealing. In other words, if we attempt to ignore completely what others say about what we are doing, because we insist on our right to control whatever it is we are doing, we may find that these other groups are able to do things which limit our control in the future and, of course, that is not desirable. We do not want that to happen. So to ensure that it does not happen, we have got to be very responsible in our exercise of control over the resources that we have.

So just generally could I say then, what groups or group were you referring to when you insist that they ought not to have anything to say about what we are doing? More specifically I tend to feel that scientific bodies and the bodies such as the Canadian Wildlife Federation -- which incidentally is not committed just to conservation, because to my knowledge the people who belong to it are people who want to use that resource but want to ensure that the usage goes on and on, so it is not purely a conservationist organization at all -- so the scientific area and that type of organization I feel ought to have a bearing on what decisions we make here. We ought to have a regular process of ensuring that whatever they have to say is at least heard and discussed and evaluated. So another part of my question is, does your department make a conscious effort to ensure that these kinds of concerns are brought to bear?

Well, just finally I would say that in responding -- you know, we are supposed to respond to the wishes of communities or the concerns of communities -- but I would say that that responding means attending to those concerns without delay and trying to provide the best possible answer, but that best possible answer may or may not mean doing exactly what those people wanted. It may not be just -- responding does not just mean acceding to wishes. So who are the organizations and is there a conscious effort to take account of the concerns that they express?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. With response to the issues that were raised, I think that prior to the decision made for that one experimental project we had a very thorough discussion on the conditions of the capture. It was not a situation where we did not recognize the concerns that might be expressed in the scientific area. We recognized there would be and had to be some comments made, but many of the suggestions have been that we did not recognize those concerns. That was not the case. My departmental officials came to those meetings and the Executive Committee -- a number of the Members did, including myself, express a major concern about the numbers originally asked for. You look at the numbers that were allocated, up to 50 -- not necessarily saying that 50 would be taken, but up to 50. The original request was for some 400 birds. Now, if we were not responsible we would have given, probably, the 400 birds, but that was not the reality.

We know that it has caused some major concerns because there have not only been organizations alone that have responded to the project, but individuals as well, both private and those that have been involved as politicians in the various legislatures across Canada. So, it is not as if it has been only one or two or three organizations. We have had to respond to numerous requests and to numerous individuals and groups. So, we have had an effect with regard to that, but we have responded to as many -- and in fact, I will say all requests that have come over my desk and that have been through the department.

With regard to the actual decision, it is noted that gyrfalcons have been taken off the international endangered species. We know that we do have a surplus of birds in the North. The actual number, you are right, we are not quite clear on that, but if we do do a survey and the request for 400 is quite proper, then obviously we were looking at a conservative decision, but if we do not have a situation where we could allow for 50, then it was a very liberal kind of decision without that data base being provided. It is not my intention to make major decisions in future with that kind of information not being in my hands. I think that we made the decision through negotiations and I think that we have had to handle -- though it was not our intention -- had to handle the public response to that decision.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Input From Various Groups Needed For Management Policies

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Minister took my comments particularly in the context of the question of harvesting gyrfalcons and I did not mean it just in that specific area. When we get to the wildlife section I will have a question or two about that area specifically, but I was just talking generally about what I see as a need to be concerned about what scientific groups and other kinds of organizations say. You indicate that you will not take decisions without having that kind of input. I would commend that and hope that there is as part of your departmental policy always a determination to survey and even solicit the opinions of these various groups in trying to arrive at wise management policies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I agree that various organizations and individuals serve and give knowledge when they provide some criticism, but I think some of the major criticism that has been directed, especially to the native people and their inability to be part and to play a major role to recognize the problems with regard to the management of wildlife, made by major organizations throughout Canada is not valid and in my opinion is not called for,

because the one thing that I have learned over the past year has been that major organizations and people in the North, native people in particular, recognize that there is a need for them to resolve some of the major problems and to try to come to grips with some of the major problems that do exist. So I am particularly concerned about those kind of comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that from time to time in certain of the organizations there is some political content in what is said, but I think that you can in the first instance separate political content from factual content and if there is factual content and it can be seen to be fact, then it ought to be taken account of, regardless of whatever else might have been said. Then, with respect to the other kinds of statements that are sometimes made, either they are legitimate or not, and if they are not they can certainly be demonstrated to be, you know, without basis, by providing facts which demonstrate them to be without any basis at all.

I got a note here from someone saying that the only wildlife in my constituency is in the bars of Yellowknife. I guess that may be true in a sense. I suppose the implication is why do I ask questions about wildlife, but all along I have felt that too often in this Assembly there is not an opposing view in that area and I think it is important. Certainly, the animals do not get the opportunity to elect representatives and to speak for themselves...

---Laughter

...and so, I think that it certainly does no harm to have questions put on their behalf, if you like.

Assessment Of Impact Of ITC Agreement In Principle

There is one other area of concern, Mr. Minister, and that is, you did mention the agreement in principle signed with the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. Could I ask for this government's assessment of the agreement? First of all, is the government and yourself, as a Minister, entirely satisfied with the terms of that agreement in principle? Secondly, could I ask whether you have done an assessment of the impact of that agreement, specifically on government jurisdiction in the Northwest Territories on the impact on non-native residents with respect to harvesting non-renewable resources? Thirdly, with respect to existing tourist facilities where people have made investments in tourist facilities, have you done an assessment? If not, is the department planning an assessment and could that be made available to us -- some analysis on the impact?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Do you have a response, Mr. Nerysoo?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: With regard to the actual agreement in principle, the honourable Member should realize that the government did have an individual participating in the negotiations. There are a number of issues that have been raised with regard to definitions and major typographical errors and clause changes, but nothing very dramatic. We have basically, as an Executive Committee, said that we agree in principle, subject to the changes that we have recommended and that we, in fact, by doing so recognize the efforts of the negotiator that was part of the negotiations.

Now, we have done an analysis. As to whether or not I can table that, maybe if you would allow me to review that and to ensure that all the information is available and then to give it to you or to the Assembly here for further review. We have other reports as well as to management boards in general in the Northwest Territories and we have not made a major decision on that. The Executive has set a direction but the actual details of what we are going to be doing and the action plan we have not laid out yet. We have made suggestions on that, but as soon as that is available I could get approval from the full Executive Committee to allow you to see that as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Any further comments? Is it the committee's wish that we go to directorate on page 12.02 in the amount of \$383,000?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

---Agreed

Mr. Sibbeston.

Total 0 And M, Directorate

MR. SIBBESTON: Under this section I just want to ask the Minister if he has done anything in respect of a request made by the people of, actually, Fort Liard and Wrigley last fall about the possible closing of the highways during the fall time except to general hunting licence holders. If I can just explain, at a Dene Nation regional meeting in Wrigley this past fall, a motion was passed by the delegates there from the whole area that the Department of Renewable Resources be asked to shut down all of the highways in the Fort Simpson area to hunters in the fall because people are finding that there is an extremely large number of hunters coming into the area and shooting a lot of the moose that otherwise belong to the people in the area. In the case of Fort Liard, the band -- in fact, Mr. Nerysoo was at a meeting when he was requested to do something about shutting down the Liard highway completely to hunters year-round or the highway and four miles on each side of the highway to hunters, to all hunters. Since this time I have made a representation to the department about these matters, whether this could be, in fact, done under the existing legislation and regulations or whether it is possible to do these things without changing any regulations or the legislation. I want to know if anything has been done and if not, why, and if we may be able to expect something in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the issue on hunting by road or on roads, we have, I think as a department, developed a number of options which we could look at to ensure or to protect the interest of the Dene, especially in the Fort Liard region, and the Simpson region as well up to Wrigley. If the time is available to discuss those options with you, we can see if there can be some agreement as to how we can come to a conclusion on the discussion of that issue, but we have, from our experience, developed a number of options that we could look at.

Total 0 And M, Directorate, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Any further comments on the directorate, total 0 and M, \$383,000?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Agreed.

---Agreed

Total 0 And M, Wildlife Service

Page 12.03, total 0 and M, \$6,741,000, wildlife service. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Thank you very much. Wildlife officers come from the South up to the North to work but it seems like they do not really want to live in the North and some of the communities do not have wildlife officers. It seems like the wildlife officers from the South do not want to live in the North, maybe

because of the cold weather. I would like to ask the Minister if he can tell the MLAs -- I would like to see Inuit or native people taught about becoming a wildlife officer because they know more about wildlife and they have been in the North for a long time and even though it is very cold up here, they are used to being in the cold and they know the routes of the wildlife and they know more about the wildlife in the North. I would like to see more native people becoming wildlife officers. I know that there are a lot of people that are unemployed that have had education and I have seen a lot of students coming from Yellowknife or Frobisher that are over 20 years of age and that are not employed yet. I would like to ask if it is possible for the native people to be taught to become a wildlife officer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Noah. Mr. Nerysoo.

Training Programs For Native Wildlife Officers

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I think the answer is yes. The one thing that I guess we should recognize is that we are already in the process of trying to develop and further the program in Fort Smith. I do not say that that is the complete answer but it is succeeding in a number of areas. We are running various programs through the Department of Education in Frobisher Bay to begin initial orientation to people in the community that wish to become wildlife officers and apply for that training. There is a little bit of work to do but we are attempting to try and bring to the service more and more native people as we can.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Any further questions on O and M, page 12.03, in the amount of \$6,741,000, wildlife service? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, in the second paragraph of the accountability of the wildlife service, it mentions that the wildlife service is making a concerted effort to meet the needs of northerners to properly plan for the protection and use of wildlife resources in the face of unprecedented exploration. This is intended to achieve a major objective of government to maintain the opportunity to northerners to continue to rely on renewable resources for their economic, health and social needs.

Financial Effect Of Forest Fires On Wildlife Resources

This past summer, Mr. Chairman, there was an awful lot of concern raised in the media and through various hunters' and trappers' associations and individual band councils and settlement councils south of the lake regarding the forest fire conditions in and around the Mackenzie area. Since forest fires obviously have an effect on the wildlife resources and therefore would also affect this major objective of government, I wonder what measures the Department of Renewable Resources are taking with respect to forest fire problems and, in particular, with respect to the problems experienced by the hunters and trappers when their trapping lines are burned out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: With regard to the situation of having hunters and trappers burned out, we are and did have a policy which we helped the hunters and trappers through financial assistance after they did an assessment and applied to the wildlife offices. I believe that the maximum amount of money allocated was \$3000. Now, in some cases that may have been a lot and in other cases that is not enough, but we did have that program and still are, in fact, running that program and we have had -- I am not quite aware of the total allocation but I think it is somewhere in the neighbourhood of about \$26,000. I think that is what it is. That is for the past year.

Now, with regard to what we are doing, you already know that we have hired a forest fire technician. As the actual responsibility, I will allow the deputy minister to respond but I have some very serious concerns about the actual negotiation and transfer of responsibility mainly in the area of financial responsibility or financial implications to this government and to anyone that wishes to take that responsibility over. Now, I do wish to take the actual responsibility over in the near future but I think we require internally a very good plan for takeover and to ensure the protection of our financial resources we have within this government -- or whoever takes that responsibility on, because you know as well as I do that there are times when there is a bad forest fire season and other times there is a good season where you do not have a lot of forest fires. In a bad season you could, in the case of the federal allocations, run up to 18 million dollars. In other cases you may run two million dollars. So, you know, there is really no protection if they say "Well, you take six million or nine million dollars and leave it at that," because if you have a bad season, you could have the responsibility of finding an additional nine or 10 million dollars. I think that if you are going to take the responsibility over, you ought to have that protection that you will be able to get that money, but under the present circumstances and certainly the negotiation processes that have gone on prior to this, that protection has not been there for various takeovers. So I think we have to recognize that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: In the discussions that I have had with some people who are very close to this situation and who are very emotional about this situation, it appears that there is great concern with respect to whether there is enough room now south of the lake for all the hunters and trappers who have traditionally hunted because of the burn areas. What is the analysis of your department in this area? Is there still room for the hunters and trappers of Fort Smith and Fort Resolution to stay in the business and make a living out of it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Bowyer.

Mapping Damage To Winter Range

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I could go back to your original question because it is related to your second one. We sit on a management committee with the federal government and members of the Dene Nation and Metis Association with regard to setting priorities, fires to be fought, and there is a wide range of disagreement about how those priorities should be set. We were able to get funding this past year for part of the year to fund a biologist to work specifically on this problem of damage to the winter range. We requested of the financial management board money to have this person become a full-time employee of our department. However, that request was refused but we were successful then in getting money for one more year, federal money voted to carry on with this work. It is involved with mapping the damage to the winter area, to the large burns south and east of Fort Smith. That work is still in progress. It is difficult as you get the perimeters of a burn but you do not know the details of how extensive the damage was inside and it takes considerable work, but we intend to use this person on the management committee. Hopefully he will be able to provide us with the advice as to whether or not the area can still support caribou, whether indeed it can support the livelihoods of hunters and trappers in that area. If it does not, then I guess we will have to consider other options like relocation to other areas for some of the trappers but our work is not complete yet so I cannot give you a definitive answer to your entire question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Mrs. Sorensen.

Priority Areas In Fighting Fires

MRS. SORENSEN: I have two questions arising from that. One is when do you expect that your work will be complete in this area? Number two, you have mentioned that there was a wide diversity on this management committee with respect to, I guess, the philosophy of firefighting. We have heard from the Dene Nation and from various community councils that they would like to see all fires actioned -- I believe that is the correct terminology. What is the advice that the department has with respect to whether all fires should be actioned, or whether priority areas, as is done now, are the way to go?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: I believe we will have some preliminary work finished, and we should have some answers available this spring with regard to the extent of damage. With regard to the priorities, the limitations on fighting all fires are imposed, really, by money given to the federal government by Treasury Board, and they say that a certain number of square miles -- I believe it was 195,000 square miles -- could be fought this year. They have prioritized the area by dealing, first, with populated areas, near communities, marketable stands of timber. The Dene Nation, on the other hand, and those of the Metis Association, feel that their interests do not necessarily lie in their areas. They would like to see all fires fought. In some seasons that may be possible; in other seasons there is simply not enough money, equipment or manpower around to fight all the fires.

To establish, then, priorities that satisfy everybody will take some juggling around. We believe there is some merit in protecting areas of the caribou range if our research shows that it can no longer stand any more damage. If, in fact, the fires have not been that severe, in that there are patches throughout the fire area where they can still get food, so that they could still survive in the winter range and the range could remain intact, then the priorities should remain the same. So it becomes a question of money, and a question of different priorities as set out. I do not know how we resolve that. Through this management committee and continued meetings, I guess.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mrs. Sorensen.

Two Viewpoints On Fires

MRS. SORENSEN: Just one last observation, and perhaps a question. I have heard people say that fire is a good thing, and that it is nature's way of renewing itself, and that is certainly an argument that I have heard the federal government use, or the officials use. I am not quite sure whether our Department of Renewable Resources is using that argument as well. The Dene Nation and the Metis Association say just the opposite -- at least I understand them to be saying -- that fire in the North is a disastrous thing, because of the kind of growth that we have up here, and the long time that it takes to regrow, and, of course, because of the migration of the caribou, etc. Is that still a dilemma within your department, or has your department faced that issue and come to a decision, Mr. Minister, on what position it is going to take with respect to actioning all fires or not?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Bowyer. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, there are two views here, sitting here alone, but, you know, the reality is that it does not make any difference that people say that forest fire could be good or it could be bad. That is the reality.

Biologically, I assume that it does help in certain situations. The problem, I think, that we have to recognize is the fact that a lot more people actually depend upon the resources, renewable resources, than we can protect, and that

is the problem. It is a vital economic reliance, I guess, that is the key here. I mean, you talk about science, and then you talk about economics at the same time, so it is very difficult to really get to the bottom of the issue and to try to come up with a solution. My own opinion would be that both sides of their argument could be correct, but no one seems to want to recognize what the good points are and the bad points are, and I think that that is the key.

The other point that I wanted to make before is that we have made a decision that we do not want the responsibility transferred at this moment; that is not saying that we do not want it ever to be transferred, but, because of the concerns that I have with regard to finance, with regard to the plans. Then I have some major concerns with regard to the very method with which people in the Department of Indian Affairs carry out their responsibility as well.

I have indicated that the discussions should continue to occur between the Dene Nation and the Metis Association and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. So we are not stalling the discussions that have occurred up to date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Wildlife service, in the amount of \$6,741,000. Mr. Sibbeston.

Inadequate Funds For Fort Simpson Area

MR. SIBBESTON: I want to ask the Minister whether he thinks, on the whole, his wildlife officers have too limited funds in order to do their work, because I have heard the complaint a number of times from wildlife officers in the Simpson office that really they do not have very much money to do their job. They have maybe three or four or five thousand dollars a year for travel and the Simpson area is a big area; there is a fair amount of activity within it; there are some big game outfitters in the area. I have heard them say that they just really are not able to enforce the regulations, particularly as regards throwing moose and other wildlife meat away that they actually should give to the people in the surrounding areas. Is that a concern? Is that a situation that is true and is it a situation that you simply cannot do anything about because of lack of funds?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Well, I can assure you that any time there is a requirement for increased money, I certainly am looking for it. The reality is that we have increased the number of areas, that totally we cannot increase to the dollar figures I would want in the department. I am only hoping that we can increase the dollars and in fact allocate the money so that people can do the work in each region properly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Sibbeston.

Wildlife Management Authority Delegated To Communities

MR. SIBBESTON: The little community of Fort Liard has always, that I can recall, held the view that they should actually control wildlife in their area. They have very strong feelings, for instance, about people hunting along the highway. They simply do not want anybody from outside the area coming into their area and hunting and shooting moose. I have heard them many times say that they actually would be interested in managing the wildlife in that area, which would essentially consist of patrolling the highways and keeping an eye on the hunters and the game.

I am just wondering, has your department anywhere in the North delegated authority over wildlife management to a community? This desire by Fort Liard, is that a reality or a realistic hope on their part? I notice, for instance, that there are some capital funds allocated for an office kind of garage in Fort Liard, and I am wondering if you would be open to simply delegating the authority of wildlife management to the band council or community council in Fort Liard, or are you pretty well set on doing it yourselves, in your own way, in your own good time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I think that the department would be prepared to sit down and work out some working relationship with the community if possible. As you know, there is allocated within the budget a man year for a wildlife officer, and we would be prepared, I assume, to work out some kind of working relationship with the community, if that were possible. Now, that is up to the community to decide on that one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Ms Cournoyea.

Funding For Radios For Outpost Camps

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of questions, the first one in regard to budget and budget allocation. If the department is having difficulty in securing funds to do the various tasks that they must do, particularly under wildlife service, could you explain to me why the division of wildlife service is allocating funds for outpost radios or asking for something in the order of \$76,000 for that within the wildlife service when perhaps that can be used in other areas, taking into consideration that Special ARDA funds very easily those kinds of requests for outpost camp radios?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Maybe I will have the Deputy Minister answer that one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just looking for my notes on that question. Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Chairman, is correct that Special ARDA has been the source of funding for radios for outpost camps. However, since the Special ARDA agreement expires at the end of March, we have no assurance that these funds will be available in the new year. Since we are obliged by our outpost camp policy to provide transceivers for the camps, we have budgeted for this purpose. If Special ARDA funds are available for this purpose in the new fiscal year, the funds budgeted for in the department will be made available for other purposes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, obviously the wildlife service must have known that they had a requirement for these radios some time ago because this budget was put together, I presume, some time ago. There is a Special ARDA meeting in February. Why was there not a submission put in previous to this and why was it left and have you got those submissions in for the next board meeting at all? Have you moved ahead on it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe we have applied for funds through Special ARDA but we are not sure we will get them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Any further comments? Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Is Mr. Bowyer saying that these submissions are presently before the ARDA board and if they come up then you would not need the money, these particular assignments that you have?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if they are before the board but if the purchase of radios for outpost camps is approved under Special ARDA, we will take the \$15,000 here -- the \$76,000. We would use that for other purposes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: I think the question was, have you got an application in presently so that it could be reviewed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Bowyer. Will you turn your mike just a bit? Thanks.

MR. BOWYER: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if those applications are in at this time but I could have an answer for Ms Cournoyea in the morning.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Ms Cournoyea.

Establishment Of Area Impact Development Zones

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister be able to tell me if in setting study areas to accommodate the face of unprecedented exploration, if the Department of Renewable Resources does set those areas and if they do, how do they go about it and what are those areas as they are numbered now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The areas of impact at the moment -- we have established area impact development zones and have prioritized them: the Beaufort Sea, being number one; the Mackenzie Mountains, number two; the path of the pipeline, the Mackenzie Valley pipeline being number three; and the areas of the Liard and Slave dams as being priorities four and five. Those are the major large projects or megaprojects which are facing this part of the Territories at the moment and that is where our efforts will be concentrated. Those priorities, of course, could change given delays in authorities or permissions to proceed with them or how serious or how quickly some of the others might develop. Essentially those are our priority areas.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I wonder in the Beaufort Sea area exactly what studies have been arranged for this coming year, what studies were in place last year and will be completed this year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been a lot of work done in the Beaufort area. We are trying to, at this point, accumulate all that work. It is scattered around through a variety of agencies. Once we have succeeded in examining that and pulling it together, we will then know what areas have a lack of information, where there are gaps in the information. Then we will be able to plan along with other environmental agencies an attack on those areas in order to get the information properly assembled so that we can produce the type of information Ms Cournoyea speaks of.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the question was, what studies has the Department of Renewable Resources got in place which may be carried over from last year ready for completion this year and what are you planning for this upcoming year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Bowyer.

MR. BOWYER: We have done some studies in the area, particularly with the Blue Nose caribou herd. However, as I suggested earlier, our plans depend on the results of our review of existing studies that have been done, and there have been a lot of studies done over the years in the Mackenzie Delta and along the Beaufort coast, and once we have assembled that information together, then we will plan an attack of how we can get together the missing information. So we have no specific plans although we are planning to do specific things.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Bowyer. The time being now 6:00 o'clock, is it the wish that we report progress? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-82(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1982-83; 13TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1-82(1) and the 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. A short note here before I ask the Clerk to read the orders of the day. It has come to my attention that Rule 13 is not being abided by all the Members. Rule 13 states: "When in the Assembly every Member shall be attired in a manner appropriate to the dignity of the Assembly."

By tradition and precedent this rule requires all male Members to wear a tie and jacket or native dress when in formal session. As Speaker I am charged with preserving the order and decorum of this House. I would therefore appreciate the co-operation of all Members in this regard. If any Member feels that this rule is unjust, they should take steps to have this rule amended or dropped entirely by one of several methods open to them. Examples: They could go by way of formal motion, they could take it to caucus or they could take it to the rules and procedures committee. I trust I will have the full co-operation of the House tomorrow. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There is a meeting of the special committee on the impact of division of the Territories at 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning in Katimavik A. On Friday there is a meeting of the standing committee on finance at 9:30 a.m., also in Katimavik A.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, 1:00 p.m., Thursday, February 4, 1982.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioner's Address
3. Oral Questions
4. Questions and Returns
5. Petitions
6. Tabling of Documents
7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Notices of Motion
9. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
10. Motions
11. Introduction of Bills for First Reading

12. Second Reading of Bills

13. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Bill 1-82(1)

14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., February 4, 1982.

---ADJOURNMENT

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