



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Pages 1 to 14

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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INUVIK, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1982

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Canon Buckle, the prayer, please.

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

CANON BUCKLE: Let us pray. Almighty God, from Whom cometh all wisdom and power, we, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in session assembled, humbly beseech Thy blessing on our deliberations to the end that inspired by Thy divine wisdom and setting aside all prejudices, private interests and partial affections we may work to the benefit, welfare and happiness of the people and to Thy glory. Amen.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner is ready to address the House, please?

ITEM NO. 2: COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to welcome you to the eighth session of the Ninth Assembly. I know that you join with me in expressing appreciation to the people of Inuvik for making us feel welcome, and to the school authorities for allowing us to share their facilities. I trust that the opportunity which this session will provide for the students and many people of the Delta to see their Legislature in action will be a valuable one. The last legislative session to be held in Inuvik was in October of 1973. At that time, it seemed to many people that Inuvik and the Mackenzie Delta were on the threshold of hydrocarbon development of a scale unprecedented in the North. The intervening nine years have brought periods of intense activity, separated by a time of slow down. Today this region is again in the midst of major oil and gas activities, with the Beaufort Sea developments assuming megaproject status.

Resource Development

With the present depressed state of the Canadian economy and the cancellation or postponement of key energy projects in other parts of Canada, Canadian eyes are shifting north again -- particularly to the Beaufort Sea and Norman Wells. Southern attention is focussing on the North's energy resources as one of the means of reaching energy self-sufficiency and, of late, to provide a partial solution to Canada's unemployment problems. Faced with this national perspective, it is crucial that this Assembly and the government take concerted action to ensure that the communities and people of the Northwest Territories are better able to meet the impacts of non-renewable resource development. To this end, the Executive Committee has approved impact funding for Norman Wells of \$554,000 for 1982-83 which, in conjunction with the hamlet, will be used to open up residential and industrial lots in the community. As well, funds have been allocated so that a new community plan can be prepared which will take account of the expected growth of Norman Wells over the next several years.

Tuktoyaktuk has some serious problems as a result of resource development activities in the Beaufort Sea. Some of these problems have already been addressed within our normal capital planning process. This year we are spending almost \$2.5 million on water and sanitation projects, and a further one million dollars will be budgeted next year to complete the work. In addition, the Executive Committee is considering proposals for impact funding for a number of capital projects to be carried out in Tuktoyaktuk this year and in 1983, totalling \$2.6 million. Included in these projects are the completion of the existing arena, and the construction of a new community hall, as well as major upgrading of the hamlet's roads. These projects are directly related to, and will greatly assist the community in realizing the objectives being articulated by the hamlet through a community development plan currently under way.

It is also imperative that the North receive meaningful and equitable benefits from resource developments which occur in the Territories. In order to meet this goal, and also to promote greater northern control over the initiatives and actions of resource developers, the Executive Committee has approved a new resource development policy. The Minister of Energy, the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, will be addressing you on this and other resource development matters during this session.

Constitutional Development

As all Members are well aware, the plebiscite on division of the Northwest Territories was conducted on April 14. I am certain that the people of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada will be viewing with close attention the deliberations of this House on the response to the plebiscite, and the further actions and directions which will flow from those discussions.

In respect to constitutional change at the national level, the long and historic process of patriation of Canada's constitution was completed on April 17 in Ottawa. The Hon. George Braden, Leader of the Elected Executive, and I were honoured to represent the people of the Northwest Territories at the ceremonies when Her Majesty the Queen of Canada signed the Constitution Proclamation. For the people of the North, the new constitution -- especially with its recognition of aboriginal rights -- holds out hope for the enhancement of aboriginal cultures, and for the increased participation of aboriginal peoples in the continuing process of Canadian confederation. The challenge now remains for this Assembly to press its case at the next constitutional conference for the further definition and enhancement of aboriginal rights, and for the amendment of the constitutional provisions affecting the territorial integrity and the future constitutional development of the Northwest Territories.

Native Language Education

Modification of our system of education in the North to make it more meaningful to all residents has been a high priority of this House. Since the tabling of the report of the special committee on education last session, the government has been analysing its recommendations. Among other matters, the report stresses the need for increased native language education, a requirement which your Ministers have recognized for some time, and one which has received increasing attention from the Department of Education over the past few years. In order to continue and accelerate this trend, I am pleased to announce that on the recommendation of the Hon. Dennis Patterson, Minister of Education, the Executive Committee has approved in principle an expanded program for Dene language development, amounting to one million dollars per year for the next three years. This will provide financial assistance to community, regional, and special interest groups wishing to become involved in the development and implementation of native language programs in the schools.

Also in relation to the Dene languages, Members will recall that the administration agreed at the last session of the Assembly to form a Dene interpreter unit and to develop plans for a Dene language information program. Progress has been made since that commitment was given. Eight Dene language interpreter-communicator positions have been created and classified, a permanent training officer has been hired and a recruitment program to fill the Dene positions has been launched. In addition, Department of Information officials have had initial meetings with officials of the Dene Nation and the Slavey Language Institute in Fort Providence and further discussions are proposed. Current plans call for the start of a five month training program in early September. The Dene interpreter-communicators will receive training in all aspects of interpreting, language upgrading and public affairs activities.

High Cost Of Living In The North

This Assembly has also repeatedly expressed deep concern about the high cost of living for residents of the North. The current lack of growth in the Canadian economy as a whole has rendered even more difficult the achieving of a full understanding in the rest of Canada of special problems and costs of maintaining homes and businesses in the Territories. Consequently, your Ministers are pleased that the report of the subcommittee on the Northern Canada Power Commission, which was chaired by Mr. Keith Penner and which included both NWT Members of Parliament, called attention to the high costs of power in the Northwest Territories relative to the rest of Canada. It is hoped that the federal government will react quickly and positively to the Penner committee's proposal for the refinancing of the electrical utility in the North and for increased territorial authority and control over the provision of power in the Territories.

There are a few communities in the NWT whose food and commodity costs are disproportionately high because of critically expensive transportation costs. While these are being assessed with a view to developing a support or equalization program, the Executive Committee is taking action to alleviate the extremely high costs in Pelly Bay, the most expensive community from a resupply standpoint. A subsidy in the form of one government funded Hercules aircraft charter per year will be provided for the shipment of essential goods and foodstuffs to the community.

On a more comprehensive scale, the Executive Committee has begun an intensive examination of government policy respecting purchase and contracting of goods and services from northern suppliers and contractors. In the current economic climate, it is more essential than ever for the government to seek means to maximize further for northern residents and businesses the benefits of government spending.

The Hon. Kane Tologanak, Minister of Government Services, and his deputy were favourably received when they met with Chambers of Commerce in Hay River and Fort Smith to hear views on the government's purchasing performance. In conjunction with the Department of Public Works, further positive changes will be made to contracting and purchasing policies and practices.

Meetings And Events

Since the last session, your Ministers have attended a number of important meetings throughout Canada to represent the interests of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Minister of Justice and Public Services concluded the new Police Services Agreement with the Solicitor General of Canada, the Hon. Robert Kaplan, in Ottawa in early April. The Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, the Hon. Tom Butters, attended meetings in Winnipeg and Edmonton with his provincial colleagues regarding the operations of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. In mid-March the Hon. Richard Nerysoo met in Ottawa with the Hon. Marc Lalonde and the Hon. John Munro on the subjects of northern energy strategy and resource revenue sharing, as well as other key issues. Last week the Hon. James Wah-Shee represented the government in a federal-provincial meeting in Regina on historical and cultural resources.

Significant meetings and events have also occurred within the Territories in the past two months, particularly in relation to the development of regional councils. As a result of deliberations at the Keewatin Mayors' Conference in Baker Lake in April, the mayors of the seven Keewatin hamlets are now proceeding toward the formation of a regional council. In the first week of May, the mayors of Kitikmeot region met and agreed on a constitution for a regional council. Last week, the Baffin Regional Council concluded its semi-annual meeting in Igloolik. It is encouraging to see that communities are working together to find consensus on important issues at the regional level.

The Arctic Winter Games held in March in Fairbanks, Alaska brought together fine athletes from Yukon, Northwest Territories and Alaska. Although the Alaskan team secured the highest number of points, our athletes performed well and gained valuable experience both there and in the extensive trials which preceded the games. We are grateful to the people of Alaska for the wonderful hospitality which was extended to all of us. The Hon. Arnold McCallum, the Hon. James Wah-Shee and myself represented the Northwest Territories in Fairbanks.

On March 18th, I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the new community hall and office complex in Fort Good Hope. During a trip through Baker Lake and southern Keewatin communities, April 20 to 23, the Commissioner's Award for outstanding public service was presented to Father Theophile Didier, a self-taught linguist, who served in the Keewatin for nearly 50 years and who pioneered the translation of the Bible into Inuktitut.

The Executive Committee visited the regional centre of Cambridge Bay on April 27 and 28, and following our meetings there, the Hon. Kane Tologanak and I were privileged to attend the Elders' Conference held in Pelly Bay by the Inuit Cultural Institute. It was a valuable opportunity to experience first-hand the seasoned insights of Inuit elders from across the North.

Passing Of Distinguished Northerners

At this time, I would ask the House to note with regret the passing of some distinguished northern elders. They include Kitty Roland of Aklavik, who passed away at the end of March at the grand age of 103; Joe Sangris of Detah, who served as a band chief for over 32 years; and Andrew Kunnuzzi of Fort McPherson, a well-known trapper and Anglican lay preacher who was a member of the historic Dawson Patrol. Our condolences are extended to the families of these northerners.

During this session, a legislative program of six bills will be introduced for your consideration. These comprise the final 1981-82 Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, the Financial Administration Ordinance, the Student Financial Assistance Ordinance, and amendments to the Education Ordinance, the Forest Protection Ordinance, and the Labour Standards Ordinance. The Executive Committee considers these bills to be necessary for the efficient conduct of government business. I recommend the passage of each of these ordinances.

As you commence your deliberations, it may be well to reflect on the progress that has been made over the term of this Assembly. The workload and scope of the programs of legislation enacted by this House compare favourably with those of previous Assemblies. This Assembly has had to face budgetary restraints which are expected to continue for several years; yet it has been able to chart innovative and comprehensive policy and spending priorities which have made good sense for the present conditions in the North. Ministerial government has continued its steady development. The rest of Canada has become more aware of the special and imaginative contributions that northerners can make to the process of constitutional evolution.

On the economic front, mining exploration has recently declined, but there are now four new mines in the Northwest Territories, and they are providing employment and business opportunities for northerners in accordance with socio-economic agreements negotiated between your government and the resource industry. Overall, through the directions of this Assembly, northerners and their government are taking increased control of their own affairs.

With these thoughts, I now commend to you for your earnest consideration and wise judgment the business of this House as I declare open this eighth session of the Ninth Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Please be seated. Turning to the orders of the day for Wednesday, May the 12th.

Item 3, notice of motion for first reading of bills.

ITEM NO. 3: NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 2-82(2): Financial Administration Ordinance

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May the 14th, 1982, I shall move that Bill 2-82(2), An Ordinance to Provide for the Financial Administration of the Government of the Northwest Territories, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice of motion for first reading of bills.
Mr. Patterson.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 3-82(2): Education Ordinance

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 14, 1982, I shall move that Bill 3-82(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Education Ordinance, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice of motion for first reading of bills.
Mr. McCallum.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 4-82(2): Forest Protection Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 14th, 1982, I shall move that Bill 4-82(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Forest Protection Ordinance, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 5-82(2): Labour Standards Ordinance

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 14th, 1982, I shall move that Bill 5-82(2), An Ordinance to Amend the Labour Standards Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further notices of motion for first reading of bills?

Item No. 4, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 4: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a Tabled Document 1-82(2), a paper concerning Bill C-61, a federal act, the Young Offenders Act, and its implications for the Northwest Territories. The document is now in the process of being translated into Inuktitut, and Members will have those copies either later today or later in the week.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. If there are no further documents for tabling today, then we shall proceed to Item 5 on your orders of the day, replies to Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 5: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Butters.

Mr. Butter's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my Assembly colleagues for this opportunity to move, in Inuvik, the motion of appreciation to Commissioner John Parker for his very fine opening Address that he has just delivered to us. On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I extend to Cynthia Hill, the mayor of Inuvik, and members of her town council our thanks for their thoughtful and generous invitation to convene this, the eighth session of the Ninth Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in Inuvik. We thank Inuvik's mayor, councillors and residents, and in fact all Western Arctic residents, for the hospitality and the kindnesses that will be shown Assembly Members during our stay here. We thank Mayor Hill for her kind words this morning on CBC, and look forward to meeting with her and her council colleagues later in the week.

As a resident of Inuvik sitting in this Assembly, may I extend the warmest possible welcome to Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories now convening in Inuvik, and especially to those Members who have travelled so many miles and hours across the Territories to meet in this room today. I obviously wrote these remarks prior to the time I saw who was going to be present, and I may refer to people who are absent, but I know they will soon be here, so I will use the opportunity I have at this moment to welcome Moses Appaqaq, who will travel from his Hudson Bay constituency, from Sanikiluaq.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: He got bumped in Yellowknife this morning.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: He got bumped in Yellowknife this morning. I am very sorry to hear that. To Mark Evaluarjuk, from Foxe Basin, who travels from his home in Igloolik, and I think represents the most difficult community in which to get around. Too, I welcome another Member who has travelled many miles, Ludy Pudluk, from the High Arctic and Resolute Bay. However, I do not want to leave anybody out, and I know that many of the people looking on may wish to know who you are and where you come from, and I will start, possibly, to the left of Mr. Evalaurjuk: Joe Arlooktoo, who represents South Baffin, coming from Lake Harbour; Ipeelee Kilabuk, from Central Baffin and Pangnirtung; Dennis Patterson, representing Frobisher Bay; Ludy Pudluk I have mentioned; Kane Tologanak, from the Central Arctic, Cambridge Bay; Nellie Cournoyea, the Western Arctic...

MS COURNOYEA: Thank you.

---Applause

HON. TOM BUTTERS: ...Tagak Curley, from Keewatin South and Rankin Inlet; William Noah, from Keewatin North and Baker Lake; Nick Sibbeston, who was a colleague of mine on the Seventh Council of the Northwest Territories, representing Mackenzie Liard from Fort Simpson; Robert Sayine, representing Great Slave East, from Fort Resolution; at the very far end sits our Commissioner, John Parker. Next to him is the Hon. Arnold McCallum, representing Slave River, from Fort Smith; and representing Rae-Lac la Martre, James Wah-Shee, from Rae. Next, George Braden, who will be attending shortly and is on his way, representing Yellowknife North. On my left, Richard Nerysoo, from Mackenzie Delta and from Fort McPherson; Bruce McLaughlin, representing Pine Point, from Pine Point; Lynda Sorensen, from Yellowknife South and also from Yellowknife, Bob MacQuarrie, Yellowknife Centre, from Yellowknife; Pete Fraser, Mackenzie Great Bear, from Norman Wells; and the chair at the end, vacant at the moment, is for Don Stewart, representing Hay River, from Hay River. So I welcome you all to Inuvik and the Mackenzie Delta and the Western Arctic.

Although our sitting days in Inuvik are few, I am hopeful that Members will have sufficient time and opportunity to visit a number of other communities in the Mackenzie Delta and the Beaufort Sea area and examine at first-hand some of the development activities currently taking place in and about the Beaufort.

Before moving on to less important aspects of my reply, may I also echo the Commissioner's words and extend to the students and staff of Sir Alexander Mackenzie School our thanks for the use of this facility and the space allocated to our support staff. We appreciate that our presence may restrict your programs and entail some inconveniences for you, so be assured of our gratitude for being able to share your fine school during these two weeks in May, 1982.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I also wish at the outset of this session to thank our hard working and dedicated Assembly support staff and our invaluable translators and interpreters, and also to you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

I do this in advance for the excellent and the cheerful service they always provide us and which, unfortunately, we have come to expect and possibly take too much for granted. We recognize that they provide and carry out their support services and functions many times in very trying circumstances and under very difficult conditions and we are grateful to them all.

I welcome and thank also our Pages, members of the RCM Police in attendance, the Rev. Terry Buckle, and John Severite, a long-time resident of Inuvik, who is serving us as our Sergeant-at-Arms during our stay in Inuvik.

---Applause

I welcome the guests in the Speaker's gallery and the people who have shown interest enough to come out today and attend the opening of this session. I regret, and had hoped and looked for two former councillors who have given a great deal to the territorial council over the years, John Tetlich, from Fort McPherson, and Lyle Trimble. John is here? Oh, Lyle is here. Good! He just snuck in on me, because he was not there a few minutes ago I do not think.

---Applause

Yes, a round of applause, because these individuals, as you know, Mr. Speaker, for you were a member of the Sixth Council -- as you know the tremendous contributions that were made by many of the territorial councillors in the early days when we had a lot more difficulties in providing government than we experience today.

Since becoming a Member of the Executive Committee, I have infrequently used the opportunity to reply to the Commissioner's opening Address and identify for Hansard and the public record constituency concerns and complaints. I have so acted since my everyday involvement in and responsibilities for the management of territorial government affairs provides me with frequent opportunities to relay such concerns and questions to the appropriate officials. Therefore, in keeping with my past practice, my remarks today I trust will be mercifully brief.

History Of The NWT Legislative Assembly

Mr. Speaker, you and all Members are aware that this is not the first occasion on which the Council of the Northwest Territories cum Legislative Assembly has met in Inuvik. My colleague, Mr. Sibbeston, and I were Members of the Seventh

Council when it convened in Inuvik for four days in October of 1973. Previously, meetings were held by earlier Councils in 1963 and 1956, respectively. On the latter occasion, Inuvik, then East 3, was an architect's dream and a builder's nightmare.

This Assembly is much altered since even Mr. Sibbeston and I attended the 1973 session in the Samuel Hearne Secondary School gymnasium, with the name change from Council and Councillors to Legislative Assembly and MLAs being among the least of those changes. In 1973 the NWT Council consisted of 14 members, of whom 10 were elected, four appointed. Prominent among the appointed members at that time was John Parker, who then served as Deputy Commissioner under Stuart Hodgson. The Commissioner of the day served both as Speaker of the Council and had a seat on Council, but no vote but had, under the Northwest Territories Act, full powers and responsibilities for carrying out the administration of the NWT. Today, the Northwest Territories Act remains much the same, but the practice has changed markedly. When we last convened in Inuvik, besides lacking an elected Speaker, the Council had no legal counsel of its own, the Clerk of the Council and his office were directly responsible to the Commissioner, the Executive Committee of the NWT consisted solely of appointed officials, federal and territorial, and elected Councillors served mainly as the weak voice of caution and opposition -- a debating society, if you wish -- while appointed people ran the Government of the Northwest Territories. Our big advance in those days was the establishment of a Council standing committee on finance under the chairmanship of David Searle and a standing committee on legislation under Lyle Trimble.

I do not have to remind you of those days, Mr. Speaker. As a member of the Sixth Council, along with Mr. Trimble and Mr. Tetlich, you recall how it was. In fact, in my office I have hanging the original of a cartoon carried in The Drum during the life of the Sixth Assembly. It is titled, "The Name of the NWT Game" and it depicts a gargantuan helmeted football player crouched over a ball and he is speaking to a puny youngster standing on the sidelines beside a water pail. The football gladiator, labelled "Top-heavy Administration", speaks to the sideline weakling, labelled "Elected Council" saying "We'll look after the ball, kid; you carry the can." For me, anyway, that is a reminder of just how much progress we have made toward responsible government in the North in a very few years.

Today, Mr. Speaker, seven elected Members of this Assembly have responsibility for all the program departments of this government; Social Services, Health, Renewable Resources, Education, Local Government and Economic Development, plus two service departments, Justice and Public Services and Government Services, plus the operation of various secretariats and boards. While the Northwest Territories Act still identifies the Commissioner as being responsible for the administration of the Territories, in fact and in effect elected people have assumed responsibility for most of the government programs currently being delivered in the Northwest Territories -- a quantum leap for us in self-government, self-determination and responsibility for the management of our own affairs.

Recognition Of Executive Committee Members

Before the interesting part of the session begins -- at least that was the implication I received from a CBC report this morning, that today would be not very much of anything -- I would like to say a few words of commendation to the Members of the Assembly who seek and accept the responsibilities of ministerial office. Obviously I can be accused of bias, but I feel that we are the target of much criticism and I am going to use this opportunity to pat a few Executive Committee backs.

I would like to recognize and thank the dean of our Executive Committee, Arnold McCallum, who has served as a Member of the Executive Committee for going on seven years, having had responsibilities for the portfolios of Local Government, Education, Social Services, Health, and now the Housing Corporation.

---Applause

On Mr. McCallum's left, the Hon. James Wah-Shee, with responsibilities for Local Government, Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. On my right, when he arrives, is the Hon. George Braden, Leader of the Elected Executive, with responsibilities for Justice and Public Services and the Status of Women.

On my left, when he arrives, the Hon. Richard Nerysoo, who has responsibilities for Renewable Resources and for Energy; and across the floor, the Hon. Dennis Patterson, with responsibilities for Education, Constitutional Development and Culture; and again across the floor, the Hon. Kane Tologanak, responsible for the Department of Government Services, computers, Workers' Compensation Board. Covering off all the remaining portfolios and completing the membership of the Executive Committee is Commissioner John Parker, who is sitting at the witness table, and is responsible for Personnel, Information, is chairman of the Executive Committee, of the Financial Management Board and he is assisted by Deputy Commissioner Bob Pilot, with responsibilities for the Department of Public Works, the regional offices, and also he is chairman of the Housing Corporation board.

So, I would like to congratulate my colleagues for their attention to the responsibilities of their respective portfolios and for their perseverance toward achieving the collective goals and objectives of all the people of the Territories. Such an exercise in synthesis is most difficult. Although we reflect many diverse backgrounds and cultures, I believe the positions and the decisions taken by the Executive Committee in these Territories are by and large rational, responsive and responsible and reflect the interests of all our people.

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is a biased opinion.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Well, I said that when I started.

---Laughter

Thank you. I feel privileged to be an elected Member of the Executive Committee of the Northwest Territories and a daily witness to the growth of responsible government of the Northwest Territories and I am very pleased to play a small part in that growth and that flowering. In saluting the contribution of my colleagues, I am happy to be able to pass out a few bouquets before the interesting part of the session occurs and the brickbats begin to fly.

Conditions Have Altered In NWT

There is an old saying, Mr. Speaker, that the more things change, the more they remain the same. I had occasion to recall that maxim recently when I looked at the record of debate for the 1973 session held here in Inuvik. At that time, we commented on the growth problem affecting development impact communities, a pension supplement for NWT old-timers, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation -- at that time Mr. Sibbeston was carrying the torch for the fishermen from the Great Slave area -- the high cost of living in the Northwest Territories, and we discussed the elements to be included in a comprehensive Education Ordinance for the NWT. All those subjects, I am sure, will probably be raised during this session. However, to be fair, one must be quick to point out that while the subjects remain constant, the conditions being examined are vastly altered.

Mr. Speaker, in his Address the Commissioner properly drew our attention to the many proposed development projects on the books for the NWT, and he reiterated our frequently expressed intention to maximize benefits, revenues and returns from these projects to the people of the Northwest Territories. Indeed, when one contemplates the economic situation being experienced by Canadians in other parts of this land, one cannot but be thankful for the many and varied opportunities that the future appears to hold out for the NWT and its people. However, there are some blue notes.

Renegotiation Of General Development Agreement

The Commissioner reported on a number of meetings taking place over the last 60 days between Executive Members and provincial and federal colleagues. One series of meetings he did not report, and he did not do so because I forgot -- whether as a result of a Freudian forgetfulness or not -- to inform him of, and that dealt with the series of meetings I and my staff have had with federal politicians and officials to renegotiate and reconstitute the general development agreement -- the GDA, for short -- between the Northwest Territories and Canada. Probably I neglected to mention these meetings because to date I have been singularly unsuccessful in concluding this most urgently required element in the NWT's general economic well-being. During the recent budget session, I, on numerous occasions, informed the House that the budget of the Department of Economic Development only appeared wanting because we anticipated an early infusion of general development agreement funds, which would put wheels under my Department of Economic Development.

While we have recently learned of extensions of our Special ARDA agreement with Canada for another two years -- which announcement is most welcome, I must say -- we are still awaiting a breakthrough on our GDA package. I report with regret that resolution of that initiative still eludes me. Support for continuation of the program has been received from all NWT native organizations and their development corporation arms, from band councils, and from numerous other agencies and organizations. I have received expressions of support for the initiative from the Hon. John Munro, the Hon. Herb Gray, and Senator Bud Olson. Recent communications received from Ottawa as early as yesterday afternoon express understanding of our needs and seem to suggest a new urgency at the political level for quickly putting in place and implementing another such agreement as

was concluded last September 30th. While I remain optimistic that this much-desired and required program will be approved, I become frustrated and impatient, as I am sure do my colleagues in this House and many of their constituents, at the length of time it is taking to get a new agreement in place.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Hear, hear!

Budget Preparation Ahead Of Last Year

HON. TOM BUTTERS: However, on another front, I am happy to report that in the matter of our 1983-84 budget preparation we appear to be much further advanced than in years previous. For example, I personally delivered to the Hon. John Munro late in February our anticipated volume and man-year increases for the coming year. Although much negotiation remains to be done before striking our 1983-84 budget figure, we are, I believe, off to a good and early start, and therefore should be much ahead of the budget schedule experienced last year.

Further, I am sure my colleagues and I will experience a very busy summer carrying out discussions and negotiations, not only with our provincial but also our federal counterparts in many fields of shared responsibility and interest. For the second time in as many years, the Government of the Northwest Territories has been invited by the House of Commons standing committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development to appear before that committee, explaining our current years financial requirements, and apprising committee members of our fiscal concerns and our program requirements.

Accomplishments Of Eighth And Ninth Assemblies

Mr. Speaker, if the Eighth Assembly attained representative government for the people of the Northwest Territories, I believe and I submit, sir, that the Ninth Assembly is moving to obtaining and achieving a significant degree of responsible government for the people of the NWT. Undoubtedly, there remains much to be done. Ten years ago, there was much to be done, and much has been done. Ten years from now thankfully there will remain much to be done; but I think we have come a long way, and maybe we might just be permitted a few moments of quiet pride and pleasure at the accomplishments of those who preceded us, and for what they and we have been able to accomplish to date on the rocky road to self-government. Thank you, sir.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. It is almost coffee time. However, I understand that Mr. Curley would like to have unanimous consent to go back to tabling of documents.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

Item 4, tabling of documents.

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 4: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Curley, you have the floor.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table, on behalf of the special committee on education, their final report, Tabled Document 2-82(2), Learning: Tradition and Change.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. This House will then stand recessed for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Call the House back to order. Returning to your orders of the day, Item 5, replies to Commissioner's Address.

Item 6, oral questions.

ITEM NO. 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Ms Cournoyea.

Question 1-82(2): Moratorium On Tax For Hunters And Trappers

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a question. On February 25th, a motion was unanimously passed by the Legislative Assembly recommending to the Executive Committee that it immediately seek to obtain from appropriate federal ministers and agencies an extension of the income tax moratorium with regard to northern benefits, including persons or incomes earned in the NWT from trapping and fur catch. Would whomever is responsible give in detail what has been done regarding this matter, if anything at all?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to do this. I have the return somewhere, but I would take it as notice now, and provide the information tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

Item 7, questions and returns. Written questions.

ITEM NO. 7: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Ms Cournoyea.

Question 2-82(2): NWT Housing Corporation Benefit Equalization

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the new government employee housing policy has provided for more than one government working member in the family to receive housing subsidy benefits, would the Minister responsible for housing please detail if the Northwest Territories rental housing program will have similar incentives whereby only one member of the family will pay according to their income?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. That was a written question. Any further written questions? I do not presume there are any returns left over from the last session that are to come in today.

Item 8, petitions.

Item 9, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 10, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Ms Cournoyea.

Notice Of Motion 1-82(2): Extension Of Sitting Hours

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for unanimous consent for this motion under Item 11. Whereas there is much business to be done at this session; and whereas it is desirable to complete the business of this session as expeditiously as possible; now therefore, I move that this Legislative Assembly authorize Mr. Speaker to set such additional morning, evening and Saturday sitting hours as may be required to complete the business of this session as expeditiously as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Curley.

Notice Of Motion 2-82(2): Refer Tabled Document 2-82(2) Into Committee Of The Whole

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 14th, I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for the Western Arctic, that Tabled Document 2-82(2), the report of the special committee on education entitled "Learning: Tradition and Change", be moved into committee of the whole for consideration as the first item of business on Monday, May 17th.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for unanimous consent to deal with a motion. Whereas there is much business to be done at this session; and whereas it is desirable to complete the business of this session as expeditiously as possible; now therefore, I move, seconded by Kane Tologanak, that this Legislative Assembly authorize Mr. Speaker to set such additional morning, evening and Saturday sitting hours as may be required to complete the business of this session as expeditiously as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We are still on notices of motion. However, I will accept that. Do we have unanimous consent to proceed with that motion? Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: A nay? To proceed, then, by way of motion at this time has been overruled.

Item 12, introduction of bills for first reading.

Item 13, second reading of bills. We have none available.

Mr. Clerk, Item 14, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, Thursday, May 13, 1:00 p.m.

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

14. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 13th, at 1:00 p.m., at Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, Inuvik.

---ADJOURNMENT

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