



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

## Speaker

The Honorable Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1877  
Hay River, N.W.T., XOE ORO  
Office 874-6522/2324  
Home 874-6560  
Office 873-7629-Yk.  
(Hay River)

Appaqaq, Mr. Moses, M.L.A.  
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.  
XOA OWO  
Office 266-8860  
Home 266-8931  
(Hudson Bay)

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.  
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.  
XOA ONO  
Phone 939-2363  
(Baffin South)

Braden, The Hon. George, M.L.A.  
Box 583  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
XOE 2N4  
Office 873-7123/7612  
Home 920-2282  
(Yellowknife North)  
Leader of the Elected Executive and Minister  
of Justice and Public Services

Butters, The Hon. Thomas H., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1069  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
XOE OT0  
Office 873-7128/7129  
Home 979-2373 - Inuvik  
(Inuvik)  
Minister of Finance and Government Services

Curley, Mr. Tagak E.C., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 36  
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.  
XOC OGO  
Office 645-2866  
Home 645-2744  
(Keewatin South)

Cournoyea, Ms. Nellie J., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1184  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
XOE OT0  
Office 979-3510  
Home 979-2740  
(Western Arctic)

Evaluarjuk, Mr. Mark, M.L.A.  
Igloodik, N.W.T.  
XOA OLO  
Phone 934-8823  
(Foxe Basin)

Fraser, Mr. Peter C., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 23  
Norman Wells, N.W.T.  
XOE OVO  
Phone 587-2299  
(Mackenzie Great Bear)

Kilabuk, Mr. Ipeelee, M.L.A.  
Pangnirtung, N.W.T.  
XOA ORO  
Phone 473-8827  
(Baffin Central)

McCallum, The Hon. Arnold J., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 685  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2N5  
Office 873-7658/7659  
Home 920-4557  
(Slave River)  
Minister of Economic Development  
and Tourism

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

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 555  
Pine Point, N.W.T.  
XOE OWO  
Office 393-2939  
Home 393-2226  
(Pine Point)

Nerysoo, The Hon. Richard W., M.L.A.  
Laing Bldg., 6th floor,  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
Office 873-7113/7455  
Home 873-5310  
(Mackenzie Delta)  
Minister of Renewable Resources and Energy

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis G., M.L.A.  
Box 310  
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.  
XOA OH0  
Office 873-5342  
Home 873-2082 - Yellowknife  
Home 979-6618 - Frobisher Bay  
(Frobisher Bay)  
Minister of Education

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 22  
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.  
XOA OVO  
Phone 252-3737  
(High Arctic)

Sayine, Mr. Robert, M.L.A.  
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.  
XOE OMO  
Hamlet Office 394-4556  
Home 394-3201  
(Great Slave East)

Sibbeston, Mr. Nick G., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 560  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.  
XOE ONO  
Phone 695-2565  
(Mackenzie Liard)

Sorensen, Mrs. Lynda M., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 2348  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2P7  
Office 873-7920  
Home 873-5086  
(Yellowknife South)

Tologanak, The Hon. Kane, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 223  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2N2  
Office 873-7962/7963  
Home 873-4824  
(Central Arctic)  
Minister of Health and Social Services

Wah-Shee, The Hon. James J., M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 471  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2N4  
Office 873-7139/7140  
Home 873-8012  
(Rae - Lac La Martre)  
Minister of Local Government and Aboriginal  
Rights and Constitutional Development

Wray, Mr. Gordon L., M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Baker Lake, N.W.T.  
XOC OAO  
Home 793-2700  
(Keewatin North)

## Officers

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

Acting Clerk Assistant (Procedures)  
Mrs. Susan Baldwin  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk  
Mr. Peter C. Fuglsang  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard  
Mrs. Marie J. Coe  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Sergeant-at-Arms  
S/Sgt. David Williamson  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1983

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Monday, February the 14th.

Item 2, Members' replies.

Item 3, oral questions. Item 4, written questions. Mrs. Sorensen.

ITEM NO. 4: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 28-83(1): Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MRS. SORENSEN: The question is for the Hon. Kane Tologanak, Minister of Health and Social Services. What is the total estimated cost of the new Stanton Yellowknife Hospital? What is the federal share? What is the territorial share? Has the project been approved by the Treasury Board? If not, what are the problems that are being encountered? Does the Executive Committee fully support the project? When can we expect that construction will begin on this badly needed project?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions.

Item 5, returns. Are there any returns for today? Item 6, Ministers' statements. Mr. Tologanak.

ITEM NO. 6: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On Application For Financial Assistance

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate time I will be tabling the financial assistance application form and I would like to make a statement on the application process. The form identifies the applicant and his or her dependants, records personal information such as marital status, employment pattern, education and training and then deals with the budgetary situation of the client. The same form is used for both social assistance and day care. Extra amounts are identified for day care applicants. The day care program is funded under financial assistance services. It is available to working parents who have children in day care or at a baby-sitter and who are eligible for financial assistance. Application for assistance is made through the local social services office.

The application process is simple. The applicant is interviewed by a social worker for the purpose of completing an application form which establishes whether the client is eligible for financial assistance under the financial assistance regulations. This is done on a monthly basis as both income and needs change quickly. In Yellowknife, one social worker is assigned to handle all day care applicants and she has met with the people during lunch hour, after work, and in their homes on occasion. The office is open two evenings per month.

An applicant is required to inform the social worker of his or her monthly income and to state monthly financial needs. Costs for food, clothing, household and personal items have fixed maximum amounts prescribed in the social assistance regulations. Rent, fuel and utilities, among the major "need" items, are normally provided for at actual cost. Applicants for financial assistance to pay for day care costs may list as need items, the actual cost of day care to a maximum of \$20 daily for each child attending a day care centre and \$12 daily for each child placed in family day care. They may also claim an allowance for telephone, \$10; and for unspecified employment related costs, \$140. Income and expenses are verified by checking receipts.

The social worker compares monthly needs with monthly income. If there is a budget deficit, a cheque is written for this amount which pays for all or part of the day care costs. The parent and the social worker sign the application form. The parent is asked also to sign a statutory declaration which establishes the terms under which financial assistance was issued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Item 7, petitions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM NO. 7: PETITIONS

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is Petition 2-83(1) I am giving you. Lake Harbour is wanting social workers. I have a petition that is signed by 34 people from Lake Harbour, but I have not signed personally, which I meant to do. The petition will be given to you -- the copy that I have will be handed out. I am asking you, Mr. Tologanak, as Minister, to consider this petition. I want you to let me know if it will be possible or not. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 7, petitions.

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees. Item 9, tabling of documents. Mr. Tologanak.

ITEM NO. 9: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 9-83(1), Form for Application for Financial Assistance.

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

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 10-83(1), Workers' Compensation Board Administration and General Expense Budget for the 1983 fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 12, motions. There are no motions for today.

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15. We will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of bills, recommendations to the Legislature, and other matters.

ITEM NO. 15: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER MATTERS

Bill 1-83(1), Appropriation Ordinance, 1983-84, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-83(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1983-84

Department Of Education

Total O And M, Schools

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now this committee will come to order. We are on page 16.03. Schools, total O and M, \$48,254,000. Mr. Minister, Dennis Patterson. Do you wish to invite your colleagues?



HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, if I may, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Nutt and Mr. Lewis will be here shortly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Schools. Any comments? Any questions? \$48,254,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a question to the Minister. Although he has accepted in principle the recommendations in the special committee on education's report that urged the Minister to provide grade 10 levels to communities where appropriate, I wonder if the Minister could maybe be a little more specific in terms of his planning, as to how long it is going to take for the larger communities -- those communities who could possibly provide grade 10 in the communities -- to actually see that policy implemented?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The task force on implementation which is charged with the task of implementing the approved recommendations of the special committee is developing a five year plan for implementation of grade 10 in communities throughout the Northwest Territories. If the Member wishes, I expect that I could table that proposal a little later on during this session. It involves capital costs to build new classrooms where they are required in certain communities -- not all communities require new classrooms. It also requires operating and maintenance costs to hire additional teachers, which are usually required when we are expanding to grade 10. I am looking forward to the detailed report of the task force and I know it will be completed this session of the Legislative Assembly and I would table it for the Member if he wishes. I would note that the moneys required to even begin implementing that report this coming year are not within this budget and would have to be found from the federal Treasury Board or some other means, if we are to start immediately. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Curley.

#### Grade 10 In Eastern Arctic Communities

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, although the Minister is relying on the task force to actually sort out his own priorities, maybe the Minister could possibly intervene on this matter because -- let us face it -- no communities in the Western Arctic that have a population of 2000 or more would even dare put up with not ever having a grade 10, let alone a high school in their communities. Why is it that the Eastern Arctic communities always tend to be treated differently than the communities in the Western Arctic in terms of the school system? Since the communities have quite large facilities now in terms of schools that I think are quite able to accommodate up to grade 10, why is it the Minister could not take this as an urgent priority in terms of implementing -- rather than having to wait for the committee to tell him how to proceed with implementing these special committee's recommendations?

The special committee did recognize that there is surely a problem in providing grades nine and 10 in some communities but I think the department should have realized long ago that it should treat the Eastern Arctic communities like some of the larger communities that are provided with grade 10, or even beyond grade 10, in the western part of the Territories. I am just asking the Minister if he would be a little more specific and that he would do his utmost for the urgent implementation of grade 10 as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, as I told some communities who have asked about it when I have been on visits -- Pond Inlet is one that comes to mind that I recently visited with Mr. Evaluarjuk and certainly I know it is a very pressing concern in places like Eskimo Point and Baker Lake -- but it is also a concern in western communities as well. Fort Franklin is one that comes to mind that I visited, where that was felt to be a very important and early priority.

As I said in my opening address on this budget, I think that this is an area where there is total support from this Legislative Assembly. I think everyone agrees that we should offer grade 10 in communities as a next step in expanding our staffing allocations. It is just a question of finding the resources and I can assure Mr. Curley that I am as committed as anyone to identifying those resources and getting them in place. I even went so far as to tell the people in Pond Inlet that I would hope to be able to report some progress early on in the fiscal year with a view to possibly doing something by next fall. It would not be just Pond Inlet, it would be the other communities that we would try to address even in the coming school year. Generally if we are going to decide which areas take priorities, I think we should look at the larger communities where the costs are less and we should look at the more remote communities where the trauma of having to send children away from home is greatest.

The restraints that were imposed on our budgetary planning process by the federal government have not permitted me to allow any major introduction of grade 10 in the budget that is before us but that does not mean that it cannot be done. I can tell the Member that I am determined to make at least some substantial progress in this area, although I do think that, particularly in communities where they do not have the extra class space, it would be very unlikely that we can do something in the coming school year. That is why I have recommended a five year overall plan but I am committed to getting going on it just as quickly as possible, because that is all I hear in the smaller communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Schools, \$48,254,000. Mr. Wray.

#### Screening Of Students In Frobisher Bay

MR. WRAY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell me at this point in time if there is a screening process in effect in Frobisher Bay whereby academic and non-academic students are screened when they come into this school system or are they all thrown together in one big melting pot?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: There is a screening process, Mr. Chairman, which directs students according to their choice and their abilities. As I mentioned earlier with reference to Keewatin students, I think that we have not been careful enough in the past year to test students prior to their being sent out to ensure that they are meeting certain qualifications that they might be assumed to have because they have spent a certain number of years in the school system. I think that we have to beef up our in-settlement screening process as well as what is done once they arrive at GREC. Thank you.

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

#### Use Of School Facilities

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister with regard to the utilization of schools. I think that the Minister is aware that there has been some difficulty with the ability of the recreational committees and organizations in the communities to have easy access to the school gymnasium and the school itself. I would really like to suggest to the Minister that he develop a draft agreement which can be submitted to the recreation committee so that they can negotiate use of school gymnasiums or school facilities.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, we generally leave the use of school facilities to the local education authority and it is my hope that most of the requests that are made in the community can be responded to by the local education authority. It may well be that if this is not occurring in some communities we could help by offering a draft agreement and perhaps offer a model that works elsewhere for the guidance of our local education authority in developing agreements with the local recreation committee. If I understand him correctly, that is what the Member is suggesting and I think it is a good idea. I will follow that up and I welcome, from him or from any MLAs, identification of communities where this might have been a problem. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Curley.

#### Uniformity Of Academic Standards

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the Minister to make a clarification of his statement the other day that the standards of the academic training in the NWT were equal in the Eastern Arctic and, for instance, in Yellowknife. When I was speaking to the students here who have some friends in the Frobisher school, some of the students in fact told me that even though they may be taking grade 12 in Frobisher Bay, the kind of math that they do was actually equivalent to grade 10 or something in this part of the area.

I would like the Minister to clarify to the House that in fact there may be some differences. I am concerned because you might be misleading the people that the standards are equivalent throughout the NWT when, in fact, there are in reality quite substantial differences. I spoke to the students,

and they have friends who are going to school here who have previously attended school in Frobisher Bay. So could you tell us whether or not you stand by your statement or are there some exceptions, that the students taking these grades might be different? Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the first thing I would like to say by way of reply is that Mr. MacQuarrie had raised the issue of testing and of the comprehensive tests that are being developed in Alberta. I would like to say that I have discussed with the Minister of Education of Alberta these developments with great interest. I think that Alberta has put in a great deal of work in developing comprehensive tests particularly for university entrance and matriculation, which we should use. I am not convinced in my own mind that they should be compulsory but I think at the very least that for students who want to take the tests to satisfy themselves that they have achieved a certain level, those tests could well be made available. I think if we are going to introduce compulsory tests it may be particularly useful in the matriculation area. I have expressed great interest in following this up with the Alberta Minister of Education and taking advantage of the work that they have done which might ultimately -- in a scientific way -- resolve or answer the questions that Mr. Curley has asked.

I would say that we do some testing now in the Northwest Territories and we have tests that are used based on our curriculum up to grade nine. It is wrong to suppose that we could take advantage of Alberta tests for the grades below grade nine because our curriculum is not the same as theirs below grade nine. We have an NWT curriculum below grade nine. Since the question is an educational one, and since I am not an educator, I will ask my deputy minister Mr. Lewis who is an educator to respond to Mr. Curley's question in more detail, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the issue of having a uniform standard throughout the Northwest Territories is only questioned because we do not have one single departmental exam. So that is what gives rise to that question, that maybe teachers are imposing different standards in different parts of the Territories. At the high school level we follow the Alberta program and since it is a co-ordinated program, then at that level, for those students who are successful -- and it may be that in parts of the Eastern Arctic many students are not as successful -- there is no evidence that throughout the Territories at the moment people are being passed when in fact they do not reach the required standard for admission into university after they have followed the matriculation program. However, it does suggest that what we should be doing is setting departmental exams so that the fears that have been expressed would, in fact, be allayed within the Northwest Territories and among that part of the public that is concerned about uneven standards throughout the high school program.

The evidence to date is that many students who have gone through the high school program, for example in Frobisher Bay, and have gone on to university have felt completely satisfied with the standard that was achieved there, and have done well in the university programs that they have gone into. That is the only evidence that I have that those students are receiving a good program in Frobisher Bay, for example.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

#### Naming Of Schools

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I want to talk about the names of schools. It has been a couple of years since we talked about the names of things. We had a good discussion about three years ago about renaming the museum, and I would like to talk a little bit about the names of high schools in particular in the North. One of the things that the federal government and eventually Stu Hodgson's government did was really impose names of explorers and other people on the North by naming high schools, in particular, after explorers or else civil servants. We see...

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Like Matonabee in Pine Point!

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, like Matonabee. And we have Gordon Robertson, I think, in Frobisher Bay; Sir Alexander Mackenzie; at one point in Smith we had Joseph Burr Tyrell; here in Yellowknife we have Franklin; in Simpson we have Thomas Simpson; in Providence we have Elizabeth Ward. So I am just wondering whether the government now is prepared to do something about renaming schools



throughout the North. Some of this has happened. In Fort Smith they changed the name of the high school after Mr. Kaeser which I think is very appropriate, and last spring Mr. Parker came to Jean Marie River, and we had a very moving ceremony there where we changed the name of the school to Louie Norwegian School, and this is shown on page eight of the annual report.

I am just wondering whether at this stage in our history in the North whether this government is prepared to go back to all the communities where names have been imposed on the people and tell them clearly that the people in the communities have a choice, have a chance and maybe even have a responsibility to name the school of their own desire and wish. Is the government prepared to do this?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, not only are we prepared to do it but we have done it before. For example, a few that come to mind are Chesterfield Inlet school, which used to be called Chesterfield Inlet School, is now...

---Laughter

...Victor Sammurtok School. The school in Igloodik is now called Attagutaluk School, after a famous lady from Igloodik. Maani Ulujuk School in Rankin Inlet used to be Rankin Inlet School. We are receptive to petitions from local education authorities. I think policy gives the Commissioner the right to give high schools a name but I think we are quite flexible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

#### Government Should Invite Changes

MR. SIBBESTON: Let us just see how flexible you are and see if you are prepared. As a matter of moral righteousness I guess, since many names were imposed and some people do think that once the school is named, that is it -- it is carved in stone and there is some good reason and there can never be any change -- people sometimes get to accept or just take for granted the name of a school.

I am just wondering if Mr. Patterson on behalf of the government, is prepared to write to all high schools on whom names were imposed and say that the government is open to receiving suggestions and changes of names of the schools, and see this as an attempt to right a moral wrong -- an imposition on people that maybe at one time people accepted and could not do anything about, but now with more responsible government and people being more aware of things, that people now might be more receptive or more interested in changing some of the names of the schools. What I am saying is the government did that to the people of the North; let them now try to right some of the wrongs and take the initiative in telling all people of the North that the naming of schools and other things is really up to you. The government is not going to impose any more names on you, and if there is a name that you do not like, then feel completely free to change it. I think it would really be good if the government did that.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say that in the area of high schools, some of them were named by the federal government and at least one that I can think of involves a living person. I suppose my own personal view was expressed during the debate on the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre, that we have to be a bit careful about changing names involving living persons and even inviting the changing of names. So I am a bit hesitant to solicit changes of names in high schools particularly, but I will again say clearly that if local education authorities petition particularly for the community schools and particularly where they have a name like such and such a territorial high school...

MR. SIBBESTON: GREC or Brown, W.G. Brown?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, I do not know Gordon Robertson personally but I think he made a contribution to the North and I am not prepared to say that it was not worth recognizing. Let me say clearly that I am certainly open to petitions from local education authorities. I am not really willing to go quite so far as to invite new names because I think that if we changed all the names of all the schools all at once, there would be some chaos. However, I am willing to state here that I will be very receptive to petitions from local education authorities and if the Member wishes to inspire LEAs in his area to petition, we will certainly treat them very seriously. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

Change Proposed In Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: Does that apply to himself? Mr. Patterson suggests that MLAs in their area can inspire name changes, is he himself going to do anything to inspire changes -- to names of two schools in Frobisher Bay which are named Gordon Robertson and W.B. Brown School? Two more northern names. I was going to tell you too that in Fort Simpson there is a bit of a move under way. We have a high school in Simpson that is named "Thomas Simpson School" and really the people in Fort Simpson do not know why it is so named. I can tell you that there is a bit of a move at the moment to change the name of the school in Simpson to a more appropriate local person's name, but this involves a fair amount of work. As you can appreciate, once a name is given to something it is reasonably hard to change it. I can tell you that there has been some work done to change the name of a school in Simpson to "Ted Trindell School". There are a number of processes involved in that. The band council has already approved the name change, but it still has to go to the LEA and the village council. I am aware of the process, of the work that is involved in changing names and I just think that it would help immensely if the government did take a position and say that people are free in communities to name the schools what they wish -- just because certain names were given 10 to 20 years ago, they are not necessarily stuck with it.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am sympathetic with what the Member says. I would just like to clarify that the two schools in Frobisher Bay itself are Nakasuk Elementary School and Gordon Robertson Education Centre. As far as my own community is concerned, I am trying to get the town council to change the name from Frobisher Bay to Ikaluit, which is the original name for the settlement. The new education society was called Ikaluit Education Society, and I think that is appropriate for my community. However, I would not want to have Mr. Robertson's name not associated with our high school.

I would like to say in the Simpson area, I am certainly open to changes suggested and I cannot help but notice that in Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake, Tungsten and Wrigley they are all called territorial schools. That is not very interesting and if we could see communities take an interest in renaming their school more relevantly and develop more of a sense of ownership of the school, of it belonging to the community, I would be very receptive to responding. I think the same goes with the school in Simpson. If there is a clear community will in that regard, I will certainly respect it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. The Chair would like to recognize in the chamber out there, Mr. Amagoalik, president of ITC.

---Applause

Schools, \$48,254,000. Mr. McCallum.

Standards For Each Grade 12 Program

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I just want to go back to the business of standards in particular classes and specifically in the high schools. It has been some time since I have been involved with schools, but is it my understanding that we are still, in grades 10, 11 and 12, teaching courses numbered as Alberta curriculum? For example mathematics, do we still teach in grade 10, math 10, 13 and 15, and in grade 11, math 20, 23 and 25? The same with mathematics in grade 12, math 30, 33, 35, and there is a calculus course, math 31. I guess the point I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, in mathematics or English and in the sciences, those courses that are numbered 30s are in fact grade 12 courses. Depending upon the program that a student will follow, it is conceivable that there could be a student in grade 12 with a grade 12 standing made up of math 15, 25 and 35, science 10 or 15 I think they are called, English 15 and 25, with the typing and all the other subjects that are in the commercial courses. So it is not correct to say that there is not a standard for a grade 12 student. It may not be an academic standing, but it is in fact a grade 12 program.

The same with a technical program where a student could get math 13, 23, 33. They could have science 10. If there is a basic course in another -- a grade 11 course -- a general science course, they could have math 13, 23, 33. That would not be an academic standing, but it would be the completion of every required course in the high school. I think sometimes we may be confusing particular programs with a particular standing that is relative to what is required.

Certainly the math 15, 25 and 35 and corresponding courses are not similar to the academic stream, but I think it should not go unnoticed that these courses are in effect the required courses to get somebody 100 credits which gives that person a grade 12 standing. I think that what may be confusing here is that we are looking for everybody to come out with the 10, 20, 30 courses, which are academic courses, and try and equate to somebody that has a math 15, 25 or 35.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Point of order, Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: I beg your pardon, Mr. McCallum, but over the last couple of days there has been quite loud speaking in the chamber when people have conversations and it is distracting. I wonder if the chairman would bring that to the notice of certain individuals.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Sorry about that. I did not hear anything but I will make a note of it. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I do not want to go on too long, but I think that when we are talking about standards for high school students we should not be assuming an academic standing as we would know it, leading to post-secondary schooling at a university, simply because a student has taken 12 years of schooling and has 100 or more credits under the Alberta system. That program may be made up only of commercial courses, and it may be made up only of diploma courses at the high school level, but I do not think we should try to indicate that there are not standards for each and every one of those three programs. I think that is the point that I am trying to make, because I hear some concern about the standards in different schools.

In particular high schools there were three programs to follow: the academic, the diploma and the commercial course. Each one has a particular program but you cannot confuse math 15, 25 and 35 with math 10, 20 and 30. The first is commercial, the latter would be academic courses. I simply want to make that distinction when we are talking about standards.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Schools, \$48,254,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I notice in the last paragraph on the preamble to the estimates that it states that Thebacha College is pursuing the feasibility of providing courses, credit for which will be transferable to other post-secondary institutions. I would like the Minister to expand on that just a little bit, whether or not that applies to the courses taken by the people from the Eastern Arctic and how it is applicable in the eastern part of the Territories where there is not much opportunity for post-secondary institutions?

The other question that I have is that I hear that the Thebacha College board of directors will be having a board of directors meeting very soon -- in fact it may be happening this week. They will be also considering apparently a strategy planning for the next few years to try, I suppose, to implement the courses available here to the eastern part of the Territories, and I believe these will involve a southern management consulting company to try to give advice to them. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to this House what exactly are they going to be planning, and what kind of a recommendation are they prepared to make to increase the level of participation for the Eastern Arctic students? Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not mind answering these questions in the college question area which I think the Member is talking about. Have we passed the schools budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): No.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Do you want me to go on and discuss colleges now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): No.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Shall I answer the Member's question now or later?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I think that if the House agrees we can defer that question. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Total O And M, Schools, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 16.03, total O and M, schools, \$48,254,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Continuing Education, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 16.04, continuing education, \$2,795,000. Are there any comments or questions? Mr. Tologanak.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Adult education falls under this area, I presume, and adult education programs throughout the Territories. At one time staff were cut and now I noticed that some positions are being revamped in some regions. In the Kitikmeot region there have been a number of requests, letters going back and forth between people in the Kitikmeot, particularly Coppermine and Spence Bay, in regard to adult education, the staffing and programs being run in those communities. I would like to ask the Minister what is the status of the positions of these two very important adult educators for the Kitikmeot region.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, there is a part-time adult educator working in Coppermine until the end of April 1983, providing adult education programs. We are working with Thebacha College for continued sponsorship in 1983-1984. In Spence Bay, there is currently a half-time instructor there who provides the basic training in skill development, an upgrading program during the day and there are evening programs in basic English and basic Inuktitut provided through the local education authority. Again in the coming year we would hope to continue, if not augment this through Thebacha College. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Continuing education, total O and M, \$2,795,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, College Programs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 16.05. College programs, total O and M, \$6,862,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Could the Minister maybe respond to the question which I asked him earlier? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the last paragraph on page 16.05 recognizes the fact that some courses that we offer now in Thebacha College, such as the social work training course and the business administration course which are two that come to mind, do not on completion allow students to go on to university programs and get credit for what they have taken at Thebacha College. In the teacher education program, by contrast, in both Frobisher Bay and Fort Smith, students who complete that program can get credit toward a university degree when they have finished it. We have not yet developed those connections with other universities in areas like social work and business administration. So what we are saying there is we are going to be working on getting university accreditation for these and other courses in Thebacha College in the coming year.

As for the long-range planning that the Thebacha College board has commissioned, the study will first of all concentrate on what training we now offer in Thebacha College in Fort Smith and elsewhere throughout the Northwest Territories. The object is to develop a long-range plan for expanding training opportunities throughout all parts of the Northwest Territories. This work is being done for the Thebacha College board of governors and the consultant will report to them. Thank you.



Total O And M, College Programs, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. College programs, total O and M, \$6,862,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Student Residences, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 16.06. Student residences, total O and M, \$4,195,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 16.07. Detail of grants and contributions, \$14,032,000.  
Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, regarding the Tree of Peace, \$137,000. What is that assigned to do?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Tree of Peace runs an adult education program here in Yellowknife with those funds. Most of the moneys are allocated to adult upgrading.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Is that allocation for teachers' salaries and school rental facilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is a contract which covers salaries, materials and other costs associated with operating this program. I am also informed that they have what has been described to me as a primary child development centre. I think that is a kindergarten in plain English.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. \$14,032,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 16.14. Detail of capital, \$11,723,000. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 16.09, it shows that there is \$100,000 set aside for computers for computer programs in the senior high schools. Can you tell me the breakdown of that, where it is going and anything about planning for future years in the development of computer instruction programs in the Northwest Territories?

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

Allocation Specifically For Computers

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that question was asked, because rather than including the purchase of computers in the overall capital funds as miscellaneous or minor capital or something else, we have gone to some efforts this year in Education to properly identify this fund to recognize this allocation, to recognize that we are trying to keep abreast with what is obviously a trend in education in North America. This fund will be specifically allocated to computer purchases in all the high schools throughout the Northwest Territories and I think there are seven of them altogether. We are now waiting requests from the various high schools and the funds will be allocated on the basis of the requests that come in. I hope that answers the Member's question. I might say we have a person in the headquarters of the department who tries to ensure that there is consistency in sharing of programs and software wherever possible.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: That answered that question Mr. Minister, thank you. Another one arose, as you well know, just the other evening when we were together discussing the matter with someone. It appeared that there may not be a consistent policy in the Territories with respect to the purchase of hardware and software. Can you explain whether there is a policy, and if so, what it is and finally whether all schools are made absolutely aware of what the purchasing policy is?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, if the committee would permit the deputy minister to answer this question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, for the last two years or more, in fact, some schools within their minor capital have been able to buy small computers and there were a variety of computers in the schools. During this year we developed a policy which indicated to all schools that the Department of Education would only be using as a model the Apple II computer in the sense that the work that we would be doing out of our headquarters would provide assistance specifically for that particular model, and we would in fact encourage standardization so that schools would henceforth continue to purchase that particular computer. We agree that we do have a variety of computer systems within the Territories and we are attempting to standardize it through policy.

#### Increased Cost Under Northern Purchasing Policy

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, if I could just add to that. The problem has just been described to me by some teachers at the recent teachers conference that in fact the northern purchasing policy does pose a certain limitation on the ability of schools to order that particular model that has been recommended by the department. It does mean that schools may well be able to find better deals elsewhere, given that there are a limited number of northern suppliers. I do not mean better deals elsewhere, I mean better models, cheaper models, given that there are a limited number of suppliers. I will say that this problem of the northern purchasing policy limiting the capital dollars that are available for purchasing school supplies in the Northwest Territories is a source of some concern to me.

Teachers and principals are complaining that their meagre funds are being eroded by them being required to deal with northern purchasers and pay associated increased costs that are not always there when they order direct from southern suppliers. I have asked that a study be undertaken in one region just to try and quantify the dimensions of this problem. I have not reached any conclusions on it nor taken any recommendations to the Executive Committee on it, but I recognize that our policy has not always been appropriate to schools because of the limited number of suppliers and certain high costs in the Northwest Territories. It is something that I am going to be paying attention to closely in the next short while. Thank you.

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

#### Computers For Elementary Schools

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to bring up a point under this page in regard to computers. It would appear that we are confining availability of computers to senior high schools. I wonder if the department has considered making computers available to schools who are providing grade nine and 10 grades and courses, because I feel that once the students get into grade nine they are dealing with complex courses in regard to mathematics, science and so forth and I feel that computers might be useful at that level as well. I wonder if the department has any plans to provide these computers to grades nine and 10. Again the situation is that technology will be available to large centres and perhaps will not be made available to other communities outside large centres.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, it is now possible particularly for some of the larger elementary schools to devote their capital budgets to computers if they wish to purchase a computer instead of say, a new tape recorder or movie projector or something like that. I happen to know, for example, that the Thomas Simpson School in Fort Simpson has one computer in place now and they have ordered another two for the coming year. So some of these schools have made these purchases and they do have the ability to do so if they decide that is a priority. I believe most elementary schools in Yellowknife as well now have computers in place for the students below high school.

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister did not answer my question. Are computers available to grades nine and 10 in the Territories? That is basically my question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: They are available to grade 10 students within this \$100,000 allocation in our capital plan so that every high school will have computers if it does not now, assuming it is determined they want them. For the grade nine students who are in elementary schools, they can have them if they wish to devote their capital budget to that priority but they will not necessarily have them. It depends on the attitude of the principal and perhaps the local education authority in a particular community.

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: One last question, Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that we are going on extremes. You have computers available for senior high schools and also to the elementary schools. I do not know what grade level the Minister is referring to -- what is elementary?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Grades three to nine.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I figure that the \$100,000 capital allocation would provide about 20 computers in seven high schools, some of which are pretty large high schools. It would be an average of approximately three computers in a school. In the elementary schools, I guess the size of the school pretty well dictates their ability to purchase a computer. If it is a large school like the one in Simpson, they will have a big enough capital budget that they can find \$5000 to purchase a computer. If they are a smaller school, it is going to be very difficult for them to find that money. I hope that answers the Member's question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Wah-Shee, are you satisfied? Okay. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the long pause while the Minister figured out the average number of computers, I see that mathematics was not the Minister's strong point in school...

---Laughter

...and he probably welcomes the introduction of computers. All of this, Mr. Chairman, raises the question as to their use. Is there a policy with respect to their use? Because it occurs to me that if young people are beginning to use them but not use them in correct ways through carefully guided instruction, that there will be a problem eventually when they have to unlearn what they have learned. They may have developed bad techniques and so on. So at what levels are there actually curricular programs for the learning of computer techniques? If they are being bought at other levels than those, what are they being used for? Have we gone very far along in the area of computer-assisted instruction? Is that what they are used for in the other classes? Or are they used for fooling around or whatever?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I will have to ask an expert to answer this one, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Lewis.

Computer Programs In Schools

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the introduction of computers into the schools has resulted in their application for various purposes in the school system. However, the direction that the department has given in the area of program is what we call "computer literacy". In other words, the direction that we are providing at that basic level would be to introduce the students of the Northwest Territories to a new method of dealing with information and the kind of literacy that you have to learn so that you can handle this kind of machinery and the language associated with it. That is the level that we are at right now and the kind of guidance that we are giving to the school system, but we are not in any detail providing -- at this stage anyway -- a complete program in computers or in computer-assisted instruction.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, maybe I could just add a little further to that. The Northwest Territories is a member of the Western Canada Post-secondary Co-ordinating Council. That council is composed of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and the two Territories and they have set up a subcommittee to deal with the whole issue of providing assistance to the Territories with a view to having the Northwest Territories take advantage of the tremendous amount of work and progress that has been done in areas of distant learning, computer-assisted learning, in Alberta and British Columbia in particular. We are an active part of a subcommittee that is looking at ways in which we can take advantage of the progress that has been made by these larger jurisdictions in this area. I would like to specifically mention in this regard that we have been offered by the Department of Communications a number of surplus satellite dishes at nominal cost which we will erect in the western part of the Northwest Territories to take better advantage of the Knowledge Network and access to the Alberta Access program and distant education services that have already been developed. This work is going on actively and I think holds great potential for the Northwest Territories.

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

Campus Planning, Fort Smith

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, on page 16.13, there is \$100,000 for campus planning for Fort Smith. Would the Minister just explain what that would involve?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, that is the plan for development of college level training programs throughout the Northwest Territories that I referred to in answering Mr. Curley's question. I might mention that the consultant who has been hired to do this work is a northern company.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Supplementary, Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: In the planning stages in the normal budget allocations there are normally estimates on what would be expected to be spent in the future years and in this budget allocation for future years anticipated expenditure there does not appear to be any future spending money. Is there a reason for that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this plan is to tell us what our capital priorities should be in the coming years. I might say that the National Training Act has established a fund -- this is a federal act which was proclaimed this year -- which we hope to have access to to erect new capital facilities or improve existing capital facilities to offer more training advantages in all parts of the Northwest Territories. But we feel we need to first do an assessment of what we have and what we need and this is the purpose of this college planning. We did make a bid on that fund in the current year but we were unsuccessful in obtaining any capital dollars.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, then would I understand from making this assessment that the future planning money would not necessarily be spent in Fort Smith?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, it certainly is not all intended for the campus at Fort Smith. Generally, the Thebacha College board of governors and the task force on implementation are working in a parallel and co-ordinated effort to plan a system of colleges and a system of college training opportunities in all parts of the Northwest Territories. It certainly is not all intended for the Fort Smith campus, by any means. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Detail of capital, page 16.14, \$11,723,000. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

Motion To Defer Approval Of Certain Capital Items Of Education Budget, Bill 1-83(1)

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion here which I would just like to pass out. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to move that the Legislative Assembly defer approval of the following Department of Education capital expenditures -- and they are listed here: Playground fence, Frobisher Bay, \$75,000; furniture and equipment, headquarters, Yellowknife, \$25,000; landscaping, William McDonald in Yellowknife, \$30,000; paving, William McDonald, \$120,000; campus planning, Fort Smith, \$100,000; driver simulator, Fort Smith, \$120,000; and renovations, Akaitcho Hall, \$100,000; totalling \$570,000. And further that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that these funds be considered for expenditure toward more important and necessary capital projects such as the planning and building of schools in Fort Liard, Fort Franklin and elsewhere in the Northwest Territories; and further that the Executive Committee report its decision in this matter to this Assembly before final consideration and approval of the Education budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): There may be some confusion or something complicated in that area. Let us take a 15 minute coffee break and we will examine it and we will come back to it after coffee.

---SHORT RECESS



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with a motion by Nick Sibbeston. Mr. Sibbeston, your motion is in order. Are there copies for the Members? Everybody has a copy. Mr. Sibbeston, do you want to speak to the motion?

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I think at issue here is whether an ordinary MLA can ever have any influence on a budget that is brought forth by the government. In my own experience, it seems as if once the budget comes within this forum we are pretty well stuck with it; it is very, very difficult to change or add to, and one of the very few powers I think we have as an Assembly is to reject or approve the budget that comes along, that is brought forward to us by the government. As an ordinary MLA, my idea is to come from the people, represent them, come here to Yellowknife and meet with other MLAs and do the best you can. This is what I am trying to do. I am trying to represent the people of Fort Liard, who are in dire need of a school; the idea, the suggestion, the plan to have it only begun somewhere in the late 1980s is just not acceptable. When I look over the budget as it is presented, I see a number of things that I really do not feel are justified. Maybe I see things differently from people in Yellowknife or Frobisher Bay or Fort Smith but from my vantage point anyway, where you do not even have a proper school for the kids, it just seems that paving playgrounds and providing fences are pretty extravagant or pretty extraordinary. It seems to me, anyway, that there are more important things than these things that are being proposed by the government.

#### Capital Items Seem Unnecessary

This is why I am suggesting that we defer the approval of the Education budget and we take a look at some of the capital items that are planned. They are all outlined here: a playground fence and landscaping; and I am aware that in the case of campus planning for Fort Smith of \$100,000 this year, there was \$50,000 last year; in the case of renovations to Akaitcho Hall, last year there was \$180,000, now there is \$100,000. It just seems to me that there is a lot of money put into things that are maybe not necessary.

I guess what I am asking is for you to please try to see things from our perspective, the rural and remote part of the North where you do not even have a proper school, and try to understand, try to agree that the moneys that the government has are to be spent in a better way than providing for these things. Maybe these things that are being planned here can be put off for a year or two. In the meantime, we could put the money that it springs loose, which is about \$570,000 or so, to much better use of providing schools to some of the communities in the North that do not have it.

One may say that this is scarcely enough to do anything worth while. I disagree; you can do a lot of planning with this money and there may be other departments from which we can get some money. This is my idea of being an MLA, that you could come to Yellowknife here, come to a meeting and be able to choose things and provide for things that your constituents really want and have discussions back and forth. Maybe after listening to Lynda Sorensen I can be convinced that the paving and playgrounds are important or maybe Mr. Patterson can convince me that a fence is very important in Frobisher Bay but I do not know. On first looking at some of these items they do appear excessive and unnecessary compared to the need for a new school in Fort Liard.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, just a matter of clarification in regard to the rationale behind Mr. Sibbeston's motion. He stated that last year there was \$50,000 for campus planning and this year there was \$100,000 allocated. I wonder if the Minister could let us know what the \$50,000 was used for last year. What was the outcome of this? Indeed, if it was allocated, was it actually used?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The \$50,000 allocated for campus planning -- or it really should be properly labelled "college planning" -- last year was not spent. It was diverted to other capital priorities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further discussion? Ms Cournoyea.



MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Sibbeston's motion, as well. He indicated that he felt that the driver simulator at Fort Smith for \$120,000 really was not needed. I wonder if the Minister could explain the driver simulator and why it was put in the budget. I realize that some of the students who are there have indicated that they are short on receiving drivers' lessons but I do not really know what that would be. Maybe it is a computer for all I know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, maybe with your permission I could very briefly describe all these capital projects, including the driver simulator.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Is the committee agreed?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am going to abstain from this motion and take direction from the House. I will try and explain what they are all about. Playground fence in Frobisher Bay is a result of...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Is the committee agreed that it would be better if the Minister went through each item and explained it?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Go ahead, Mr. Minister.

#### Explanation Of Items In Capital Budget

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The playground fence in Frobisher Bay is the result of new high-density housing built behind the elementary school and it is designed for child safety, protection from traffic.

Furniture and equipment, headquarters, Yellowknife, is probably not properly described. I am informed that it refers to equipment in Sir John Franklin and Detah schools and that the title is somewhat misleading in that regard. They are under headquarters administration and that is why it appears but it is not furniture and equipment going into the Laing Building or anything like that.

Landscaping for the new William McDonald school I think explains itself. Paving is also for the new William McDonald school. At the city of Yellowknife's request we arranged to have an access road built that would prevent students going to that new school from having to deal with the congestion of traffic on Franklin Avenue. So this is an access road that has been built behind the school; the paving will simply complete the work and pave the front area. As I mentioned the other day, I believe that the idea is that it will stop dirt in the school and ultimately prolong the life of the school, particularly for bus traffic.

Campus planning in Fort Smith, I have talked about that. The driver simulator is a piece of equipment which is designed to simulate driving conditions. It will give training in heavy equipment, highway transport driving and small vehicle operation. I think it has been designed specifically to meet the training needs that are anticipated coming out of the Norman Wells pipeline.

The renovation of Akaitcho Hall is really the completion of the work that started some years ago. The \$100,000 is allocated for replacing ageing equipment that is being now used in the kitchen, that was probably used when Mr. Sibbeston was there, that is now old and in need of replacement. We will see a new, more efficient cafeteria system put in place which will allow us more efficiency in serving food and ultimately save some costs.

#### Estimated Cost Of School In Fort Liard

The only other comment I would make on the motion, Mr. Chairman, is that it refers to diverting these particular funds toward more important and necessary capital projects, such as planning and building of schools in Fort Liard, Fort Franklin and elsewhere in the NWT. I would like to say that we have already budgeted for the Fort Franklin school; we do not need to divert any funds to planning or to constructing that particular school. I might also add, Mr. Chairman, for Members' information, that we estimate the cost of a new school in Fort Liard at \$2.8 million. At the moment the plan does not include a gym although this is undoubtedly subject to change as we get closer to the actual implementation. The total estimated cost at this point is \$2.8 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): To the motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated that the school for Fort Franklin has already been budgeted for and I see on page 16.10 that it is estimated that the total capital projections will be \$3.2 million. He has also mentioned that the school in Fort Liard has been estimated at a cost of \$2.8 million, yet could you indicate where in the capital budget the Fort Liard school is shown?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

Future Capital Planning Budget For Fort Liard School

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as I told the honourable Member for Deh Cho the other day, we have budgeted capital planning for the Fort Liard school in future years, apart from an amount of \$90,000 which we are going to spend in the current year on what is described as an alternate education centre. We have \$50,000 budgeted for planning a new school in the year 1986-87, \$230,000 in the year 1987-88, and \$2.5 million is described as future in our five year capital plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like some clarification from the mover of the motion. I wonder if he could indicate where else he is talking about when he says "and elsewhere in the NWT" in his motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: I guess I was inviting public participation or MLA participation. Maybe Members have hoped for building schools in other parts of the North. I was really leaving it open for other MLAs to state their concerns and just generally have an open discussion as to what we think about some of the expenditures that have been itemized, whether they are indeed extraneous and unnecessary.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): To the motion. Is everybody ready for the question on the motion, then?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Ms Cournoyea, to the motion.

Amendment To Motion To Defer Approval Of Certain Capital Items Of Education Budget, Bill 1-83(1), Carried

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make an amendment, seeing that a motion that was made the other day was challenged even though a deletion was made. I would like to amend the motion to delete the driver simulator at Fort Smith and renovations at Akaitcho Hall.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Okay, the amendment has been moved to delete the last two items on the motion which are the driver simulator at Fort Smith, \$120,000, and renovations at Akaitcho Hall, \$100,000. To the amendment.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe that many of us in the Legislative Assembly sessions in the past have indicated that for students who come to Yellowknife it is important to have a facility that is attractive and for all the students. They do come from all over the Northwest Territories. We did in the past fight very hard to have those renovations done to the Akaitcho Hall residence. I believe that the Akaitcho Hall residence was done in phases because of the budget allocations from year to year, so because there are many students there I feel that these renovations should continue.

In terms of the driver simulator in Fort Smith, I know there are many students that really feel that they have not got the opportunities in the communities to learn how to drive. They find that it is very difficult to get someone to even provide the vehicles to teach them. Many of the vehicles are easily damaged because of the inability or the inexperience of young drivers. Because this has been brought to my attention on a number of occasions over the number of years that we have been talking about driver education and the need to teach safe driving to students

at as early an age as possible, I believe that that is needed. It is a needed facility to get as many students as possible through the driver education program. These are the reasons that I suggest that these two last items be deleted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Are you ready for the question on the amendment? All those in favour? Opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion as amended. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to point out to the committee, if we agree with the rationale that just allowed the deletion of the last two items because of the number of students coming in to areas -- another particular item on the motion. This is the planning of new facilities for Thebacha College. I suggest to you that exactly the same reasons as the Member for the Western Arctic put forth for the deletion of the driver simulator and the renovations to Akaitcho Hall, hold true in terms of planning for facilities to house students while attending Thebacha College -- the students come from all over the Territories -- and in addition, planning for other particular courses that are offered throughout the Territories. We have a number of students living in substandard accommodations, in my opinion. There is a great need, as has been indicated here on different occasions, for better classroom space. Those of you who went down and looked at where the mechanical, plumbing, electrical courses were taking place either last year or the year before can well recall them being taught in conditions that to some degree, were far from ideal. There has been as well, a demand to provide more recreational facilities for the students of Thebacha College. These students are not from one particular community; they come from all over.

I would suggest to you regarding the rationale for deleting renovations at Akaitcho Hall and the driver simulator at Thebacha College -- and I think, again, it is not in Fort Smith; it is at Thebacha College, so it is not a simulator for the town, it is for students from all over -- the same thing holds true in trying to provide some planning money so that we can get the best facilities for the teaching of courses, for the housing of students and for the recreational needs of those students in the first instance at Thebacha College and for better teaching facilities and other course materials in other places of the Territories. I think as well that there has been planning and there will be planning in terms of the construction of other schools that are needed throughout the Territories. Somewhere along the line we have put a priority on these, and I support what the Minister has put forward in his particular budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): To the motion. Mr. Braden.

#### Capital Budget Involves Planning For Millions Of Dollars

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Well, just to say, Mr. Chairman, I cannot vote in favour of this motion. I think the Department of Education has budgeted for the work in respect to Akaitcho Hall for the last couple of years. The new William McDonald School in Yellowknife was built and what we want to do is complete some of the finishing work associated with that new school. The reason we built the new school here is because the old one was condemned and it had been condemned for a number of years until we got around to building a new one. I cannot speak for Frobisher Bay but I assume that there is good reason for putting fencing up there.

I would just urge Members to recognize that we are building new schools constantly in the Northwest Territories. We are looking at building a new one in Mr. Sayine's constituency, in Snowdrift, I believe; we are looking at building one on the Hay River reserve; and the capital planning process of Education involves millions and millions of dollars. So I do not know really what this motion accomplishes. We recognize there is a need for new educational facilities in the Northwest Territories, but to nickel and dime the Education capital budget I do not think is going to accomplish anything.

MR. SIBBESTON: It is just a start. Wait until we get to yours.

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: I have no capital budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: A question, first. I particularly do not have any strong feelings about paving the area to William McDonald. It would not hurt me if that were dropped out but you did say that the Department of Education had a request from the city of Yellowknife. My question is, did the department undertake an obligation when it was given that land by the city to build an access road of a certain quality, and does this represent...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Do you have a point of order, Ms Cournoyea?

MS COURNOYEA: Well, my understanding is that there is an amendment on the floor. Maybe I am not reading it...

AN HON. MEMBER: It was passed.

MS COURNOYEA: I mean the one Mr. McCallum made a statement about -- the college planning.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Ms Cournoyea, Mr. McCallum did not make an amendment. To the motion. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I am waiting for the answer to the question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

#### Costs Of Paving Access Road Will Be Recovered

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Taylor Road access was built at the request of the city of Yellowknife. We have paid for that already and my information is that we will be repaid for that by the city of Yellowknife, I guess on the theory that we have built a public road for them. This is paving in the area in front of the school, the school ground itself and the parking area. So we will recover from the road, but the apron of the school, I believe it might be called, is what we are talking about with this \$120,000 and we will not recover that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, that seems an awful lot of money for that small amount of work but maybe I do not realize the costs of paving these days. At any rate, if we have no particular obligation it does not really bother me that that particular item would be dropped. It seems to me that in each case with the others there is something about them that is important. I just want clarification. How did this capital budget get before us? Do I not understand that regional directors sit down and participate in the capital planning and invite input from MLAs in every constituency? Is this process not followed then through the Executive Committee determining priorities and so on, and the standing committee on finance has a go at it as well? Is that not the process that brings these items to us in this form?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

#### Capital Planning Process

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would say that the Member has broadly described a capital planning process, although the community consultation and input is better or worse in various parts of the Northwest Territories according to how much interest is expressed by MLAs and by communities. The capital plan is reviewed by the standing committee on finance in detail and has been reviewed by them and is reviewed in detail by the Executive Committee. I can say that there were a number of capital planning projects this year during the budget development preparation that were sacrificed and were found not to be priorities. I think the Minister of the department responsible must ultimately take responsibility for the capital budget presented. The list of capital projects that Mr. Sibbeston refers to is a short list that was determined by the Executive Committee when the capital planning targets were finally determined. That of course depends also on what is available from the federal government. It is a complicated process. Regions cannot always get what they ask for; usually they are given revised targets. The process of setting priorities begins at the regions but is finally dealt with by the Financial Management Board. I suppose Mr. Pilot could give even more detail on that than I can here at this time. Thank you.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: It is possible then, that those who had input from Frobisher Bay might very well have surrendered something else in this process because in their estimation, living right there, they felt that this was particularly important and we are not in a position to know whether that was the case. If it is particularly important, then I do not feel that I am in a position just to wipe it out at a moment's notice like this. Another item that we see in there is landscaping for William McDonald for \$30,000. When that is seen by itself, it seems weak and indefensible maybe but it is the conclusion to a project that has been going on. If we put up houses and then in the next years budget have something for painting them, that by itself would look indefensible yet it completes the project. So in going through them in that way, I just do not feel competent now to determine that those are items that should be dropped. Certainly at least the two that Ms Cournoyea moved to have deleted, I am glad that that passed.

#### Adjustments In Capital Planning

The net result of this exercise seems to be that there may be \$350,000 that would not be put on these things but that would be put in some other place. What I understand, Mr. Minister, is that probably the Executive Committee, if this motion passed, would look to its five year capital plan and allocate that money to the next priorities that are down the line in the capital plan. Is that likely to be what would happen? It seems to me if planning has gone into that that they would not jump all those things and decide that a school in Fort Liard was going to be the next thing. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think the Executive Committee if this motion were to pass would again scrutinize this list and see whether certain projects could be eliminated or deferred. I think deferral is the most likely thing. I would like to point out that as I see the capital planning process, anyway, it is a living, flexible thing. Projects are delayed for circumstances beyond our control. These are all estimates. Projects sometimes happily cost less than what we had budgeted. It may be that, for example, we can get that paving done at the William McDonald school for a lot less than \$120,000. The estimate may be high.

I did tell the Member that I am aware of the strong feelings of the people of Fort Liard about getting a new school much sooner than what we planned. I attended a public meeting there and listened for several hours. I saw the school myself. It is not impossible that the Executive Committee could adjust the capital plan whether this motion passes or not. I did indicate the other day I would certainly try to do that. I always try to move projects ahead when it appears possible, particularly if we are not spending as much as we budgeted in some projects, although that is becoming more rare these days I am afraid. At any rate, I think it certainly may well be possible to defer some of these projects, yes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. MacQuarrie.

#### Intervention Appears Arbitrary

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. A final one, Mr. Chairman. That is what I was thinking; you have been there, you have seen the school there and you are able to compare the need with other requests that are being put in. What we got was the final result of that kind of judgment and that is what makes me leery about just intervening in this abrupt and arbitrary way. So I find it difficult to support the motion, although I do recognize there is probably a need for a school there and some of these by themselves do not seem to be particularly pressing or important.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. To the motion as amended. Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. It is pretty hard to justify voting for a capital expenditure for things like landscaping and paving when we know that there are schools that are short of equipment, gym equipment, other stuff that is essential to the school. All of us on this side usually wade through two or three feet of mud every spring to get to our schools and we accept that as a reality. So I really find it difficult to be able to support approving money for paving and landscaping and things of that nature. The priorities have got to be straightened out. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wray. I understand that was just a comment. Is that right? Thank you. To the motion as amended. Ms Cournoyea.



MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I understand some of the Members' reluctance to try to change the budget and, giving all due credit to the process of how these budget allocations are done, one of the questions in my area that I was asked particularly to bring to this session -- and I will do so -- is just how much of the budget allocation is done because of politics rather than need? I cannot see how an iron fence can have priority over a program, over another teacher, over an additional schoolroom that is required in a small community. I know landscaping is nice to have, that it is nice to have a nice-looking community but I will say that many of our constituents do wade through mud -- the whole community is filled with mud, a lot of times. They do have that initial problem of trying to get to the school. So I do not see why it would be difficult to decide whether you are going to give to a community an additional facility that is justifiably needed because there are a number of students that have to enter into that schoolroom, rather than an iron fence.

Perhaps for some of the Executive Members this nickel and diming may not be big to them but when you go to a community level, \$75,000 means a lot; \$15,000 on a road program sometimes means a lot; sometimes a sewage truck means a lot. You cannot really try not to make adjustments to a budget when you see an iron fence, when you know at a community level that there is an additional classroom that is required or an upgrading.

I realize that none of the reallocation is aimed at my area; that does not bother me unnecessarily. But I do not believe that, if you look at the allocations that are suggested in being deleted and realigned for things that are going to actually house the classroom or do something in a community to provide a facility so people can even sit inside, is really necessarily something that you would have to struggle -- in terms of the budget allocation, it bounces around from the communities back to the region, back to Yellowknife, Yellowknife back to the community. Oftentimes that budget does not look like anything that either the communities really want or are expecting their priorities to be or even the regional level priorities, so there is a lot in that decision-making process, indeed, and a lot of priorities that have to be set by the Executive. I appreciate that. However, I can support an extra school facility over and above a fence or landscaping any day; that is not a difficult thing for myself to support. I feel if communities are really wanting enhancement -- sometimes we take the trouble at home to do a little bit around the school ourselves, but I think landscaping is sort of a luxury item. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to see if the Minister would respond. Before I do that I suppose I must address myself to the motion, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, in view of that, I would then like to add an amendment to the motion as amended, that all items listed under detail of capital on page 16.10, listed as "various", be included in the motion; as well as page 16.11, items listed under various, as far as the regions are concerned -- and I can have that in proper form -- and also on page 16.12, all items listed under various. I believe if they can just be listed as "various" items, involving hundreds of thousands of dollars, that there is really no urgency as to what these items are. So I would include all those items listed under various. Mr. Chairman, I will give you the list exactly as it is. All right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Go ahead, Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Do you want me to state them?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We want to get a copy of it.

MR. CURLEY: Coming up.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Could we then just recess for five minutes until we can get this amendment straight? No coffee, just a recess. Relax.

---SHORT RECESS

Mr. Curley, for the records, could you read your amendment?

Further Amendment To Motion To Defer Approval Of Certain Capital Items Of Education Budget,  
Bill 1-83(1)

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the motion be amended by adding after "campus planning, Fort Smith, \$100,000" the following: Page 16.10: Fort Smith region, various, \$126,000; Inuvik region, various, \$92,000; Baffin region, various, \$117,000; Keewatin region, various, \$55,000; Kitikmeot region, various, \$46,000. Page 16.11: Inuvik region, various, \$92,000; Baffin region, various, \$117,000; Keewatin region, various, \$55,000; Kitikmeot region, various, \$46,000. Page 16.12: Fort Smith region, various, \$10,000; Inuvik region, various, \$7000; Baffin region, various, \$12,000; Keewatin region, various, \$6000; Kitikmeot region, various, \$5000; Fort Smith region, various, \$10,000; Inuvik region, various, \$14,000; Baffin region, various, \$24,000; Keewatin region, various, \$12,000; Keewatin, KVTC, various, \$10,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Your amendment is in order. Do you want to speak to the amendment?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Although these items might be very crucial and some parts essential to various locations in the region, it is not specific as far as the items are concerned. I would like to state that unless they are clear, we have no indication as an Assembly here whether these items are crucial or not. Possibly we could do without them and they could be allocated to something more important. I think it is absurd to have \$800,000 worth of items not listed and itemized, so I would think that they could be used for more important facilities, like building extensions to schools, which at this moment are very crucial. That is all I would like to state, Mr. Chairman.

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

Schools Would Be Deprived Of Equipment

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the point is going to be of constructing new schools if we cannot, on a yearly basis, replace used and worn-out equipment. I would like to explain that if this motion passes, it is recommended by this Legislative Assembly that we deprive all schools in the Northwest Territories of the formula funding for replacement of furniture and equipment necessary for the operation of classrooms. This is \$500 per classroom in the Northwest Territories for new capital equipment, and \$1000 for each home economics classroom, resource centre, gym or other specialist room like an art room.

I would like to say that it would take volumes to list the basketballs, saws, files, computers, sewing machines, art supplies, art equipment, kilns, toilet paper, that is why -- but "various" does not mean that we do not have good plans for these. If the Member thinks there is not a need for replacing equipment in a busy school then I would like him to go out and tell the teachers and the students of the Northwest Territories that they are going to have to make do with broken or worn-out equipment for the coming year.

I receive complaints all over the place that we are not providing enough money to replace worn-out equipment, that the formula should be increased. By removing this at one stroke, I think we are dealing a mortal blow to the ability of teachers to offer a good educational program. The reason we cannot specify the items is because they vary so tremendously in various regions according to the program. In the Keewatin, it is an on-the-land program. We may be talking about materials for building komatiks, we may be talking about files for teaching kids how to carve in Baffin. That is why it is various; there is no way of describing what the needs are in each school.

I did indicate I would want to take advice from this House and abstain on these motions, but I certainly cannot be a party to this one. I cannot stand idly by on this one. Someone else can have my job if we cannot offer to replace worn-out equipment in our schools in the coming year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the amendment. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am very impressed or very pleased to have this particular amendment because it is obviously a great sacrificial act on the part of Mr. Curley because some of the "various" does pertain to his region and he is prepared to give that up. If other Members are prepared to give up some of these miscellaneous items, then I think it shows the amount of support there is to build a new school in places like Fort Lard. Not in 1988 or 1989 or the turn of the century -- heavens, we will not even be here by that time probably, so it is very proper for us to plan. I am very heartened by the support that people are obviously prepared to give up things for their own areas so that Fort Lard can have a school begun in the next year or two -- not the end of the century.

These items listed here on page 16.10 are minor projects. Can you imagine the extent of minor projects? Some of these are large sums, like Fort Smith region, \$126,000, and Baffin, \$117,000. They may be minor projects but they are very substantial sums of money. Mr. Butters, I know when Mr. Patterson was naming some of the things that would be cut out, seemed to think it would be so terrible. Well, equipment and basketballs do not wear out in a year. It would not hurt the people of the North, the schools of the North to not having any new equipment or replacements for one year. Basketballs and tools that were bought last year do not wear out. We do not need to constantly replace these. I agree things like chalk do wear out, toilet paper does get used, but these are insignificant items. We could maybe leave out \$10,000 or \$20,000 or \$30,000 for these necessary items but to suggest that all of this money is needed and Mr. Patterson says he is going to put his job on the line if we go for this, I think is a bit nonsensical. I do not think you need to, Mr. Patterson. You need not see it as an affront to you but just MLAs from the North trying to do the best they can on behalf of their constituents. I mean there is nothing sacred about the process. I was not involved in the give and take about whether Yellowstone should have its paved playground...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): You have a point of order, Mrs. Sorensen?

MRS. SORENSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Sibbeston was invited to take part in the deliberations of the finance committee in December. He was also invited to be a member of the finance committee which he declined. So it is not quite true that he was not involved; he had the opportunity to be involved but he declined that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I do not know if that is a point of order. I think the Member was talking to the amendment. A point of clarification maybe, but it is not a point of order. Mr. Sibbeston, continue.

Major Decisions Should Be Made In Assembly

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, if the government now says that the process is sacred that we ought to, as good MLAs, just rubber stamp this whole thing as it has been brought down to us -- then is that what the government is saying? On the contrary, if the action, if the major decisions in respect of a budget like this are made in finance committee out in the regional areas where priorities are set, well, tell us. I have been involved before in a region, the Deh Cho area, in the capital planning process. I spent a great deal of time but I must say that I believe my efforts did not result in anything more for my area than before. I believe the action is up here in Yellowstone with the Ministers who decide which projects go. If I had known that the action was in the finance committee I surely would have gone there and would have saved myself some time. For the Ministers and for people like Mrs. Sorensen to say that the action, the major decisions, are elsewhere than here is not right. These are just little subcommittees of this Assembly and the action, the major decisions, I feel should be made here. This is what we are trying to do, trying to affect the process, trying to be proper MLAs in dealing with things that come before you at this level. This is what we are trying to do but people say that this is not the right process, you are not playing -- you know, talking about other things.

So I support this amendment because I do feel that if all these little various projects were left out of this years budget that the North would not suffer too greatly. I say that it is not as bad as Mr. Patterson suggests, that people and teachers and students are going to be without essential things. Things do not wear out that fast; you do not have to get things on a yearly basis. Tools and equipment do not wear out that fast and if schools were made to make do with all the things they have, I feel anyway, they would not suffer greatly. In order to get a school somewhere in the North, maybe this type of action is necessary.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. I have Mr. MacQuarrie after coffee. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

The Chair recognizes a quorum. Mr. Minister, I think you wanted to reply to the comments made by Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say that the capital plan, in my view, is not simply submitted for a rubber stamp approval by the Legislative Assembly. I am fully aware that the Legislative Assembly has the power to not vote certain capital projects which is why we spend months preparing the capital plan so it is defensible, hopefully. I would like to explain that all I am really saying in speaking to this amendment is that this is not a soft spot. These are not areas that we can afford to cut back on.

#### Capital Allocations For All Adult Education Activities Affected

I would like just to mention one thing I did not say in my earlier remarks. That is that the various projects on page 16.12 include all the precious capital allocations for adult education activities in all the communities in the Northwest Territories. I think Members who have been to adult education centres will know that they are severely handicapped already. I would very strongly urge Members to reject the amendment, or at least as far as that part is concerned. I would like to say also that these projects are allocated without discrimination between regions. They are allocated on a formula basis that depends on the number of classrooms. If there are any Members that are suggesting that the allocations are disproportionate in various areas, it is simply a reflection of the number of classrooms.

I would like to say I accept that the capital plan can be amended and rejected and not approved by Members. All I am saying is this is one area where I am not going to stand by idly and see it cut out of the capital plan, because I am the one who is going to have to explain it to the schools. I have been touring schools since I got this job and one consistent theme I always get is there is not enough money for minor capital, that things do wear out and children do not always treat gym equipment in such a manner as not to puncture the basketball. The point I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is not that we should inflexibly adopt the capital plan, but that I would like to see areas that we really believe we can sacrifice. This clearly in my mind is not one such area addressed in this particular amendment. If the Assembly approves this motion though, we will certainly scrutinize every dollar that we have allocated again. However, I am going to have to abandon my neutral position and vote against this particular amendment because I think it is indefensible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Wray. To the amendment.

MR. WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think the problem lies in the fact that we are given this budget and we start pulling out all those various items from here and there. It comes too close to one million dollars and that is a lot of money. A million dollars could do a lot for the Baffin and the Keewatin region. I think maybe rather than list "various", if it were listed under things like gym supplies, school supplies, so that we will have a better idea of what the money is actually for, then it might save us problems in the future. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Mr. McLaughlin. To the amendment.

#### Priorities Of Spending A Decision Of The Communities

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak against the amendment, because I just served on a committee that did the same thing -- travel around. We heard complaints about lack of equipment and lack of local opportunity to decide what they wanted. If we get down to specify that each classroom has to get \$100 for phys ed equipment, \$100 for shop, \$100 for home economics and things like that, then we are going the same direction exactly. I think that what people want is to have a say. If you have formula funding where you allow each classroom in the Northwest Territories to get so much total money spent on it, if they decide they want to buy sewing machines, good. If they decide they want to buy fridges for their home economics classes, that is up to them. Let them set their own priorities in their own communities and keep the regional superintendent out of it and, especially, this Legislative Assembly out of it. So I am going to vote against the amendment because I think it goes wholly against the spirit of the recommendations that the special committee on education made, which was to let the regional people in the local communities decide, specifically, what things they want to have in their classes for their students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I certainly am aware that the communities are always short of funds. I definitely am aware of that, but these funds are not controlled as well by the local education societies. The funds are controlled directly by regional headquarters and it is really up to the superintendent as to how he allocates these funds. If you really studied the details of these various items under minor projects and number of times -- if one region is allocated sometimes double the amount, and in the same region a place like Yellowknife has a certain fund to administer its own furniture and equipment fund. I think the point that I would like to make is do we know how the money that is allotted to my region is actually spent, when it just says it is for various minor projects? Minor projects, furniture and equipment, Keewatin region, \$55,000, then when you turn the next page it says on page 16.11, furniture and equipment, Keewatin region -- that makes a little more sense -- furniture and equipment, Keewatin region, various, \$55,000. What is a minor project really? So it seems to me there are double allocations of financial resources further on. I am not too convinced that what we want for the community is really being served just by giving all that money to the regional superintendent who, in turn, is free to use that money in the region. It could be used in his headquarters within the region because it does not state how much of these specified amounts is allotted to each community. I would think that the Executive will come out with at least a better explanation. I would maybe give the Minister right now an opportunity to explain to us whether or not he would ensure that all these amounts stated here actually will be spent for equipment and actually for the community-based schools, rather than for the regional headquarters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. To the amendment. Mr. Curley.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendment to the motion does make sense when you look at it. It makes a lot of sense but the equipment and the facilities in the schools in the Northwest Territories have to be supplied. We all know that the schools in the Northwest Territories have to be supplied for their projects. I will not support this amendment, but I realize, too, what is behind it -- what the reason is behind it. If we were to go ahead and approve it, they will run into a lot of difficulties in the future. This is the reason why I will vote against it. Thank you.

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



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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is one area where I can assure the Member that every classroom teacher is well aware that they have \$500 to spend in an ordinary classroom per year in purchasing new materials and equipment, and \$1000 in the specialized classrooms. They requisition those funds and they spend them. I am quite certain that that is one area of our budget where virtually without exception the money is spent, because this is an area of discretion that is of great interest to each classroom teacher.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Further Amendment To Motion To Defer Approval Of Certain Capital Items Of Education Budget, Bill 1-83(1), Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question is being called. All those in favour? Down. Opposed? The amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

To the motion as amended. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier Mr. Sibbeston was talking about what he considered to be the proper role of MLAs, and it is my opinion that he is wrong in his judgment of what the proper role is. I think that our proper role is to provide broad directions and set priorities and direct that policies be formed in certain areas and so on, and that only rarely should we become involved in details -- when there seems to be very good reason for it. In effect this motion puts us into the position of having to decide on details and I accept that if that seems to be the will of many Members. But what it does do is make me feel that if I have to play the role of an official and decide whether a particular project should go or not go, that is fine, I will accept that role, but then I want the same kind of information that the officials have when they make these decisions.

Playground Fence In Frobisher Bay

So I would like to ask, Mr. Minister, with respect to a playground fence in Frobisher Bay, would you please tell me which school we are talking about in Frobisher Bay, what is the traffic situation that you referred to earlier, what kind of a street passes by the playground at the present, is there a fair amount of child traffic across that thoroughfare undirected because there is no fence, and will you tell me where the initiative came from in order to build this fence? Did the local education authority recommend that it be built? Also any other details that you think are important in making a judgment about it, please.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can perhaps provide more detail on this one than some of the other capital projects since this is planned for my own community. It is planned for the elementary school in Frobisher Bay, Nakasuk Elementary School. The proposal is a result of the suggestion from the region but it also originated with the local improvement committee in Frobisher Bay, which is planning a playground in Nakasuk Elementary School using voluntary and Katimavik summer labour. The reason for the fence is that there are a number of new high density federal housing units which have been built by the federal government to the rear of the elementary school. There is also a major artery in front of the elementary school which is the major road in Frobisher Bay and is across from the Hudson's Bay store. It was felt and recommended to the Department of Education that it was time that the school grounds be properly demarcated and that measures be instituted to improve traffic control so that the hazards, particularly to young children, would be minimized.

They are planning, with other resources and funds, to change the bus access to the school so that there will be a turnaround rather than an in-and-out flow of traffic in front of the school for buses. The purpose of the fence is to restrict the points that children will use in crossing the roads. There is a crosswalk at the Hudson's Bay store, and there will be one place marked at the rear as well. This is the busiest area of town and safety is the main factor, the main point of concern. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. By having a fence with only certain openings, you will be able to channel student traffic toward those openings and reduce the incidence of crossing the thoroughfare at dangerous points. Can you tell me how many children go to that school and have there been any accidents or near-accidents as a result of the traffic in the area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The school population projected for the coming year is 416, from kindergarten to grade six. To my knowledge there have been no traffic accidents involving children in recent years, although there was a fatal accident on the road in front of the school within the last year, where a pedestrian was killed by a taxi. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Although it was not a student in that case, the possibility certainly exists with children, the way they dart out into streets and so on. Can you tell me more about the local improvement committee? Whom are they related to? Is that an offspring of the local education authority or of the city council?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, this is a committee of volunteers formed under the auspices of the town council of Frobisher Bay. Another reason for constructing a fence in that playground is that there is a considerable volume of high-speed snowmobile traffic in that area. The fence is designed to finally put a stop to that problem. Signs have failed in earlier years and it is felt that only a fence will eliminate this hazard in the playground area. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is high-speed traffic right in the school ground at the present time, is it? Yes. Well, it seems to me from what has been said, Mr. Minister, that I regard that as quite an important project and I would challenge whoever moved the motion to delete to respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Evaluarjuk. To the motion.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, on the motion regarding the \$75,000 for the playground fence in Frobisher Bay, I would like to support the Minister. I have been to Frobisher Bay over 100 times and it is true that it is necessary to have a playground fence because it is so dangerous when the children play just outside the Nakasuk Elementary School, right beside the main road in Frobisher Bay. If there was a problem with a vehicle that was passing by there could be some serious accidents. I would not support any motion to delete the \$75,000 for the playground fence in Frobisher Bay. I just wanted to support the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Evaluarjuk. To the motion as amended. Mr. Wray.

Further Amendment To Motion To Defer Approval Of Certain Capital Items Of Education Budget, B111 I-83(1)

MR. WRAY: I would like to make an amendment to the motion that we delete "playground fence in Frobisher Bay" from the motion.

---laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Amendment to delete the playground fence in Frobisher Bay. To the amendment. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I guess I had better tell you about Fort Lard. I think I have done it once before but what we are talking about in Fort Lard...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Let us try the amendment first.

### Importance Of Building New School In Fort Liard

MR. SIBBESTON: No, Mr. Chairman, because the amendment talks about deleting a fence and obviously people are choosing between a fence or whether there should be money put to work planning a school in Liard. So I would just like to tell you about that. After all that has been said by Mr. Patterson, in my view I still feel that to get money to plan and build a school in Fort Liard, in the next year or two or three, is more important than a fence in Frobisher Bay and I will tell you why.

Two or three years ago the attendance in Fort Liard was 28 per cent. There are probably over 100 kids in Fort Liard but very, very few of them go to school. Liard, up to a couple of years ago was fairly isolated. It was a little Dene community and it is just like heaven over there, it is just like paradise. It is wonderful country, lots of trees, warm weather, lots of animals, lots of game, lots of fur, so people still live off the land for the most part. However, life is changing in Fort Liard; it has been changing the last two years. The federal government is building a highway and has finished a highway to Fort Liard. In the last couple of years you have seen the chief of Fort Liard get involved in the economic development of Beaver Enterprises and over the course of the last couple of years the leaders of Fort Liard have been trying to convince the people that they should send their kids to school. Fort Liard, of all the places in my area, is an area that people do not go to school. Places like Jean Marie River with maybe 50 people have lots of high school graduates because the people in Jean Marie River stress education. That is also the case in Wrigley. There are lots of educated people that have come out of Wrigley. Providence is another place.

There are some places in the North where parents stress education and kids go to school, but in Liard it was not like that. Life was so good on the land that parents did not think there was any need to send kids to school. In the last few years with the highway coming in, with the efforts of the band council, they have begun to convince the people that there is a need for education. In Fort Liard they are finding that there is need for educated people to work for Beaver Enterprises. For instance, they cannot get a secretary from Fort Liard to work for Beaver Enterprises or work for the settlement council; there is no girl that has ever gone up to grade 11 or 12 to become a secretary. They have to import them from Fort Nelson or Fort Simpson.

So the community is trying to stress education, they are trying to get the parents and kids to go to school and in the last couple of years they have made some inroads. As an example, with a whole new staff, new approach, new attitude and with the help of the band the attendance at the school was in the area of about 60 or 70 per cent in the fall I believe, and generally it is still 50 to 60 per cent. But the school is old. There was a big wind and the porch fell off the school with the wind and it fell on a couple of the kids.

Mr. Patterson toured the school; the school is dilapidated, it is old. I remember when I was on Council in the early 1970s, the government then was planning to build a new school but because the attendance was so low the government kept putting it off, putting it off, putting it off. So the school never got built. I really feel that the community of Fort Liard is trying to get kids to start attending school. With the type of work that is beginning to develop with Beaver Enterprises, with the highway coming in there, parents and people are beginning to see that there is merit in getting an education and getting technical education for the jobs that are becoming available. Life and society is changing in Liard and so I just feel that there is need to start planning a school in Liard. The school is very cramped, they are using the main school which has about two or three rooms I think, and that is crowded. They are using another little building outside of that and that...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Sibbeston, could we get back to the amendment? The amendment is just to delete the fence in Frobisher Bay. I think that is all the amendment is. If we could get back to that maybe we could talk about the school in Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: This is why I really think that it is important to put some money toward planning and building a school. Seen in this light, I do not think a fence in Frobisher Bay is very important because you have a big fence already in Frobisher Bay. Obviously you have playgrounds and things for the kids to play on and what you are talking about is a fence. From my vantage point it is more important to put money into planning an eventual construction of the Liard school than building a fence in Frobisher Bay, and this is what the amendment is about. I say put aside the fence in Frobisher Bay. It is not as important as starting planning and eventual building of the Liard school, and that is the thing I think we should be able to talk about -- give and take here and there. What else can I say?



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. To the amendment. The amendment says, "delete the fence in Frobisher Bay". Mr. Sayine.

Moneys Budgeted For First Year Planning Of Fort Liard School

MR. SAYINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, what is going to happen here is that we are going to be deleting all the capital items that Mr. Sibbeston had in his original motion. I have a question for the Minister. My question is how much money are we talking about for the school in Fort Liard, for the first year, for the planning stage?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the planning funds that we budgeted are \$50,000 in the first year, \$230,000 in the second year, which would be the detailed drawings, approximately 10 per cent of the overall cost. The first year would be community-based planning so the total planning, funds, architectural drawings would be \$280,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Sayine, supplementary.

MR. SAYINE: I would just like to add further that too often now we have been caught up in motions like this, taking about three or four hours and coming back to square one again. I feel Mr. Sibbeston should have just made the motion at the beginning -- just stating that so much money be allocated this year for planning of the school instead of going through all this.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. CURLLEY: No, you do not get anywhere that way.

MR. SIBBESTON: No, they are all against us.

MR. SAYINE: I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that most of us would have gone for a motion like this. A school is a very important thing for a community. I do not know what happens in all the communities but certainly in the communities in my constituency, every spring we have a capital planning session in every community and all the communities have input into this sort of thing. This is the way we usually get our capital moneys in my communities anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Sayine. To the amendment. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the amendment. Let us try and stick to the amendment.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, I was going to say since you allowed the discussion of the Fort Liard school as part of the amendment, I would like to follow that up. I think it would be in order, in view of your earlier decision. Apparently Mr. Sibbeston is pressing to have this school put ahead of others. I would therefore like the Minister to give us a list of the schools that are planned over the next several years, prior to the Fort Liard school, and a reason why each of those is being built in the order that it is and finally, why Fort Liard has been placed in the position it has been placed. It involves a fair amount of detail but I would appreciate it, please. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I think I should open the floor for general comments again. We do not seem to be getting anywhere with this amendment. To the amendment. Ms Cournoyea.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Point of order, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. CURLLEY: You have none.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I just feel that fair is fair. If you allow him to go on at length about that particular topic, why do you change your ruling when it comes to something that I am asking? It is precisely on the same topic.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I happen to be the chairman, that is why.

---Laughter



MR. MacQUARRIE: And as such, you have obligations to be objective and impartial, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I did object to Mr. Sibbeston and I did get him back on the amendment. I let Robert Sayine talk and he mentioned the amendment. You have not mentioned the amendment.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Very well, very well. I will accept your decision but before the motion is finished I can assure you that I will be back to that point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Ms Cournoyea, to the amendment.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe the amendment is that you delete the fence, is that it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To delete the "playground fence in Frobisher Bay in the amount of \$75,000".

MS COURNOYEA: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): I am not surprised you asked what the amendment was because everybody is talking about everything else.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I also understand why Mr. Sibbeston wants to talk about the Fort Liard school, because if we indeed drop the playground fence from the motion then there will be no money to look toward Fort Liard school.

MR. CURLEY: Hear, hear!

MS COURNOYEA: So to me, I think a school that is as badly needed -- and the Minister has also indicated in his talks earlier that he felt very concerned about that small little community. It was also stated that the community had young people who wanted to go to school...

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Point of order, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, if you are going to allow Ms Cournoyea to discuss that matter then I suggest that you allow me to discuss the same matter. That was all I asked. Either we stick right to the amendment or we do not. It should not be one way for some and a different way...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the amendment. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that we should delete the \$75,000 from the motion. If we do we will not be dealing with the issue that was raised in the original motion and therefore I will vote against deleting the \$75,000 for the playground fence, as I feel a school is more important than a playground fence. It also has been indicated that there have been no children who have been in accidents and as well there are many other schools that require a playground fence, probably in a situation where they are closer to traffic. So I urge everyone to not take the \$75,000 out of the original motion.

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

Further Amendment To Motion To Defer Approval Of Certain Capital Items Of Education Budget, Bill 1-83(1), Withdrawn

MR. WRAY: I withdraw the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The amendment is withdrawn. To the motion, as amended. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly do not think that a fence should have to cost \$75,000, particularly in the Arctic. We have lots of snow. We can build a fence all around, particularly in the wintertime if they are so afraid of the roads. We can build an ice fence around the facilities we have. We can even use a Canada Manpower grant to do that sort of thing. I do not know what they want an elaborate fence for. In Eskimo Point, around the road we have drums. There are plenty of them up there, nicely coloured, painted. Build a fence around the schools to protect kids from sliding onto the road, and they use that slope to slide through the -- they used to, anyway, before the drums were put alongside the road. So I would urge the Member from Frobisher Bay to do the same thing when he gets back home; that he ask his local education society to apply for a Canada Manpower grant to do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion, as amended. Mr. MacQuarrie.  
Further Amendment To Motion To Defer Approval Of Certain Capital Items Of Education Budget,  
B111 1-83(1)

MR. MacQUARRIE: After hearing the explanation, I can only help but feel that it is an important project. I will move an amendment to the motion that the playground fence in Frobisher Bay for \$75,000 be deleted from the motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: Out of order. You cannot...

MR. MacQUARRIE: The other one was not disposed of one way or the other.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The amendment is to delete the playground fence in Frobisher Bay in the amount of \$75,000. Here we go again. To the amendment. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I was very impressed by the comments that were made by the Minister by way of explaining why this particular project was required. I know that it is always possible to justify something on its own merit and then later on someone can point to a greater need somewhere else. However, once you begin that process it simply never ends because each individual seeing life and events from a different perspective has different priorities. So no matter which way you do it that individual would feel that it is being done incorrectly. So looking at this project, a playground fence for Nakasuk Elementary School in Frobisher Bay, to me it has merit and I believe it is important that it be done before there is a serious accident in the playground. Consequently, I urge all Members to vote in favour of the amendment to delete that item from the original motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the amendment. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Just briefly once again, I see no comparison to a need that will put children in a school, compared to a playground. So I urge everyone to not vote in support of deleting the \$75,000 because there is a difference between a school room and a school facility and a fence.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: They are two different prices.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the amendment. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Ms Cournoyea made the comment about the need for a particular school, and so if that stands, it means that it is a legitimate part of this discussion. So I will return to what I said earlier. Will you please give me the information about the schools that are planned ahead of this one in Fort Liard? We have Mr. Sibbeston's word that there is a need there but the Minister and his officials in their -- I would say objective discretion, have decided that there are other more pressing schools. Therefore, can I please have that line-up with justification as to the order in which they are determined?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): At this time, I do not think the Minister would not want to give you your answer right now before we deal with that amendment, because various chairmen wrote it. To the amendment. Are you ready, Mr. McLaughlin?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the whole point of the motion and the amendment is determined by the original motion which is how much money is needed to have a school in Mr. Sibbeston's constituency. Is that more important than the other? So until the Minister gives us the information of why they have determined this, we do not know how to vote on the amendment or on the motion either. Because the importance of the information determining who gets the next schools, Fort Franklin, or Liard, or Hay River will be determined by what the Minister...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): What about Robert Sayne; do you want to try? There was an amendment to that motion and my ruling is still the same. I am not going to ask the Minister to reply to any other questions at this time. Now let us stick to the amendment.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. MacQuarrie, I am going to cut you off if you do not speak to the amendment.

Identifying Community Planning Funds

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Chairman, directly on the amendment. If it is left in, that would be an additional \$75,000 that is left in, and that comes to a total of \$220,000, \$250,000, \$275,000, \$350,000. Now that amount, if it were to be allocated to some other capital project, such as -- and I say the motion calls for that -- the planning and building of schools in Fort Liard and other places, what would that amount enable the Department of Education to do if it committed it to planning? Could it follow up in the next year by allocating the drawing money, and then the construction money, or would this problem still arise -- that you would have to take account of the other priorities that are already established?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the amendment. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe there was a question asked which I am going to try to answer, and that was, if we can identify community planning funds in the coming year, will the continuation of the project in coming years require reallocation from other projects? I think the answer to that clearly would be yes. It would be less difficult for us to find \$50,000 in the coming year by careful reallocation for community planning than it would be for us to find three million dollars to start construction in 1984-85, 1985-86. That would clearly require that our whole capital plan be amended and be changed around. That is certainly not impossible and at the beginning of this discussion I told Mr. Sibbeston that certainly his desire for moving ahead early on the school in Fort Liard would be uppermost in my mind when I deal with our capital plan, but it may mean, quite frankly, that another school has to be delayed.

Those are difficult questions which I really cannot commit anyone to answering at this point, but I will say clearly, here and now, that if the desire is for money to start planning in the coming year -- I have been able to consult with my colleagues on the Executive just now -- I think it is quite clear that we can allocate money to start planning in the coming year through the capital planning process, but it is going to be a more difficult task to move a three million dollar school ahead. You just have to look at the list on pages 16.09 and 16.10 to see the priorities that we have set. If there are any MLAs from other communities who feel that the school in Sanikiluaq or -- well, you can name them as well as I can -- are less important than the school in Fort Liard, and there is consensus on that, I am certain that the Executive Committee would happily reorder its priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the amendment. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: It appears that if you were to commit just planning money, you certainly would raise the expectations of people in Fort Liard that there was to be a school in the next year or the year after that, but that clearly does have implications for the other plans that are already established, namely in Clyde River, Fort Franklin, the Keewatin high school for example, and so on. It is clear that it would have implications for those other schools. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the amendment. Are you ready for the question? Mr. Curley, to the amendment.

Fence In Frobisher Bay A Public Relations Project

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I cannot support the amendment -- I would just like to make it clear -- because fences should not have to be that expensive. We are going to be setting quite a precedent for building fences in the Territories in a restraint year and I do not think it is that urgent. If it was that critical it could have been built three years ago. There are no statistics to support that that fence is required for injuries that students have received. So I think it is just a bunch of public relations -- an expensive PR proposal for the Minister's own constituency and I would think that we could certainly do without that. There are other more important and urgent priorities that we have to face such as having schools in the NWT.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of privilege, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Point of privilege, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I resent the suggestion that the minor capital project in Frobisher Bay is a public relations project for my constituency, and I would ask the Member to withdraw that remark.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: I think the Minister indicated -- and the record will show -- that he is in disagreement with me on that.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Withdraw it. He made a request.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Do I have to withdraw the remark?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Do not, and see what happens. Do not, and see what happens, Tagak. ---Laughter

MR. CURLEY: I do not see what I have to withdraw my remark for because I really believe it is not one of the priorities that we should have as a Legislature. If the Minister will use any means to try to keep that \$75,000 allocation in there, I will try by any means to try to get it out of there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, a point of privilege again. It is one thing to say that this fence in Frofisher Bay is not a priority of this Legislative Assembly, but it is another thing to suggest that it has been put in there as a personal public relations ploy on my part. I ask the Member again to withdraw the suggestion that I had personal motives in approving this item in the territorial capital plan.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Dum de dum dum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): There is nothing in the rules, Mr. Patterson, to say that if a Member wants to withdraw on his own as a matter of courtesy. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will accept the Minister's word that it is certainly not a PR project for his own constituency, but I would say that it is one which is very important to the Minister to have that fence built at any cost. If I offended the Minister, I certainly apologize for doing so.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you. We have an amendment on the floor.

MR. MacQUARRIE: That is called "double talk".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Could we deal with the amendment? Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to participate but I am surprised when I hear the honourable Member for Keewatin South indicate that the fence is not important. Anybody who has been to Frofisher Bay recently or during a time when that school is in operation must recognize that there is a tremendous amount of traffic on that lower paved road, a slippery road, and traffic with skidoos going through the schoolyard. Two months ago -- two youngsters were injured at Tuktoyaktuk...

MS COURNOYEA: Put a fence in!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: ..with a skidoo. No, I mean it is very funny Ms Cournoyea can laugh at that, but if it were her children -- tell the parents of the children at Nakasuk Elementary School that you are going to remove that fence and a kid could be dying today. Yes, you smirk and you smile, but the reason that fence is being put around that school is to save lives and when we are going to move and remove money from our budget to save a few dollars rather than save lives then I think we had better go home.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Progress.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Will you read the amendment, please?



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): The amendment is to delete the playground fence in Frobisher Bay in the amount of \$75,000. I do not doubt you want me to read it because we have been talking about everything else. To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Further Amendment To Motion To Defer Approval Of Certain Capital Items Of Education Budget, Bill 1-83(1), Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Question being called. All those in favour? Down. Against? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

The playground fence in Frobisher Bay is deleted, in the amount of \$75,000. To the motion as amended. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, maybe I may be able to eliminate the need for this lengthy debate, having consulted with my colleagues, by saying this: through reallocation in the coming year, we will commit funds in Fort Liard for the community planning phase of the new Fort Liard school, and we will make every effort to try to find a means to advance construction over the current plan.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): To the motion as amended. Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Sibbeston.

Motion To Defer Approval Of Certain Capital Items Of Education Budget, Bill 1-83(1), Withdrawn

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw the motion.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: It is not to say, Mr. Chairman, that I think that these things listed here are important and maybe there are other things that people think are more important. I think people should understand that just because it is written here does not mean that it is sacred and that that is the right way to go. If Members feel that there are other priorities than fences, than paving school grounds, then people should be free to make a case for their own constituencies. I think we all ought to be open to that instead of having ill feelings or ganging up against anybody who attempts in any small way to change the budget.

It is not sacred, it was just done by lesser people than us, let us say down the line -- this is the most important place we can decide things. Committees are just little groups of us, administrators, civil servants. They are insignificant compared to us and it is us that ought to decide, finally, what is important and what is not important. I still feel that a fence in Frobisher Bay is not the most important thing and that there may be other things that are more important than that. People should be open to that.

MR. CURLEY: For \$75,000.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Till a kid gets killed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): If I could just remind Members that we are on detail of capital, \$11,723,000. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Can I ask the Minister then exactly what kind of a fence are you going to build for \$75,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): A picket fence.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: It is going to have my name in big letters and it is going to say vote for Dennis Patterson for re-election, okay? And it will be made of chain link, which does not come cheap.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Detail of capital. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: You know if I said that to you, you would have been asking me to withdraw it.

---Laughter

But to me, where in the NWT does one such school have a fence that cost \$75,000?

MR. SIBBESTON: Except the Minister's own riding.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Are you looking for some engineers, Dennis? Mr. Minister.

Capital Budget Subject To Amendments

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think that the debate this afternoon has showed us that we can scrutinize some minor capital projects and see if there is room for savings, deferral of projects or perhaps abandonment of projects. I do not have the information necessary before me now to answer the Member's question about school fencing in the Northwest Territories, but we have a clear expression of concern about certain areas and I think, notwithstanding that the motion has been withdrawn, we will be at the first opportunity taking a very close look once again at these projects, and this has been useful advice to the Executive Committee whether it came to a motion or not.

Members should understand that the capital plan is always subject to amendment and reordering of priorities. That is what we do all throughout the year so -- I have tried to say it, it is a living flexible thing that can be adjusted. Certainly Executive Members have indicated to me that there may well be some good points raised in the course of this debate and I can assure Members of this House we will take another look at our minor capital projects. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Ms Cournoyea. Detail of capital.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the look that Mr. Patterson will be taking with regard to this budget and with the assurance that the budget is always subject to amendments, that statement does not seem to ring clear once it comes to this House, because I have been a Member on at least three occasions when we attempted to change a budget and I do not see where we got anywhere. The next thing, if we had left the motion on the floor in regard to the capital projects, the next amendment would be to delete the pavement and delete the landscaping and I am sure that is what was coming up next. We would have gone on long discussions...

MR. MacQUARRIE: No, the next was furniture and equipment at headquarters, Yellowknife.

MS COURNOYEA: Okay, that is fine.

MR. CURLEY: Very good, very good.

MS COURNOYEA: I still feel that, in looking at the playground fence, I wonder if perhaps the suggestion that was given that perhaps barrels could be used rather than another kind of fencing could be something that the Minister could look at, as well as the issue of paving and landscaping. I certainly do not question Mr. Patterson's integrity but I think when we come to trying to change the budget over the last few years that we have been here, that by the time it comes to this floor I do not see that there has been much progress in our attempts over here by it. I would like to say thank you to Mr. Patterson for Mr. Sibbeston's requirements of the Liard school.

I wonder if he could actually answer the question and he said he would make every attempt to see that the capital would be coming forth in the following year, as we would not be here to determine the following years budget, because this Legislative Assembly's life is finished before the other budget is to be determined. In view of his statement that even though we delayed the playground fence and gave that to the planning money, it would just be building up expectations and people, as Mr. MacQuarrie stated -- that there would not be any money in the future. I am just trying to come to head just in providing that planning money for this year, just what assurances that the Liard school would, in fact, have the necessary ongoing funding?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would say that the further along we get with our capital plan the easier it is to tell whether it might be possible to move the Fort Liard school forward. Sometimes projects, for reasons beyond our control, must be cancelled. Sometimes we find surpluses and I would say that although this will be the last budget session before the next election, we certainly have at least two sessions of the Legislative Assembly during which Members can ask the Executive Committee as to just precisely what has happened with the capital plan since this particular time. I would imagine that by next fall we will have a pretty good idea of whether or not we will be able to go beyond planning in Liard, and if so, when. The closer we get to 1984-85 the easier it will be for us to tell just what projects will be advancing and what projects might be delayed for a year, for example, to make room for others of greater priority.

Just one small note. The fences are in such schools as William McDonald, St. Joseph's, Sir John Franklin high -- schools in Yellowknife, and Samuel Hearne High School in Inuvik. I would also say in response to Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Chairman, that, yes the Executive Committee are servants of this House and we will certainly look very carefully at the suggestions made, including cheaper alternatives for fences. I do not think the snow fence idea was that serious because it is not permanent, but I think I can tell the Member, that we will look at alternatives to save money and we will welcome suggestions. Thank you.

#### Detail Of Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Detail of capital, in the amount of \$11,723,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Revenues, Recoveries, Transfer Payments

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Page 16.15, revenues, recoveries and transfer payments, in the amount of \$7,013,000. Any questions on revenues, recoveries, transfer payments? There was a motion passed -- do you have any questions on revenues, recoveries, transfer payments? Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The \$140,000 on Thebacha College board and lodging, where would the \$140,000 come from?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Those revenues are collected from students, Mr. Chairman.

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

MS COURNOYEA: I think I realize that it is collected from students, but I also realize that some of the lodgings are not paid, and I am wondering where the \$140,000 -- who would be charged that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, every student in residence at Thebacha College who eats on campus pays \$35 a week for room and board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Any further questions? There being no further questions, Mr. Patterson, I wonder if you have the information that was requested in the committee motion: "I move that this Assembly defer approval of Education, administration, O and M estimates until the Minister tables to this House the following: a) financial commitments for each coming year for the proposed Keewatin education centre; b) schedule of plans for building and construction, and completion date for this centre." Are you prepared to table this report, Mr. Patterson?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I have yet to have an opportunity to raise this with my colleagues on the Executive Committee, to get their approval. So the short answer is no, I am not prepared to table it now, but I certainly will undertake to do so at the earliest opportunity and certainly within the life of this session.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): We are unable to complete the Education budget until this report is brought in, so what is the wish of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fraser): Report progress? Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fraser.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-83(1), APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, 1983-84

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering Bill 1-83(1), the Appropriation Ordinance, and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a caucus meeting at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning in the caucus room. There will be a meeting of the subcommittee of the special committee on division at 11:30 tomorrow in room 211.

ITEM NO. 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, Tuesday, February the 15th.

1. Prayer
2. Members' Replies
3. Oral Questions
4. Written Questions
5. Returns
6. Ministers' Statements
7. Petitions
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Tabling of Documents
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Motions
13. First Reading of Bills
14. Second Reading of Bills
15. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature and Other Matters: Bills 1-83(1), 6-83(1), 7-83(1), 8-83(1), 9-83(1), 10-83(1), 11-83(1), 12-83(1)
16. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February the 15th.

---ADJOURNMENT



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