



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

24 February 1983

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	556
Oral Questions	556
Returns	557
Ministers' Statements	
- On Death of Letia Panipakuttuk, First Woman to Travel the Northwest Passage	557
- On Tabled Document 14-83(1), Additional Water Truck, Arctic Bay	558
- On Amendment to Northern Preference Policy	558
Motions	558
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-83(1) Appropriation Ordinance, 1983-84 - Department of Local Government	563
Report of the Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-83(1) Appropriation Ordinance, 1983-84	591
Orders of the Day	592

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1983

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Curley, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. MacQuarrie, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. McLaughlin, 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 Thursday, February 24th.

Item 2, Members' replies. There do not appear to be any replies today. Item 3, oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM NO. 3: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 45-83(1): Halt By Contractor In House Building In Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received a call from the housing association in Cape Dorset this morning and also from the hamlet. The contractors in Cape Dorset have come to a halt, when they left Cape Dorset they never came back. The owners of the houses, the rehabs, do not have a proper place to stay. I would like to know if somebody can tell the contractors to speed up the houses that were being built. That was the question that I was asked to bring up in the House. This question is to the Minister of Housing, to Mr. McCallum. At this time, we would like to know why they have come to a halt. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, you have a question.

HON. ARNOLD MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I have no prior knowledge of the problem in Cape Dorset. There has been a contract let for rehab and of materials for 10 units in Dorset for this year. We anticipate, as well, with our budget to erect 10 units in that area. I cannot respond to the Member's concern at this time. I will have to take his question as notice and file a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 46-83(1): Public Hearings On Resources Air Incorporated Application

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am not really sure which Minister I should ask this question of, but perhaps to the Minister of Economic Development, if he could give the present status of the lobbying to hold public hearings regarding the Resources Air Incorporated application to the Air Transport Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Return To Question 46-83(1): Public Hearings On Resources Air Incorporated Application

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the responsibility falls under my department. The Government of the Northwest Territories has indicated and recommended to the Air Transport Committee that public hearings with regard to the Resources Air Incorporated application should be held in all those communities that will be directly or indirectly affected by the decision. To my knowledge, the committee has not determined whether a public hearing is necessary, but representations have gone forward to members of the Air Transport Committee, that a public hearing on that application is extremely important, and that we recommend it should occur.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that I have just asked may not be understood very well. I would like to repeat myself. The contractor in Cape Dorset is not going ahead at this time, he has come to a halt. I was asked to inform the Minister of Housing to find out why it has come to a halt. Maybe you understand now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe, Mr. Arlooktoo, that the Minister did understand that question and has advised that he does not have the information at hand, but will take the question as notice and he will reply as soon as he can. Oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 47-83(1): Water Truck And Reservoir, Clyde River

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, this question is directed to the Minister of Local Government. During the last meeting in November, in regard to the water truck in Clyde River, you indicated that you were going to look into this. Have you found out what they are going to do with the water reservoir? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I will have to come back to the honourable Member and provide that information. I will take that as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is being taken as notice. Are there any further oral questions?

Item 4, written questions. Are there any written questions? Item 5, returns. Are there any returns for today? Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM NO. 5: RETURNS

Return To Question 43-83(1): Maintaining Road In Arctic Bay

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral Question 43-83(1) asked by Mr. Pudluk, February 24th in regard to a road from Arctic Bay to Victor Bay. Local Government officials have been working with the hamlet on this project for several years. In 1981 a preliminary road alignment and engineering assessment was carried out. In 1982 a detailed survey of the proposed road was undertaken. The results of the survey and engineering assessment will be presented to the hamlet council in time for them to carry out some work on the road this summer. It is my understanding that the hamlet will be using their own workers and funds to construct this road over the next few years. Because of the difficult and mountainous terrain between Arctic Bay and Victor Bay, construction of this road will be very expensive and will require many years to complete, since limited funds are available. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further returns? Item 6, Ministers' statements. Mr. Braden.

ITEM NO. 6: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement On Death Of Letia Panipakuttuk, First Woman To Travel The Northwest Passage

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform this House that Letia Panipakuttuk of Pond Inlet passed away on February 23, 1983, at the age of 76. I bring this to the attention of the House, Mr. Speaker, because Letia was the first woman to travel the Northwest Passage east to west and west to east. She travelled with her husband, Special Constable Joe Panipakuttuk, and family, on the RCMP schooner "St. Roch" during its epic east to west voyage of the Northwest Passage in 1944. When the "St. Roch" continued on to Vancouver because of good ice conditions, the family left the ship and wintered at Herschel Island. They returned to Pond Inlet by dog-sled via Fort Ross on Bellot Straits in 1945 and Hudson's Bay Company supply ship "Nascopie" in 1946.

The family left eight children -- Joe passed away on March 22, 1970, and as I say, I bring this to the attention of the House because Letia was the first woman to traverse the Northwest Passage and I am sure that, along with my colleague Mr. Evaluarjuk, and Members of the House, we pass on our deepest sympathies to the family, on the death of Letia. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Our office will see that that is done. Ministers' statements. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Minister's Statement On Tabled Document 14-83(1): Additional Water Truck, Arctic Bay

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, in response to Tabled Document 14-83(1) tabled by Mr. Pudluk on February 22, 1983, I wish to advise the House that the regional office is currently examining this issue. The water truck that was purchased in 1979 has had numerous problems, shortening its life expectancy, which would normally be about five to six years. I understand that the hamlet has some money in their equipment reserve fund which could be used to contribute toward the purchase of a new water truck. If the hamlet agrees, the balance of the funds will be provided by the Department of Local Government. I am confident that the purchase of a new truck this summer will overcome these problems.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mr. McCallum.

Minister's Statement On Amendment To Northern Preference Policy

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House there were some questions asked about the supply, ship and erect of housing. I responded and quoted the northern preference policy. I have, earlier this week, talked to the NWT Construction Association and have referred to this business of providing the northern preference to people in the Northwest Territories. I would simply want to indicate, again today, as I did earlier this week, that we may very well be putting a further amendment to our northern preference to ensure that northern contractors who are in a particular business are given that kind of preference. I do not want to get into the situation where there is a northern contractor who is in the business of -- well, I do not want to speak derogatorily about any business; I do not mean to do it that way -- but who is, if you like, a meat cutter, because he is a northern business, from bidding on projects that bear no relationship to his particular business.

So as a statement that I would want to make and indicate, there will be a further amendment to our policy. Preference will be given to northern contractors who are in the business for which the contract is being tendered. In this way we would protect the people who are in that business who supply goods and services on a daily basis in a particular industry or a part of the industry, rather than simply on a tender because they are responding just simply as a northern businessman. I give the example, that if I am in the meat business and I bid on supplying material for housing construction for example, just because I am a northern businessman I will not be looked at in preference to that particular supply of building materials. The policy will be further amended to more accurately reflect that kind of preference.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further Ministers' statements?

Item 7, petitions. Are there any petitions?

Item 8, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 9, tabling of documents.

Item 10, notices of motion.

Item 11, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 12, motions. Motion 14-83(1), Mr. Wray.

ITEM NO. 12: MOTIONS

Motion 14-83(1): Closure Of DIAND Vocational Training Section And Inuit House

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has decided to close its vocational training section without consulting the people of the Eastern Arctic and Arctic Quebec;

AND WHEREAS the vocational training section of DIAND has successfully served the counselling and placement needs of northern native students since its inception;

AND WHEREAS the Eastern Arctic and Arctic Quebec has limited access to vocational, technical and academic schools in the Eastern Arctic and Arctic Quebec;

AND WHEREAS the final date for the completion of the new Keewatin educational training facility is uncertain;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin South, that this Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee that it request the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to continue the operation of DIAND vocational training section and Inuit House in Ottawa, until such time as Inuit land claims are settled and the question of division of the Northwest Territories has been concluded.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order, Mr. Wray, you may proceed.

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief. The reason I introduced the motion is that with the closing of the section in Ottawa, along with Inuit House, means that another door has been closed to those in the Eastern Arctic. Basically we are now left with the situation whereby we have to send our kids to Frobisher Bay for school or Fort Smith for vocational training. Until recently we had various options open to us. The system in Fort Smith, while it has been somewhat successful and while there are, I believe, right now 30 students from the Eastern Arctic in Fort Smith, there could be upwards of 60 and 90 if that facility was in the Eastern Arctic. In many cases people from Keewatin and the Baffin much prefer to go to Ottawa as opposed to going to Fort Smith. They feel a lot more comfortable there.

I will just give one example of what the closing of this means to us. About three months ago the request was made of the Education department in Baker Lake to send nine heavy equipment operators to Fort Smith for training. The request was made by various private companies who were willing to guarantee jobs for those people when they came back this summer. When the adult educator went to try and get them into Fort Smith, he was told that there was a waiting list of two years which then left the private business sector in the situation whereby they would either have to import heavy equipment operators from the South or, in this case what they did was they went to Mr. Ritcey in Ottawa and were successful in getting five operators into Sheridan College in Mississauga, one of the best in the country, which means that those men will receive the training and will be able to take their place in the work force this summer. If this section is closed to us and that option is closed to us, we are going to have to start bringing in people from the South, because we cannot get the training for our own people.

Just to finalize what I am saying, I do not know if politics has played a part in closing this section. I do not want to insinuate that perhaps the territorial government and the Department of Education has put pressure on the federal government to close this...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Better not!

MR. WRAY: ...but if it has, I do not know. However, it was done without consultation, it was done without consulting the people of the East. The Inuit Tapirisat are very unhappy about the situation, as well as the people from Arctic Quebec, because it has always been a very valuable tool to us and I do not think that in this day and age we can afford to restrict our people to learning just in the North. There are many valuable learning experiences to be had in the South and to close the door is a little bit premature, I think, until we have the facilities in the North that can handle all of our needs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. As seconder, Mr. Curley, you have the floor.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a short statement in support of the motion. We do want to say that we are not against the education system in our communities. We are not saying that we are not interested in our schools. We want you to know when anything is going great we do not say take it out, we support it. That is the way we feel.

We know that the schools in the Eastern Arctic will multiply quickly. During the discussions of this budget we know there are no funds available to build a school for at least five more years and we know that the education system will not be perfect for another five years. In that respect, we as the Legislature have to support the people who need education and who cannot go to Frobisher Bay or Yellowknife or Fort Smith so we, the Legislature, have to support the young people to go to school in Ottawa. I do not want the Minister to think that if we keep pressing them on this issue, our school system will never be perfect. They have used Ottawa to send people for education for quite some time now. So in that respect I do not think it should change.

Better Training For Leadership

We have to start thinking of the future of the Northwest Territories and if the people of the Northwest Territories are to have better leaders, we should not keep our students in the NWT schools, because they want to learn. We should not keep them away from what they want to learn, because when they are taught in English they learn much faster when they are away from their traditional background.

That is why I am in support of the motion, and if you feel there is not enough information from the people that go to school in Ottawa, I have some written information with me. You must have heard about a magazine entitled "Igalaq" and if you read the news article you will see that the students who attended school in Ottawa are in this article. If you look at the Inuktitut magazine, the students who attended school in Ottawa are talked about in 1978-79; there is an article in the paper about students in Ottawa which was done by the student council. Also in 1979-80 this paper, "Igalaq", talks about the students that attended school in Ottawa. It also talks about the various subjects in school and how much they enjoy going to school in Ottawa, and they talk about when they complete their schooling they will be coming back to their settlements in the Northwest Territories.

So in that respect I am saying that we have to have leaders for our future. If we say that we should keep our students in the Northwest Territories, we will be making a mistake. So I just want the Members to support it in that respect. We are not saying the NWT schools are not good enough, we are just saying let us not crowd our students in the Northwest Territories schools, let us give them a broader place to go because they are going to be our leaders.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rather than speaking to the motion, if I could ask for clarification from the movers or perhaps some comments from the Minister of Education with respect to it. I realize we are dealing with a different matter than we dealt with a couple of weeks ago when we were talking about ordinary public school students going to schools in the South and on principle I disapproved of that and still think that was the right decision. I recognize that this is a slightly different matter but it also may have implications for our system.

So could I ask a couple of questions and perhaps the mover could clarify? I really would like the Minister to comment on the implications for the educational system in the Northwest Territories. If students go to these vocational programs, is it only to take vocational programs that are not offered somewhere in the North? Do they take some programs there that they cannot get in the North? Who would pay the cost for students who do go to these programs in the South? Is it entirely the federal government, or is the territorial government expected to pay for it? Then there is the concern that if we continue to allow outlets to other educational opportunities, it reduces the pressure on us in the Territories to get the programs in place, right here. That is why I am reluctant to see it, but I recognize it is a different matter. Perhaps someone could enlighten me a little bit on some of those questions that I raised.

SOME HON. MEMBER: To the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me to answer questions in this House about a federal program which is not under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories. However, I will try to comment from the basis of my knowledge on some of the questions that were asked. I say it is difficult for me to answer because officially the Department of Education of the Northwest Territories has been told that the vocational training program is not available to high school students from the Northwest Territories. The official answer that we have always got and the position that DIAND has taken is that high school students have been sponsored by DIAND to attend high school in the South under the auspices of the vocational training program.

Policy Of Department

As I stated the other day our policy firmly is that we have never sponsored Northwest Territories students to go to high school in the South. We do not feel that any high school anywhere in Canada can offer as good a program as territorial high schools offer, including the high school



of my own community in Frobisher Bay. However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the Department of Education, at least under my ministry, has certainly not requested or encouraged the action on the part of the federal government. It was taken as a result of initiatives from the federal government themselves and I am in no position really to account for the motives in that regard, although it may well have been determined that the Northwest Territories has a jurisdiction to offer post-secondary education to territorial students in southern Canada.

The Member asked whether or not there are programs available in Ottawa that are not available in the North. I think that is quite true that very often students do take programs under DIAND or under our own sponsorship in southern institutions that are not available in the North, although it would be our policy to try to develop a system of colleges and ultimately university or universities in the North which would allow northern students to take post-secondary programs much closer to home and in the Northwest Territories.

#### Funding For Current Students In Vocational Training Program

I would like to say that, in response to questions asked by Mr. Curley the other day, I have sought information about current NWT students in the DIAND vocational training program. I have asked for assurance from the Minister of Indian Affairs that students who, for some reason, may not be covered by our grants and bursaries program will either continue to be covered by DIAND or that funds will be transferred to us to allow us to continue to sponsor them. We have not yet received any information about precisely what students and what programs are sponsored. I would say that most of the needs of territorial students who are applying for vocational or academic post-secondary programs can be met by our existing grants and bursaries in the Northwest Territories. The principle on funding of the grants and bursaries program and support for native students, in particular, under the grants and bursaries program is the same principle and the same level of support that was available under the federal program. So I am confident that for most needs our program could take up the slack, although I am aware that there are specialized programs that have been offered by the vocational training section, including on-the-job training, including an arrangement for employment at armed forces bases in Alert, and other specialized programs that we may well not be able to continue to support under our existing grants and bursaries policies.

I would also like to mention that I have requested the Minister of Indian Affairs to make available counselling man years, or at least one counselling man year to the Government of the Northwest Territories in the event that the vocational training section is closed down. I have actively urged the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to continue to support the operation of Inuit House, whether sponsored under his department or through the Secretary of State. I would like to dispel the suggestion that we are actively urging that the vocational training section be closed down. I think broadly speaking that the Department of Education welcomes numerous possibilities for options for territorial students, including the option of parents themselves sponsoring students in other institutions. We have not actively encouraged this development and we are concerned particularly about the closure of Inuit House and about the withdrawal of counselling resources. I am also actively trying to ensure that any territorial students presently sponsored will not suffer as a result of any action that might be taken by the federal government. So I do not think we are the villains in this, and I welcome the opportunity to hopefully clarify this situation a little bit. As for my own position on this motion, I think it is probably appropriate that I abstain and seek direction from the House on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray, would you like to conclude the debate?

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I will conclude by answering the questions of the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. Some of the courses that we have sent people out on are courses such as political science in Carleton, infra-red photography at Ryerson; specialized courses which are generally not available within the Territories, or in the case of, say heavy equipment operators, complementing the territorial system which is fairly overloaded at this point in time. I do not want it to be taken that this motion is in any way a criticism of the territorial system. All we are saying is that until we in the North can put our colleges and our own programs into place, which would offer the same alternatives, then I think it is a little premature of the federal government to be closing this door to us. There will come a time, maybe three, four, five years from now, when we have been able to catch up and put programs into place, where this section will be justified in closing down because there is no longer a need for it. However, I do think it is a little bit premature and that is why I would like the motion to pass.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. That concludes the debate on Motion 14-83(1).

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 14-83(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. Mr. Fraser.

Motion To Adjourn Until March 2

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that at the conclusion of today's business that this House stand adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 2nd.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion to adjourn is acceptable at any time without notice. It is debatable. To the motion.

AN HON MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All those in favour?

AN HON. MEMBER: Why? Why?

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed? Let us try that all over again. One hand only, please. Those in favour to the motion. Pardon me?

MS COURNOYEA: A point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of why this was put on; I would like to make a judgment on why Members want to adjourn until Wednesday. I have no prior knowledge of the request or why it is being placed before the House. Maybe if we knew why it was being done, we could support it intelligently.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I had called remarks to the motion. Does the mover wish to speak to it?

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, a number of Members have indicated that they would be away from the House for the weekend and on Monday and Tuesday. Some of the Members, I believe, are leaving for home; I thought we might have trouble keeping a quorum in the House. I think the Members that are leaving for Ottawa are leaving to get everything set up there for the First Ministers' Conference. I just assumed that we would have problems keeping a quorum so that is the reason for the motion, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I certainly welcome the concern of the Executive Committee, but just because the Executive Committee has other business to do does not mean that the House, the Legislative Assembly, ought to close every time they have something going with respect to their responsibilities. I therefore cannot support the motion, as a result of that.

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

This Motion Not Initiated By The Executive Committee

HON. GEORGE BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I just want it on the record, it was not at the initiative of the Executive Committee that this motion came on the floor. We were asked to react because of what was seen to be a problem that could arise early next week when there would not be a quorum,

so the Executive Committee is just attempting to co-operate with a situation which could arise early next week where there would not be a quorum, but I want it clearly understood that this was not done on our initiative.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Pudluk.

Amendment To Motion To Adjourn Until March 2

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not very happy about this motion. We are down here to finish our business, and we are far from home. I think I am going to make an amendment to that motion; adjourn on Friday until next spring session.

MR. SPEAKER: Could you get a copy of that to us, please? Is it that we recess as of tomorrow until the spring session? Is that what the amendment was?

MR. PUDLUK: The motion was to adjourn at 6:00 o'clock tonight until Wednesday -- is that what his motion was?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. PUDLUK: Okay. Adjourn tonight, at 6:00 o'clock tonight, until spring session. That was my amendment.

Amendment To Motion To Adjourn Until March 2, Ruled Out Of Order

MR. SPEAKER: I think I would have to rule your amendment out of order. If you were to name a date certain, and "recess" rather than "adjourn" to another session -- you are recessing the House -- your motion completely changes the intent of this motion, and to stay in the guidelines I think you would have to name a date certain in May and ask for a recess, not prorogation. So your amendment as it stands is ruled out of order. Mr. Fraser.

Motion To Adjourn Until March 2, Withdrawn

MR. FRASER: Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw that motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this agreeable to the seconder? Mr. MacQuarrie, I thought, was the seconder of that motion.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I was. You do not want to go ahead with it? No? Okay.

MR. SPEAKER: The seconder agrees. The motion has been withdrawn. Are there any further motions?

Item 13, first reading of bills.

Item 14, second reading of bills. Item 15, consideration in committee of the whole 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

The House will resolve into committee of the whole to consider 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 Local Government

Total O And M, Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now this committee will come to order. We were dealing with page 12.02, directorate, \$2,135,000. There was a motion on the floor, and it was ruled in order. I am going to ask the Clerk to read it for me.

Motion To Defer Total O And M, Directorate, Department Of Local Government, Bill 1-83(1), Restated

CLERK ASSISTANT (Mrs. Baldwin): The motion is: I move that this committee defer approval of the Department of Local Government's directorate estimates until the departmental committee studying municipal staff salaries and benefits has completed its recommendations and tabled them in this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to support this motion, given that seven of the last 10 years I worked for a hamlet council and am only too well aware of the problems that the lack of salaries and benefits has caused for most of the hamlets in the Eastern Arctic particularly. The hamlets are in a position of having to compete against private business but, more important, having to compete against the government for staff. We are seeing now in a lot of the settlements that the hamlets are just unable to attract quality and qualified personnel because they cannot match the benefits that the government is giving their employees.

I know that there has been some discussion on benefits for the last couple of years, but this problem was identified as early as 1977 -- over five years ago -- and it appears that if this motion is going to get action on it, then that is the way we have to go, because then there is no excuse for saying, "Well, we are waiting on recommendations." We have been waiting on recommendations for over five years. I think I will have to support the motion, and maybe that will force the department to finally come to grips with the problem which has been plaguing the hamlets for several years. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was there not a motion in the November session asking the Minister of Local Government to bring back something by April 1st? I think there was. Can I ask the Minister whether the department is presently working on that to meet that deadline?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I think Mr. Curley has an answer for you, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I asked the Minister, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): He asked directly to the Minister of Local Government, Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Yes, I do believe that we will be able to meet the deadline of April 1st, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: In which case I find this motion whimsical then. A deadline was already given to the department, they are working toward it and I cannot see any reason for introducing this motion at this time.

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

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, there was no motion. There was notice of motion introduced. If the Members would pay attention to the proceedings they would note that the motion was never voted on in view of the extension of the debate on the electoral boundaries and the Minister's intervention with the federal policy on the division. So for his information there was never such a motion; notice was given but never acted on.

I can understand that Mr. MacQuarrie has no stake in this, because there are no such difficulties with municipalities like Yellowknife, so I can see that. Nor do we have the guarantee or the evidence that we will actually see a proposal presented to this government to improve salaries and benefits from the department or the Commissioner's office. In view of that, in order to guarantee that we get it, I think we have to not only be generous to the Executive and to the directorate, but to the whole area that the Department of Local Government is responsible for.

In view of that, this motion will guarantee that fair treatment is given not only to the high officials in the government but to the junior positions as well, that they have a fair share of the government benefits, as we deal with the Department of Local Government budget, so I would urge everyone to support it -- and even Mr. MacQuarrie, if he would be generous enough for the Eastern Arctic, for a change.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Ms Cournoyea.

Severe Criticism Of Community Employees On Programs They Do Not Control

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask for support of this motion. I feel that at the last session a lot of argument was placed about where exactly the local government employees stand, as well as other employees of maybe subordinate organizations under this government, attached or disassociated from them. At a community level -- as I will express, and as I have expressed before -- you are right into the community disenchantment and right in the community's problems as they exist, and you do not really have a break to get away from the issues. Some of the communities are very small, and in being small, if you cannot bring something to fruition in that community, the community is very difficult to deal with because they see you as an individual that should be doing things, a particular job, and oftentimes when you are at that community level, because you cannot see a program to its end or cannot get various proposals from the community into motion and finalized, those individuals get the blame, whether it is in housing or LEAs or in hamlet and settlement councils. They really are the ones that get the blame, and oftentimes there is a turnover because of that, that critical analysis of your day to day work with the community and in that community, and the pressure is very, very severe for those individuals.

I often felt that trying to keep people on the job and interested required a certain degree of support and oftentimes when you are at a regional office or at a territorial office it is not really fully understood what that individual is going through in trying to provide the program and answer questions about things that they have very little control over at the community level. The salaries and benefits are often very different from other jobs that are available, and particularly in the area where I come from, we have tried -- in certain circumstances in larger communities -- to meet that objective of giving a comparative salary, giving comparative benefits, but all in all it is very difficult to keep people on a job where you are judged every day, where you are not able to produce results. Some of the individuals who have gone through the Local Government educational process have come out very well-qualified and they are very well able to handle the activities within the communities; but all in all the discouragement comes when, with the qualifications they have gained, they can be compensated in another job or another place far better, and in an area of responsibility where they are a bit remote from the day to day criticism of their families and friends within their own community.

So I believe it is a matter of urgency that, as soon as possible, we deal with this situation. I do not believe it was only in the last session that this was discussed. I believe that the very first time that we entertained the Local Government department, there was fairly unanimous feeling within this Legislative Assembly from all the Members that this was an issue that had to be dealt with. I believe in the time, the three years, they really could have come up with a proposal or a study or options on how we are going to deal with that community situation. As the deputy minister says, they are almost complete and he is very optimistic that he can come up with the final results of the work that has been proceeding. I would like to urge people to support this motion, because it is important to give the respect to those community representatives of this government, whether they are directly the responsibility of the territorial government, or whether they have a remote connection, because they are serving a fundamental part of a delivery system and programs where oftentimes they have no real input on what those programs and what those directions that they have to follow will be. It is getting there, but I feel we should give proper compensation and proper respect to those community workers. Thank you.

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

Pay And Benefits In Regions Based On Those Of Territorial Government

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the motion that the committee is addressing, I would like to make some remarks on a point of clarification. The House has been given the impression that municipal employees in the hamlets are being paid salaries and benefits which are, in every case, less than salaries and benefits paid to territorial government employees. Mr. Chairman, this is simply not true. The fact is that all of the hamlets in the Baffin region have had their employees classified according to territorial government salary scales and that

all the hamlets of the Baffin region and two of the hamlets of the Keewatin region, specifically Rankin Inlet and Eskimo Point, have by-laws which guarantee their employees benefits equal to the benefits received by territorial government employees. In the Inuvik region the municipal services are mainly delivered by contractors but the hamlet staff are paid at a level comparable to the territorial government. In Kitikmeot, where the hamlets are comparatively new, they have maintained the salary levels which applied prior to their incorporation.

In establishing hamlets as municipalities we have stuck to the principle that the municipal council sets the salary and benefits for its own employees. If they choose to pay them the same salaries and benefits as territorial government employees then that is really their decision. If they pay them less, then that is really up to them as well. The funding formula on which we base the hamlet contributions takes into account the essential staff required to run a municipal government and provide basic services to the residents of the hamlet. If a hamlet chooses to employ more than this number of people and pay them smaller salaries and less benefits, then that is really their decision.

#### Hamlets Ended 1981-82 Fiscal Year With Surplus

I promised this House that I would look into the problem and report back during this session and I intend to do just that but I do not believe that there can be very much wrong with our financial support to hamlets when most of them are paid salaries and benefits equivalent to territorial government scales -- when the hamlets ended the 1981-82 fiscal year with an average surplus of more than \$20,000. I do not mean to say, Mr. Chairman, that the funding arrangements are perfect at the present time, or that they cannot be improved, but it was always intended that the formula would be reviewed this year to find out what needs to be adjusted. That review will be completed before the spring session and I shall make the report available in full to the House.

In the meantime I have told my staff in the department, and also in the Keewatin region, to find out why some of the hamlets in that region are, apparently, unable to pay salaries equivalent to the territorial government salaries. If there are special circumstances in some of the hamlets the region has the discretion to make allowances for that when the discretionary portion of the hamlet contribution for the fiscal year 1983-84 is distributed. Thank you.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Hear, hear!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, this motion does not attempt to rebuke the Department of Local Government, but there was a general consensus during the debate when we dealt with the restraint measures, the six and five restraint bills. The Commissioner in his closing remarks stated, and I quote: "In addition, the Executive Committee and the administration must deliver on its promise of assistance to employees of hamlets and housing associations, and so forth."

Now, either we accept the word "sometime" or we, at least, remind them again to deliver as quickly as possible. I know that the Commissioner has no difficulty promising and delivering his promise when it deals with the Executive benefits. Salary is one thing; they may be comparable in some parts but how about the actual benefits -- pension plans, retirement plans, travel assistance plans, insurance plans, death benefits to spouses and families? Are they comparable and I use the word "comparable" because the word "equal" was not acceptable with my notice of motion the last time -- are they comparable to the civil service? Most of the time the union tells us they are not comparable to the civil service benefits. Salaries -- one shot deals -- a guy who worked for 10 years may never get a decent compensation or pension and these are the problems I think that people in many parts of the North are saying. They may have no complaints, in many respects, in Baffin but I know, for instance in Coral Harbour and Whale Cove these were the real concerns.

So I must say that although I could probably be persuaded, "Let us hold off until spring," maybe in the spring we can come up with another reason why we need another committee to study it and, therefore, promise another study could be dealt with and presented in the fall session. When the fall session comes we may be further convinced by the government that, there are implications that we have to wait for the next budget because we just do not have anything in this budget to compensate for these.

Maybe that is the way the government is, maybe that is the way the government must be accepted; that it cannot deliver unless it is for its own civil service. We want action, we do not want disagreement, we want action and we want evidence not that we do a service by words only but by deeds. I think these have to be demonstrated because it is major funding provided to those municipalities, that we must see to be convinced. I do not think this motion will delay the approval of the departmental budget because we only have a short amount of time to deal with the debates here but at the end I think you can come up with a proposal that will be satisfactory to the people of the Eastern Arctic, to some of the hard-pressed communities and municipalities and some of us from the Eastern Arctic ridings. Thank you.

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

Government Will Deliver On Its Promise

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I am a bit worried that some Members believe that the government will not deliver on its promise to review the situation with regard to the benefit package for all of the various organizations that were discussed at the last session, because the government most certainly will do this and that work is under way. I think it does not make much sense to criticize how the government is doing it; I know that as soon as we mention "committee" or "task force", then a lot of people get their backs up. I guess we should have simply said that the necessary staff work is being done. That is exactly what was reported to you yesterday by Mr. Moore; and by the excellent report that has just been given by Mr. Wah-Shee, you can see that a good deal of the information has been gathered but we are not finished yet. It is really a very complex issue because we are dealing with quite a large number of employers and we have to put the information together.

Motion Imposes Too Tight A Time Frame

So we are not burying the effort, we are not hiding behind a committee; we have simply given our most senior officials the job of bringing together the information that we need so that the Executive can sit down, while looking to the constraints that exist within our budget, to see what measures can be recommended to this House. I am not here to debate the motion, but the problem with the motion is that it imposes a bit too tight a time frame in which we have to move to do this. I think, as Mr. Moore indicated here yesterday, the report should be in the hands of the Executive Committee very quickly. The Executive Committee is taking every opportunity it has to meet on current issues and that time is restricted. Because of the sittings of the House, of course, it must be. I would think that we will have this consideration concluded probably by the end of March but I do not think that, reasonably, we can do a good job on it before that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: I said I felt the motion is whimsical and I still do. The urgency is not so great as the initial statements seem to indicate, as we see from some facts that were introduced by the Minister. Some of the justification for the motion was as to why there is a need to review and I do not think there is any disagreement about the need to review, contrary to Mr. Curley's insinuation. When this matter came up as a result of a bill that was introduced by the House in the last session, I voted against it. In other words, trying to enable hamlet employees to perhaps be included as part of the Public Service Association. So he is incorrect when he says I have no concern about those workers. I simply say that there is no disagreement on my part about the need to review.

However, this motion has to do with holding up the departmental budget and I do not see that that is necessary, especially when a deadline has been given and apparently there is work going on in order to meet that deadline. So it would be kind of nice if Mr. Curley once in this session admitted maybe that he was a little hasty and decided to admit that and maybe withdraw the motion, and that would be very nice.

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

Question Raised At Every Session Since 1980

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I dealt with the issue every session of the Legislature, and I would think the Commissioner would concur that I raised the issue of the municipal salaries and benefits -- would you agree, at every session? Do you mean to tell me even the director of Local

Government would confirm maybe that I am a little hasty in that? That I have not given the proper notice? I have been here for three years and every session -- the first session I even had a research officer provide me with all the municipal salaries, the scale, that were presently available in the NWT, in 1980 fiscal session. On November 26th, 1982, and during that month, we asked the Commissioner and his officials to see if they would come up with recommendations. That is not ample time or notice to see if the government would come up with something? I am not only concerned when I deal with the issue, the disparities, anomalies in salaries and benefits to municipal workers, but to housing association workers. I have a telegram here and I am just going to read it for the moment whether or not the issue is whimsical, as Mr. MacQuarrie would say. If he was dealing with the issue of salaries for teachers, would it be whimsical? Maybe not, because they are professionals. They are not a bunch of natives with a brown skin or so on.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Shame, shame!

MR. CURLEY: Yes, shame that the government cannot deliver its promise.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Question.

MR. CURLEY: They will deliver, they will deliver and seek as quickly as possible approval for salaries and increases for the directorate and their professional staff, but not for the municipal workers or the teachers or teaching assistants. I would like to read one example and it is sent to the president of the NWTTA. "On behalf of the Inuit teachers of the Keewatin region, I would like to bring the following concern to your attention. For the most part, there is a considerable difference in the salaries by TEP graduates and those earned by southern-trained teachers. On the salary scale, we Inuit teachers with our TEP training, slot into the lower end, while invariably those teachers hired from southern Canada having at least one university degree, place much higher on the scale."

MR. MacQUARRIE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): A point of order, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I see that the motion refers directly to the municipal staff salaries and benefits and has nothing to do with teachers, so I cannot see how what Mr. Curley is reading has to do with the motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Yes, to the motion.

MR. CURLEY: Yes. That is just one of the examples of the wage disparities in the Territories. We have never received such complaints from those that are unionized. They have no problem. So no wonder the non-union representatives maybe could be considered whimsical issues that are not real. However, those teachers and government staff are represented by unions; therefore, they are not affected in any sense of the word. They do not have any disparities. So we can all be comfortable about it and let us get on with approving the territorial budget, and forget those at the lower end of the scale like municipal workers and get on with it. If that is the way you guys feel, that is the way we are going to go, and we are going to vote on the issue. Delaying the vote on the directorate does not mean that we are not going to pass it because we are going to be adjourning sometime in the middle of March; surely there could be something placed in that time. So I would ask you to at least give a favourable response to those in need in the region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say, as I said at the last session, that I realize there are problems. I support improvement in benefit packages, not only to municipal staff, but also to certain local education authority employees that we discussed in the last session. I would like to just say that as a Member of the Executive Committee along with other Members, we dealt with this issue immediately after the last session and set up a working group to try and tackle the problem. It is a complicated problem because we also are talking about departments other than Local Government, and the education employees, too, I know are in different categories and different statuses. Some of them work for the government; some of them work for LEAs; some of them work for societies, and it is not easy to sort it out. However, I have made it a high priority for my deputy minister and his people to work on it and I feel somewhat concerned that the motion seems to be suggesting that the Executive Committee is not making this a priority and is somehow dragging its feet in dealing with it.



Goal For New Packages Is April 1, 1983

I, too, feel that our goal was to get the new packages considered and reviewed and in place in time for April 1st, 1983. In fact, Mr. Curley's own motion during the six and five bill called on local education authority employees to be looked after commencing April 1st, 1983, and that is the goal that we had in mind -- that I have in mind. I do feel that if we are expected to come up with a complete plan over the next two or three weeks, it is not possible. I know enough about the government now and this complicated issue to know that it is going to take some time to resolve. However, I think we are working hard on it and I do not really believe it is fair to hold the Department of Local Government to ransom over this issue. So I would like to state very clearly that I am in sympathy with everything the Member has said on this issue and has said over the last couple of years, and I know my colleagues are. However, you cannot just implement a new plan for benefit packages without considering all of the financial implications without considering new policies and procedures to fit the varying situations, not just in local government but also in education.

MR. CURLEY: That is what governments are for.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, they are working hard, but I do not think they can be expected to produce miracles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Question.

Motion To Defer Total O And M, Directorate, Department Of Local Government, Bill 1-83(1), Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, please raise you hands. One, two, three, four. Down. Opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Let us take 15 minutes for coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

Total O And M, Directorate, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The Chair recognizes a quorum now. Page 12.02, directorate, \$2,135,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister, do you wish to invite your deputy minister?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have my officials sitting with me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Sergeant-at-Arms, would you invite Mr. Moore and escort the witnesses?

Total O And M, Community Planning And Development

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Community planning and development. Are there any questions? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are the people who are sitting at the witness table listening? I would like to know, first of all, about training of firefighters. This is very important for the communities, for the hamlets. There should be training in each settlement for those people who take the firefighters program. Local Government can support one person from each community for this training and also, they can give out notices saying that if you want another person to go along with this person who is being sponsored by Local Government, then that other person has to be paid for by the hamlet or by the settlement. I understand that the hamlets had extra money for those other people who are going -- just the community settlements, I do not think they had extra money for that, and they do not have the extra money for these people going for training. That is my first question. Is that the way it is now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, this is a joint training program with the Department of Justice and Public Services in the fire marshal's office, and I would like to ask my deputy to give more details in regard to how this program is operated between the two departments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Moore.

Training Of Firefighters

MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, I think in all honesty I should say that we have not been very pleased with the program and I am not surprised to hear the Member asking questions about it. Between ourselves and the fire marshal I think we have not done enough work in training fire chiefs in communities, although I must say that I think the fire chief in a community is the most important link with the fire marshal's office and also with this department, when we talk about training people to deal with fire problems. I think the Member describes it correctly, and there may have been up to now insufficient money. The fire marshal certainly has told me that he has not felt that he could do a good job in training community representatives, and we ourselves have perhaps not put enough money in our training budget for the firefighters, so I appreciate the point being raised.

The present situation is as the Member described it and I do not think you will find anything in this budget that specifically talks about fire training because the prime responsibility is with the fire marshal. The two departments have been discussing how we can make better use of the fire inspectors for training and how we can help the fire chief in each community. I think I can promise you an improvement, because we are making it a priority item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think they provide transportation and accommodation and this is the question I was trying to ask. I think the Department of Local Government writes a letter to the hamlet and settlement when they want to send somebody for training for fire-fighting. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister. Mr. Moore.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, that is right and I think that responsibility, again, has been confused between the two departments. If the Member will allow me time, I will get back to him with a more definite answer as to what we propose to do, but the expenses for people who come on fire training should be paid by either this department or the fire marshal. I think perhaps that is what Mr. Pudluk is asking, and we can make sure that that does happen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) I do not understand very well right now. I did not realize it was taken care of by two departments. Maybe we could set up something so that the extra person coming from the settlement would be able to be paid for by Local Government like they do with the extra person from the hamlet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Moore.

MR. MOORE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can make that commitment. We will do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Curley.

Funding For Salaries And Benefits

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, although we are in a different section, I just wanted the Minister to indicate to the House whether or not the issue of the salaries and benefits, if that were to come about in May, would be retroactive to a certain year or this fiscal year, or would it only be in effect the day the new program is either recommended to the municipalities -- how would that come about, really?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, as the Member is aware, we do have an interdepartmental committee which will be making their report available very shortly to the Executive. The Executive will have to consider that report in light of their own departmental estimates and where adjustments can be made to accommodate the salaries and benefits issue in regard to our own individual departments. What I indicated was that the funding level at the present time to the municipalities, particularly to the hamlets, will have to be reviewed and that my officials inform me that this particular review in funding of the hamlets will be completed before the spring session. At that time I would hope to give a detailed report to the House in regard to the kinds of adjustments that can be made. At the present time I cannot make a commitment for retroactive salaries and benefits in the area of my particular department. However, I think that the other Ministers responsible for the Housing Corporation, and for Education will probably consider what kind of adjustment can be made but I will have to wait until the report is given to me and the Executive will have to deal with it. In regard to the funding, that review will be completed before the spring session.

Total O And M, Community Planning And Development, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Community planning and development, total O and M, \$1,258,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Land And Assessment

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Land and assessment, \$1,337,000. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can undertake to bring us up to date on his land assessment or land evaluation policy. There was still an indication that the newest formula that was handed down in determining the land valuation still really brought the price of lots in communities up quite high. In discussion on this subject previously, it was my understanding that he had intended to take another look at the land valuation and see what could be done to bring it more in line with what people could really actually afford.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I did make a commitment to report to the House in regard to the review that my department will be undertaking and I do intend to present the review and the adjustments that could be made, particularly in those communities where land prices are rather high in comparison to other communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding that this would be done by this session. Is it now presumed that this report and this new evaluation has not been done and will not be before this House during this session?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the review has been done and I intend to present that particular review while we are sitting this session.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Wray.

Disposal Of Property Tax Moneys

MR. WRAY: Mr. Chairman, for at least a year now, the department has been issuing property tax notices and collecting property tax from residents in the Keewatin -- against the wishes of the hamlets. What is being done with that property tax money? Is it being refunded back to the hamlets or is it being kept for a central fund within the Government of the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the taxes collected go into the general revenue of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Land and assessment. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, are we on page 12.04? I want to ask a question about the shoreline. I have heard that the Northwest Territories government cannot take care of the shore, that they have a limit to this. How far from the shore are they able to take care of the land? This is the question I would like to ask.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the federal government is normally responsible for the shoreline, but I would like to ask the honourable Member whether there is any specific problem that he sees within his area that perhaps I could address.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, we do not have any problems but I just wanted to ask if somebody owns the land, would you have them pay taxes or would the federal government have them pay taxes? This was my question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, normally the residents of the North would not own the shoreline. It would either be retained by the federal government or in the case of Yellowknife here, I think that most of the home-owners and people that own lots do not have ownership of the shoreline. I think in our case, if it is the Commissioner's land, it is retained for public access. However, if you are referring to other areas, I think that it would be normally owned by the federal government and since a person does not own the shoreline, I do not think they would be required to pay taxes on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Land and assessment, \$1,337,000. Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could perhaps clarify what the need is to assess property taxes. Why do they assess property taxes in the small hamlets if the hamlets do not get the money? We are not talking about a very great amount of money, but what is the philosophy behind assessing property taxes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the general intent of doing tax assessment in the various communities in the Territories is to impose taxes, under the Taxation Ordinance, and this is the reason why we have tax assessment done in a variety of communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Wray.

Purpose Of Property Tax Assessment

MR. WRAY: Mr. Chairman, my question was not answered. I asked why do you assess property taxes? When I pay federal income tax, in return I am getting health benefits, social benefits, unemployment benefits, if I need them. What benefits are people within those communities getting from property taxes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the general idea behind people paying property taxes, as well as perhaps other taxes, is that it really has to do with the contribution of the people of the North toward the overall running of their municipal type of government. As you know, at the present time a big percentage of our budget comes from the federal government and we do contribute a percentage or a portion of our territorial budget in terms of revenues coming from a variety of taxes. For instance, alcohol taxes, tobacco taxes and the property taxes as well go into the general revenue, so it is a source of revenue for the Government of the Northwest Territories. In turn, we make contributions to the various municipalities in terms of grants, so that they can operate their municipal services and programs.

Likewise, this government also pays grants in lieu of taxes and the federal government pays taxes as well. So it is a means by which we can all be in a position to contribute to the overall general administration of our government, both at the territorial and at the municipal level.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister tell me if the federal government and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation within the communities are being taxed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the federal government does pay grants in lieu of taxes. As well, this government pays grants in lieu of taxes and we also pay taxes on behalf of the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Land and assessment. Ms Cournoyea.

Ownership Of Land

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in settlements where there are not really settlement councils but which are still under community councils and in settlements with council status, are there difficulties in securing lots to be sold to private individuals? If that is the case and if there is a difficulty, what is being done to resolve that issue to expedite long-term 99 year leases or make ownership status to certain lots more easily obtained?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I would like my deputy to advise the honourable Member in regard to land being made available in the communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Moore.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, the Member was asking specifically about settlements as opposed to other municipalities and I think I am correct in saying our land policies do not vary from settlements to hamlets. The biggest impediment is the ownership of the land, as to whether the land is owned by the federal government or by the territorial government. We have a number of communities, hamlets and settlements, where the land is still owned by the federal government and has not been transferred to the territorial government, so that is not Commissioner's land.

That is the only difference that I can think of that would account for any difficulty in transferring land to individuals by lease or by sale. I might just add that as a matter of policy this government has never leased land to anybody for more than 30 years. To my knowledge, 30 years has been the maximum so far, and so when the Member mentioned a 99 year lease I think I am right in saying that there has not been a 99 year lease issued. I stand to be corrected though and I will check on that if you would like me to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Wray.

Property Tax Related To Ownership

MR. WRAY: Mr. Chairman, I am a little bit confused now. Just a minute ago we were told about the tax policy of the government and the reason for issuing property taxes was to contribute to the general well-being of the government. I now hear the deputy minister saying that they are not quite sure whether they own the land in the North or, in fact, if that land is under their control. That is the reason why people have been unable to buy land within the hamlets; that is the reason that they have been unable to get longer than 30 year leases, because the government policy is that until the ownership of the land is settled they do not want to commit themselves or other people to long-term agreements.

I am just wondering how they can justify on one hand charging property tax and on the other hand saying that they cannot sell land within the communities because they are not too sure who owns it. To my way of thinking you cannot tax something you do not own.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, we do sell land in the communities. The normal procedure is that we would get the request coming in from the various hamlets and it would come to me and eventually go to the Commissioner. We do sell land and we do give out titles. It is only the lease arrangement, I think, my deputy was making reference to. We do give out titles to land but we work this out with the various hamlets and once they get title to the land then they would be expected to pay property taxes.

In the situation here in Yellowknife, property tax is assessed by the city and it is a source of revenue for the city as in other tax-based municipalities, but in the case of the hamlets the property taxes paid would go into our general revenue for the Northwest Territories government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: Mr. Chairman, a question for the Minister. Is it not true that the government, the Department of Local Government has imposed direct taxation on the hamlets from Yellowknife simply because the hamlets have refused to impose those taxes themselves, because they feel it is an unnecessary burden to the people in the community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have my deputy reply to the honourable Member's question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Moore.

Authority Given Under Taxation Ordinance

MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, it is an interesting subject because it is being discussed now in relation to the rewriting of the Municipal Ordinance and the need for legislation for hamlets to replace the Municipal Ordinance. At the moment, the Municipal Ordinance does not provide the hamlets with the authority to tax; it is a peculiarity of the Northwest Territories that hamlets which are municipalities do not have the power of taxation. I know that is actively being discussed by the municipalities themselves in relation to the new legislation. It is under the Taxation Ordinance that the territorial government may tax property owners in hamlets. I do not want to try to predict what might come out of new legislation from this House but I know that the question is bound to arise when the Municipal Ordinance is being revised and presented to this House. I do not think there should be any confusion on anyone's part. The only authority to tax in hamlets is the territorial government and this government has this authority under the Taxation Ordinance. The villages, the towns and the city of Yellowknife can tax property owners under the Municipal Ordinance and that is a fundamental difference.

If I could just say, Mr. Chairman, on the question of land I did not mean to imply that there was any confusion of who owns the land, but it is true that in some communities the land is owned by the federal government still and in other communities it is owned by this government, through the Commissioner.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Land and assessment. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, just a question of clarification on timber purposes. Is that referring to within the municipal boundaries or does that imply that there is more far-reaching authority given to the NwT in terms of timber?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, this is only in reference to the Commissioner's land and it does not apply to the federal crown lands.

Total 0 And M, Land And Assessment, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Land and assessment, \$1,337,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total 0 And M, Municipal Affairs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): Municipal affairs, \$25,101,000. Ms Cournoyea.

Motion To Table Municipal Employees Pay And Benefits Report At 1984 Spring Session, Ruled Out Of Order

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring forth a motion: I move that the committee studying municipal staff salaries and benefits, complete and table its recommendations no later than the third day of sitting at the 1984 spring session of this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Sayine): May we have a copy of your motion, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Let us take a five minute break because I would like to study this motion a little further.

---SHORT RECESS

The Chair recognizes a quorum now. My ruling is that the motion is out of order. Ms Cournoyea.

Motion To Table Municipal Employees Pay And Benefits Report At 1983 Spring Session, Carried

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just to put it in order and clarify some of the points that were brought to my attention: I move that the Executive subcommittee studying municipal staff salaries and benefits complete and table its recommendations no later than the third day of sitting of the 1983 spring session of this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The motion now is in order. To the motion.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the reason I feel that it is necessary to have the complete recommendations on this matter very early in the spring session is that if there are anomalies in it or there are areas that we are concerned about as elected Members of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, then we would be able to deal with it before it is too far into the sitting. Therefore the sooner the information can be provided, that would give us a better opportunity to deal with the recommendations and ask further questions prior to the session being adjourned.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. McCallum, to the motion.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the Executive would have any difficulty in bringing that forward. It is a group of people, as has been indicated by the deputy minister of Local Government, who are working on it. One of the Executive Members will report back to this House committee as directed by the motion. It will not be anybody from that subcommittee but it would be one of the Executive Members who will bring that back, so we do not have any difficulty with it.

HON. KANE TOLOGANAK: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All in favour, please raise your hands. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Municipal affairs, \$25,101,000. Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: In talking to some of the secretary managers of the various hamlets, they seem to have a problem in terms of the way in which the hamlet budgets are set and the way the negotiations are carried out in terms of how much money a community is going to get. My understanding is that the process right now is that the hamlet will submit a budget and then it becomes somewhere in the system, and then five or six months later somebody tells them, "This is how much money you are getting." For a lot of the secretary managers and for some of the hamlet councils it is proving very difficult to plan any great time ahead, because they basically do not know how much money they are going to get until the budget is looked at. I am just wondering if perhaps I could be filled in on actually what the process is right now and how that issue is dealt with.

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

#### Review Of Funding Formula For Municipalities

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the contributions that we make to the municipalities is basically based on a formula, one for the tax-based municipalities, another one for those with hamlet status and down. It is really based on a formula, and what I had indicated earlier, Mr. Chairman, was that the present funding formula that has been in existence for the last three years will be reviewed. This is the review that I was referring to, Mr. Chairman, that my department will complete before the spring session and that I intend to bring forward a report on at the next sitting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Wray. Mr. Wray, when you want to speak, could you raise your hand a little higher than usual? Thank you.

MR. WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that review, will there be a review of the way in which the negotiations for a budget are set out? Basically the complaint is that the hamlet will set a budget and then the superintendent of Local Government will cut it, then it will be forwarded to Yellowknife and somebody else will cut it, and by the time the budget comes back to the hamlet it does not reflect what they had originally submitted. I am just wondering if that will be one of the things that is taken under review.

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the contributions and the formula at the present time are really not negotiated with the various hamlets, because we base our contribution on a formula. The review that we would like to do is a review of the existing formula in terms of the contributions that we are making to the hamlet, so what we would like to do is review the formula with the regional offices. I would understand that the regional offices would be getting the various communities and hamlets involved in the review itself, and so that is the review that I am referring to, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Municipal affairs, \$25,101,000. Ms Cournoyea.

#### Assistance To Impact Communities

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I guess this is a twofold question. There was to be tabled a regional and tribal councils paper. Is that going to be discussed during this session? And with regard to impact communities, when the government is dealing with the administration and the direct funding to that community, is there an adjustment in there to deal with the extra cost of having to deal with more municipal matters on a day to day basis? Also is that identified as a percentage increase, or is it only dealt with in terms of identified persons?

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



HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I could table the assistance that we do provide to impact communities from the Department of Local Government, and this will basically outline the approach that the Government of the Northwest Territories is presently taking for the impact communities.

The other question that you raised concerned regional and tribal councils. I did indicate at the last session that I intend to come forward with a regional and tribal councils ordinance. The present status of that particular ordinance is that the ordinance is still a draft and it will go before the House planning and legislation subcommittee. From there, it has to go to the standing committee on legislation, of which the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre is the chairman. If all goes well, I would hope to have this ordinance dealt with by the House while we are sitting in this particular session.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the question I had previously asked, I realize that the Department of Local Government does deal with communities in terms of capital road construction in a certain manner, and that is done in a general way by taking a look at the community and identifying the capital requirements and setting priorities. That is done piece by piece. The question that I really wanted an answer to is the one where you have many years within a community and the community's direct budget for operations and maintenance. In trying to answer some of the concerns in impact communities where you have more municipal affairs problems to deal with, more intense use of the facilities, is the assistance going to be determined by giving a percentage increase or are we just talking about trying to identify a person that is required from time to time?

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the paper that I wanted to table in regard to assistance to impact communities really falls in four categories: the first one being legislation; second, municipal financing; third, community planning and fourth, human resources. I do believe that the paper that I wanted to make available will answer those questions that are being raised by the honourable Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Municipal affairs, \$25,101,000. Mr. Sayine.

#### Funding For Communities With Combined Councils

MR. SAYINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say one thing about municipal governments here. In a community like Fort Resolution, I think over the past years we have developed a strong and sound local government which is at the stage now where we are handling our own affairs and our own municipal functions. I would just like to ask the Minister of Local Government whether or not there is a possibility of a community such as Fort Resolution where they have combined councils, whether or not communities of this sort can have funding closer to the level of a hamlet, because settlements like Fort Resolution and Snowdrift operate on a per capita grant basis which is not really enough to operate a community. I just wanted to ask the Minister whether this department is looking at something for communities of this sort.

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I do intend to table a position paper in regard to community government. I would hope that the questions being raised will be addressed in that paper. I also intend to table a position paper on the tax-based municipalities as well. However, in the area of community government, I would hope that the paper that I want to table will address the special situation that does exist in regard to the Mackenzie Valley where the band councils and the municipal councils are likely to come together. The area funding will also be addressed. So I am aware of the special problems that the honourable Member is raising in regard to Fort Resolution.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Sayine.

MR. SAYINE: Just to add further that we had an incident in Fort Resolution a month ago where a local nurse was stabbed by one of the local people. Right now, Fort Resolution is looking for money to get some kind of a security person within the community but as I said before, Fort Resolution only gets a per capita grant of \$10,000 and some odd dollars per year to operate. I would just like to ask the Minister of Local Government whether he, within his department, can assist a community like Fort Resolution where the community is trying to get a security person hired by the community that can work along, be it evenings or during weekends, where these sorts of incidents do occur. Fort Resolution is looking for some kind of assistance in the salary for this sort of person.

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

Position Paper Would Deal With Funding Level

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the position paper that I would like to table in regard to the community government ordinance will be addressing the inadequate funding level that is presently in place for the type of council that exists in Fort Resolution. I gather what the honourable Member is referring to is the need for a by-law officer in the community, who could fulfil the responsibility of security officer for that community.

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

MR. SAYINE: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I have one more question. How soon is this paper going to be tabled? After it is tabled whether or not or how soon can we start this sort of thing? The community of Fort Resolution is looking maybe in this coming fiscal year to obtaining such funds so they can operate more on an economical basis. For example they do not run into financial problems all the time where they are stuck for money and cannot deliver that sort of program for the betterment of the settlement.

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the intent was to have the position paper submitted while we are at this particular sitting, and to have legislation in place in the fall which would make it possible to implement the legislation for the coming fiscal year -- not this fiscal year, but the next one. The reason for this is that we are working on this community government ordinance with a number of communities and we want to ensure that their concerns are accommodated in the community government ordinance. At the present time, it is not possible to really adequately address the special concerns that exist, particularly in dealing with the situation with the band councils and the municipal councils. So we would like to see this situation addressed, but this is the general approach that we are taking.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I am just a bit concerned. Mr. Sayine was asking if there was any way that funds could be made available for a security officer or their community funds upgraded, and the Minister's statement is that these kinds of adjustments are going to be put into an ordinance or a legislative proposal to this Assembly. Is it my understanding that Local Government is not going to entertain any increase in funding for such people within a community until this new ordinance is out? I am just confused because if that is the case, then I think all the communities would be in trouble if you are not going to look at the needs of the community just because they are needs but rather at the fact that you have a paper that will come forward at some time. I am concerned about that; maybe I misunderstand it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

Consideration Of Special Problems

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the general intent of the discussion paper in coming forward with a community government ordinance in the fall was, generally, to address the overall problems we do have at the present time. In the case of Fort Resolution, I would indicate that we would be receptive to special problems that are being experienced in the community and I think that if there is a real need in regard to having a security officer we may be able to accommodate that and have some arrangement worked out with the council in Fort Resolution.

However, to deal with the overall increases of this coming fiscal year in all of the communities would be rather difficult, Mr. Chairman, but I think that in the case of special needs and special problems that are being experienced in the interim period, we would have to look at the situation as it comes up. So that is really the general idea that I was trying to convey. Thank you.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I am still not quite clear because it was my understanding that the issue of combined settlement councils and band councils had been in place for a while now and that there were certain policies that were governing them and that, for example, the Fort Good Hope band council takeover is working very effectively. I know that we are going to come up into

discussion on a proposed paper and maybe a lot of these issues will be coming out but at this time I am just not quite clear on the issue and the problem. I would like to understand what the problem is in relation to the make-up of the community stated by Mr. Sayine and receiving adequate funding. I just do not understand that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, at the present time all of the communities are getting funding, even in cases where the band council and the existing hamlet council merged together or in cases where the band council wants to take on the municipal responsibility. Certainly there is funding going to those communities; however, what I am saying is that overall it would appear that we have to come up with a review and possibly there will be a need to increase the overall funding. What we would like to do is come up with legislation so that we do not have this problem with our existing ordinance. Hopefully, we will resolve the problem with the band council and the municipal council but at the present time we are getting requests for more consultation and so, in that area, we want to ensure that we do come up with legislation which will be supported by the majority of the Dene communities where they do have band councils and municipal councils. That is the general approach that we are taking, but I would like to assure the honourable Member that funding is there for all of the communities at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Let us take 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

Total O And M, Municipal Affairs, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The Chair recognizes a quorum now. Municipal affairs, \$25,101,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Community Airports, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Community airports, \$616,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Sport And Recreation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Sport and recreation, \$3,065,000. Mr. Appaqaq.

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to mention Sanikiluaq. We are looking at recreation in our community. The building we have been using is really not like a recreation centre; it is a very old building. It is like a warehouse or a garage, it is terrible and we are hardly using it now. Even the floor is a flooded floor and it is very awful to dance on. I guess you are aware of the problems we have in Sanikiluaq and we really need that recreation centre because there are a lot of young people who do not have anything to do.

I have been travelling a bit in the settlements in the Baffin region and some of the communities have good recreation centres and the local people like having recreation. I would like the Minister of Local Government to go to Sanikiluaq to see our recreation facilities and I think he would be able to go if he wants to see us.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) I do not even know what kind of an answer I am going to be getting from him and we will be forcing him to get more recreational facilities in our communities. Even if I passed away, Sanikiluaq is going to be there for a while.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the honourable Member for the kind invitation to visit his community. I would like to indicate to the Member that unfortunately, under the five year capital plan, there does not appear to be a recreational facility for that community. What I would like to do is look into the situation in regard to the capital planning and get back to him in regard to whether there is a possibility of working out other priorities in terms of getting a recreational facility for the honourable Member's community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Do you want to take a five minute break to look for your answer or something?

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable Member is asking why the department does not have, under the capital planning forecast, a recreational facility for Sanikiluaq. I indicated to the Member that I will look into it as to why the community does not have a facility of that nature under the five year capital planning forecast. It may be that the community is getting a school which may include a gymnasium, but I am not sure at the moment. I will have to confer with my honourable colleague the Minister of Education or one of his officials, but what I would like to do is look into the matter and get back to the Member in regard to the need for a recreational facility in his community.

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

Recreational Facilities For Chesterfield Inlet And Pangnirtung

MR. WRAY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps at the same time the Minister could look into the availability of money for a community hall or something similar of that nature for the community of Chesterfield Inlet. At present it has no such facility, neither does it have a gymnasium. Perhaps somebody from the recreation department could be sent in to talk to them about it. I know they have some money of their own and they might be willing to try and arrange some cost-sharing agreement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, under the five year forecast for Chesterfield Inlet there is a recreation facility for 1986-87 under the capital planning at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Sport and recreation, \$3,065,000. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask if you know when the Pangnirtung people will get a recreation facility, and do you have that in your five year plan? This is my question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, Pangnirtung is under 1985-86 for a recreation facility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Sport and recreation. Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I had a question on airports. I wonder if I could ask the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does this House agree to go back to community airports?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Proceed, Mr. Fraser.

MR. FRASER: I would like to ask the Minister, now that Northern Transportation have quit freighting into Fort Franklin, what are the plans for an airstrip in Fort Franklin? A couple of years ago they were trying to push MOT into completing that airstrip and bringing it up to standard and I heard no more from them. I just wondered if the Minister has heard anything as to where the status of the Fort Franklin airport is right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I understand that MOT officials are presently in the community of Fort Franklin and doing a survey, and that under their schedule they will be getting airport construction in 1986-87.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. We have already agreed with the amount of O and M on community airports. Now, back to sport and recreation, \$3,065,000. Mr. McLaughlin.

Proposed Ministry Of Culture

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because this is an area involving culture in the Northwest Territories and one of the biggest cultural sharing experiences that goes on is through sports, and I wonder if this might be a good time to ask the Minister if he plans on putting sport and recreation in this new ministry of culture, and will the ministry of culture ever happen?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, at the present time this particular division is looking after sports and also some of the activity under culture. However, I am having a proposal coming forward to the Executive Committee in regard to setting up a ministry of culture. Hopefully the proposal will be completed by the end of March and at that time I will have the opportunity to review the proposal with my officials in Local Government and will be making a recommendation to the Executive Committee. It may be that this new ministry of culture will accommodate sports. However, I will have to wait until I get the report before a decision can be made in terms of making recommendations to my colleagues on the Executive.

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

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to caution anyone who is recommending grouping cultural activities in with sports -- regular sports, activities that are normally known as sports -- basketball and that area. In being involved with the Northern Games and trying to promote the Northern Games, we have always felt that the sporting associations had much more pizzazz and much more support from a broader, more sophisticated society, and oftentimes the whole cultural aspect of developing the cultural games and the other areas of competition is somewhat different from the normal sports program that comes through the school facilities. As it is, there has never been a determination within the Secretary of State or within Indian Affairs programming exactly as to where the native cultural program fits into the sports activity. So in approaching the concerns of the normal sports activities and recreational activities, I feel that in order to continue with a special dignity to native sports, that they should be treated as an entity themselves until such time that the people who are involved in promoting those types of activities ensure that they are not going to be lost in the more sophisticated delivery system of southern sports.

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

NWT Athletes At The Canada Winter Games

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I understand Mr. Wah-Shee had the privilege of going down to attend the Canada Winter Games somewhere in Quebec just last week, and he undoubtedly saw all of the NWT athletes and the staff while he was there. I want to ask the Minister whether he noticed that the NWT contingent of athletes and staff represented all people of the North?

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

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the make-up of the contingent from the Northwest Territories that is presently participating in the Canada Winter Games in Lac St. Jean, Quebec -- the selection of those athletes basically was the responsibility of Sport North. At the present time we have an arrangement whereby we give a contribution to Sport North. They in turn, hold tryouts in various sports, and the number of people we have sent down to the Canada Winter Games is in the neighbourhood of 56 athletes. The majority of these athletes did come from Yellowknife, and there were some that came from the outlying communities. However, we only had so much money to spend in that activity and really we do have an arrangement with Sport North that looks after holding various training clinics and regional trials, not only for the Arctic Winter Games, but also to participate in these other high level competitions, for instance, like the Canada Games.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, in looking at the list of athletes that are representing the NWT in Quebec, there are approximately 50 or so athletes and actually every one of them, except I believe five or six, are from Yellowknife. As far as I know, there may be one or two persons of native origin on the NWT team. I am just wondering if the Minister noticed this and whether he is concerned about the fact that our athletes representing us in the North do not really include a significant number of native persons, and certainly they do not have athletes from all corners of the Northwest Territories. It is primarily a Yellowknife undertaking, it seems. Has the Minister noted this and if he has what does he propose to do about it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

Selection Of Athletes Done By Sport North

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I always thought that sports and politics should not mix, however in light of the concern raised by the honourable Member, I will have to discuss the matter with Sport North. The participation in the Canada Winter Games was rather limited in terms of the type of sports that we could participate in. As you know, the provinces have a huge population compared to us, and so they have a better selection and better calibre of athletes that could participate, and they take their participation very seriously in those games. However, in the Northwest Territories the only thing I could say is that the selection of teams was done by Sport North and I do believe that some of our athletes did have some problems in regard to competing in some of the sports like volleyball.

So the other problem we have is that some of our athletes do not play on the same team for any length of time. I would like to add that some of the provincial teams have been playing together as a team for a little over two years before they participated in these games. However, we do have our own problems in regard to participating in selected sports events. I think that we do have a long way to go and I would like to see more athletes participating from other communities. However, this is something that will have to be discussed with Sport North and I hope that more athletes will participate from other communities. I would like to see other sports that perhaps we can participate in, but at the present time I think we have to be a little more selective in our approach.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I am very concerned about this situation of having athletes representing the North but not having any significant number of native athletes, and also the fact that most of the athletes seem to come from Yellowknife. It really does concern me. I can say now that I intend to bring a motion forward very soon to request Sport North to appear before us, and maybe explain to us the way they are running sports in the North. Maybe there are good reasons why there are not native people representing NWT at the present Canada Winter Games, also why there are not any athletes from the remoter parts of the North. Maybe there are good reasons but I will be very interested in hearing from the Sport North organization.

I note that this government contributes almost \$300,000 a year to the organization, and in the interest of resolving this I intend to make a motion deleting the grant, the present plans to provide \$290,000 to Sport North. I will be making a motion shortly to delete this until we have had a chance to talk to the Sport North organization and see if we can have a good explanation as to why this anomaly exists and just generally have a good discussion about sports in the North.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Ms Cournoyea.

#### Decreasing Participation Of Smaller Communities At Competitive Level

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, further to the issue that Mr. Sibbeston brought forward, I myself feel that as it has evolved over the years, there have been fewer and fewer people from the smaller communities or urban communities that are participating or achieving competitive status in sports activities. I have no wish to put Yellowknife down because most of the people come from here, but I think the issue really is why people at the regional and community levels are not able to compete and go to the various competitions? At one time it appeared that there was far more involvement at the community levels in areas outside of this general region. I think competition is good, but at the same time I think the concern really is why are they not there? The recreation program, the community services and the cost-sharing expenses between the territorial government and the community, to further the competitiveness in these sports, seems to be a determining factor. I am wondering if the government has really looked into that dwindling participation over the last few years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the Canada Winter Games we did send a small number of athletes to participate, and in my discussions with Sport North officials, they have indicated to me that the selection that was made was really based on team sports. The idea was to try and get as many athletes who have played together for some time and who are able to compete. So the problem was that they were not able to get as many participants from the other smaller communities. The sports that they have participated in in the Canada Winter Games are: badminton, figure skating, bowling, cross-country skiing, volleyball, curling, wrestling and speed skating. These are the sports that Sport North has selected, and the outcome of that was that the majority of the athletes did come from Yellowknife. However, it is difficult in the area of the Canada Games to have a large participation from the majority of the communities throughout the Northwest Territories when you look at the expense involved.

However, the Arctic Winter Games allow mass participation in the Northwest Territories. As you know, we do spend quite a bit of money in this particular area to get as many participants as we can throughout the Northwest Territories. The approach to these games is rather different in a sense that we have a bigger budget for more athletes to participate. There again, we still have our own problems in the Arctic Winter Games where, as Members will be aware, the majority of the small communities are just coming on-stream now in upgrading or getting new recreation facilities.

So hopefully in the long run with greater emphasis on recreation facilities for the communities we will have our athletes who will have those facilities, getting into team sports and hopefully we will have a higher calibre of athletes competing in the Arctic Winter Games.

May I add that we are competing with the state of Alaska which is quite a wealthy state and they have many competitive sports in that area. Also the Yukon Territory does not have as many problems as we do because their athletes come from a relatively small area. But in our case, to hold these regional trials, you know how expensive that could be, and on top of that we may not have as many facilities in regard to team sports.

Certainly there is a big area that requires improvement. However, getting back to the Canada Winter Games I think it is good experience for our athletes but there again, I think that we can improve the quality of the sports that we do get ourselves involved in and hopefully in the future we will be better represented. I will take the concerns under consideration when I will be having my discussions with Sport North, but I do not feel that it is totally the fault of Sport North. I think they are doing the best they can under the circumstances, Mr. Chairman.

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

#### Arctic Winter Games Had Larger Representation From Small Communities

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I do not really have any criticism of Sport North and the way they have operated because I think that they have done a good job of taking the sports out into the smaller communities. From the time of the first Arctic Winter Games until the last couple of Arctic Winter Games -- for the first games 80 or 90 per cent of the athletes came from Yellowknife and now we are finding that in the most recent Arctic Winter Games, I believe 40 per cent of the athletes came from Yellowknife. So the smaller communities are fielding teams and getting competitive.

It bothers me that I see here that in some cases apparently they hand picked what they think are the best athletes to go, and all of a sudden you are back up to 90 or 95 per cent of the athletes are from Yellowknife. I wonder what happened to the athletes from the other communities, who when you had an open competition, were able to win most of these team sports and go to Fairbanks last year -- where are they this year? I think that that is the criticism that I would like to level at Sport North and ask them how they picked these all-stars. Maybe the problem is that your department has no funding to bring the athletes in from other communities. Is that what the problem is? If these other teams in open competition won 60 per cent of the positions on the Arctic Winter Games teams last year, why are they not any good now when you are hand picking the all-star team?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, I think that I indicated earlier that the type of sports that we can participate in in the Canada Winter Games is a little different from the type of games that we have in regard to the mass participation in the Arctic Winter Games. The way in which these athletes were selected, I have to say again, was done by Sport North and we do contribute to their budget every year. However, we feel in order for Sport North to function properly we have to give them that autonomy and I do not feel that it should be a case where the Department of Local Government should interfere in regard to the selection of these athletes.

Now, I think the concern has been well expressed that perhaps there could be more of a participation in the other communities, I think that that really has to do with the type of sports that are selected and the selection process that perhaps Sport North has used. I really feel that certainly there is room for improvement and I am undertaking to discuss these concerns with Sport North, but at the same time I would hope that you will appreciate the problem that I am sure Sport North has had in terms of our actual participation in these games. What I am saying is that I will certainly discuss the matter with Sport North but I do not feel that Sport North is totally to blame for the way in which the selection has been made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Sport and recreation, \$3,065,000. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: I had thought that the Member for Mackenzie Liard was going to bring a motion, but perhaps he is not. Anyway, I can agree with some of the concerns that were expressed there. If we had widespread competitions and decisions were based on athletic ability and those who were best were chosen, and if 90 per cent of those came from Yellowknife -- I would be very proud about that, and I would think that that is the way it should be done. But if we are in a situation that that is not able to happen, whether it is because there is not enough money to



have playoffs, qualifying rounds or whatever to determine who should go, then I would say that the question has seriously to be asked whether we should be participating in the Canada Games.

What it amounts to is that always there will only be a small group of athletes who, for that kind of reason, are eligible. So I think that when you are discussing things with Sport North that that should be seriously considered. Either we make a full commitment and do everything that is necessary to give all our young people a chance to participate in it, or if we feel we cannot really do that, then maybe we should consider not participating in that particular sports function.

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

Participants Should Acquire Skills At Competitive Level

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I am not sure whether the Minister would want to comment on the comments that were made, but I think the situation as far as the Territories is concerned, is a situation that is faced in many of the other smaller provinces. If you have a large population, it only makes common sense that you are going to get more athletes in particular sports. You start with a wide base and you wind up at the apex of a triangle with a greater number skilled in a particular endeavour. I think that the Minister has indicated that we do not have a contingent participating at the Canada Summer or Winter Games in every sport that is agreed upon at those games. There is no sense in the world of sending somebody to the Canada Summer Games who cannot run 100 yards in less than 10 seconds. They are going to finish up the track.

So I think the idea of putting people into games and entering athletes in particular sports events from which they can come back with some skills that they are able to acquire after watching somebody else -- like hockey. We do not have that many good hockey players in the Northwest Territories and we are not going to get that many good hockey players in the Northwest Territories -- we have never had them, the simple reason being because we start with a small base. Canada as a country is finding that out. The best hockey players in the world do not come from Canada. That is because some of the other countries have a wider base from which to get them.

However, I think the participation in the Canada Summer Games and the Canada Winter Games is decided by certain qualifications -- certainly in the individual. I think it would be absolutely ridiculous to send somebody down on an individual basis who does not meet certain criteria. There is no sense of sending somebody down in figure skating to compete at the national level unless they are at least past the third figure and maybe going into the fourth. It is the same with other sports. I do not have any difficulty with trying to get more athletes from the North into sporting events. I think there is a great deal that can be learned by individuals, and these are for young people. In the first Canada Winter Games, they sent down a bunch of old men, by and large. I know; I was one of them. There was no way that we could compete even with the university teams, and it is not much fun going out in the Quebec Coliseum and getting pounded 15 to one.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Did you score the one?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: No, I could not put the puck in the ocean. There is no reason -- playing in some of the arenas here in the Northwest Territories -- a big fish in a small pond. Once you got a little more water in the pond and found out how big you were, you had a difficult time keeping your head up. I thought I was a doormat in a rubber factory for a while in a couple of those games.

I think that in terms of getting participation of northern people -- and the Northwest Territories or Sport North do not determine the kinds of sports -- in the Canada Winter Games and Canada Summer Games, especially this year in Canada Winter Games, the recognition has been with the kinds of game events that were taking place -- and let me just talk about volleyball. That is a pretty popular sport in a lot of communities in the Northwest Territories, because in a lot of schools they do not have a large arena or a large gymnasium, but they have enough room to put a volleyball net across. They introduced bowling -- well, there are not bowling alleys in every community in the Northwest Territories. However, it is for young people and it was a participation, and I think the principle that has now been developed across Canada in regard to recreation, is to get involved with recreation or sports that one can continue with throughout his life. You do not have to quit bowling because you get to a certain age; you can bowl at any age. You can curl at any age. However, you cannot go out and compete in hockey or basketball at any age. I think the principle of getting a lot of people involved with things -- and it would be very nice if there were a lot more people from all communities in the Northwest Territories -- is to get out and compete with it.

However, because we start with such a small base, when we get to the top we have very few athletes who can compete on a national and/or international level. I think we had three kids from the Northwest Territories that might have had a cup of coffee in the National Hockey League, and as far as I know I can pretty well name them: Victor Merccredi, Greg Vaydik and maybe one more.

How many international or national skiers have we developed? You cannot blame that on people involved with sports or recreation. Young people today do not have that kind of discipline to improve all the time that they would have required in the past, because there are many other things that they can do. That is not a knock at them because I think today's athletes are much better than the athletes of the past. There are all kinds of kids playing midget hockey in this town whose skates I could not carry into the rink when I was the same age -- never mind now. However, they are better now than they ever were.

#### NWT Should Continue To Participate At Competitive Levels

The athletes in other communities, in other provinces, are getting better. Whether we should compete at a national level is a moot point and maybe the Canada Games should only be held for the large provinces -- Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta. Maybe the other smaller provinces and the Territories should compete.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: However, you do not see very many kids from PEI winning very many gold medals because they again start with a smaller base. However, to say that our athletes from the Territories should not compete on this basis with other provinces, I do not agree with it. I would like to see more of our athletes compete, and I would like to see a continuation of the philosophy -- at least the philosophy that I recognize in national sporting events -- not the competitiveness totally, but the idea that you are getting involved with some recreation or sports that you can take throughout your life. Because I think sports is one good example of trying to instil discipline within an individual -- the discipline of an individual to make up their own minds what to do.

So it very well may be that we in the North have to take a second look at competing against the province of Ontario in volleyball in the same way that we are going to have to take a look at competing against the state of Alaska in basketball, because we finally realized in the Arctic Winter Games that that was an unfair kind of a sport. So you try to bring in other kinds of sporting events that will bring together participation. Nothing would please me more than to have 10 Shirley and Sharon Firths or another dozen Greg Vaydiks, but we are not going to get them until we can continue to compete. Those that do attend those games should meet certain criteria. In the summer games there is not much sense sending down a kid who can jump five foot eleven in a high jump. The other provinces are knocking off those kids if they cannot make six two or six three.

I still think it is good that we have people competing. Whether we should be competing and whether we should lobby some of the others who always finish in the ninth, 10th, 11th or 12th or 13th place, to get a separate division of those Canada Summer or Winter Games -- I think that we should maybe continue to strive to get the other smaller provinces and territories to take a look at the total Canada concept. It gives people in the Northwest Territories a great feeling, as we felt in this particular House when we recognized the efforts of Shirley and Sharon Firth who compete internationally, to be numbered in the top 15 skiers in the world. So I think it is good that we get those people involved, but the commitment that those two girls gave to skiing -- how many others are ready to make that commitment?

I think that what we have attempted to do in our participation in the Arctic Winter Games is a good concept, and if we can make sure that we are getting the proper events involved in those games that allow for participation, that allow the individuals to take something from those sports that will continue throughout their lives, then they are worth-while. The more that we get from all the other communities, that is even better. The unfortunate thing in terms of the Canada Winter Games is if you are not good enough you should not be going, and you come down to the reality of it. We do not have that many good athletes, but we have a lot of people involved in participation and I think that is good.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you for your general comments. Sport and recreation. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. I guess I was responsible for that outburst of eloquence so I will just clarify a little something. I recognize that we will not do as well as other jurisdictions, comparing with them medal for medal, but that is not a concern of mine as long as people are doing their very best. I absolutely agree that people we send to it should meet certain standards and if they do not, then we should not be sending them. My concern was, are all our kids in the Northwest Territories getting the chance to meet those standards? That was the question and I would certainly like the Minister to look into that a little more. That is the concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Sport and recreation, \$3,065,000. Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

#### Social Aspect Of Sport

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that a lot of what Mr. McCallum says is true, but I think winning is not everything and a large part of going to any games is the experience. I think that it is just a wonderful experience to be able to go to these games and compete with other athletes even if you do come in very last. It is a great experience and for this reason it is worth sending athletes to these things.

The other thing is the social aspect. It is not all a matter of sports; it is the social aspect -- the experience of seeing a different part of the country and getting to meet friends and meeting other people. I felt that that side was not emphasized enough by Mr. McCallum and I just think that I do not have any motive in raising the matter. I am really concerned that other people in other parts of the North have this experience. I do not think that the primary criterion in sending the athletes down is that they be the very best in the North. I think there should be consideration to other aspects so that eventually we do have a contingent from the North that does have some native people on there.

Certainly in the area of the staff and the management people -- I do not know what skill that takes, but certainly in that area we could have one or two native persons involved. I understand there is not at the moment. As I said, I have a motion coming forward very soon and I just want to say that I do know some of the people that are involved in the present contingent from the North and I have a respect for them. People who have been involved with sports a great many years -- if we were to have them come here with the idea of really having a good talk maybe they can point out some things to us which will lead to eventually having people from all areas and cultural backgrounds of the North. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion; I do not know whether this is the precise place for it, it does concern page 12.09, but it is under the heading of sport and recreation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard, it is going to be the appropriate time when we go to the detail of grants and contributions on page 12.09. We are dealing with page 12.07 right now. Thank you. Sport and recreation. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### Competition Amongst Settlements Needed

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a little comment on recreation. The only thing that I do not really like about it is the fact that the communities with good recreation facilities do not get to participate in the other northern games. I think it would be better for those people with a good recreation facility to participate in other competitions. It would be better for them if they had a good opportunity to try and enter the Arctic Winter Games. It is really hard for the settlements to know exactly what the other settlements are doing because they do not see each other very much. With the recreational facilities appearing in the settlements now -- I guess it would be better if they could compete with each other sometimes. Maybe they would have more chance to participate in the Arctic Winter Games.

I had a letter from Broughton Island which says that if there are any spring games going on in Pangnirtung or in Frobisher Bay they want to participate and if they were to push this recreation program in the communities, I guess it would help a lot in order to participate in the other settlements. I also had a letter from Broughton Island, they wanted to know if they would get some contribution or grant to participate in other sports in the settlements. I just wanted to ask that question. Maybe you got a copy of the same letter that I received before from Broughton Island and maybe you will be able to help them. They wanted to get a grant to go to other settlements. I just wanted to know that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, on page 12.09 we have allocated for 1983-84 under Northern Games and Dene Games a contribution to the amount of \$125,000. We have five regions and each region received \$25,000 to have the communities in that particular region participate. For example, in Baffin region they would get \$25,000 and that would give the opportunity to the communities in Baffin to come together to participate in these northern games. That is the amount that is allocated for 1983-84.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total O and M, sport and recreation, \$3,065,000. Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

Lack Of Recreational Facilities In Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: Just to tell everybody here that Simpson is hoping to get an arena and gymnasium complex started this year. The territorial government has never contributed very much to recreation in Simpson. The arena that the community has was built by the Catholic church, if you can believe -- the Catholic church is supposed to be poor, but in 1959-60 they found money from somewhere to build an arena and it served the community very well until recently. It is shut down at the moment, the people are afraid it might fall on them. If they shoot the puck real hard the whole roof could fall.

---Laughter

The community hall was built by the community club. Years ago, when I was young, I hammered away at a few nails and helped build the community hall -- you can imagine how old that is. So that is pretty well dilapidated. They have a curling rink and, again, it was not the government that helped out, it was the local people and that is not in very good shape. So Simpson is really suffering from a lack of recreational facilities. I must say that in the last month or so, the band council chief, Jim Antoine, and the village mayor, Jim Villeneuve came to Yellowknife here and met with the Executive Committee about getting a couple of million that is stashed away somewhere. I must say that it was a very good meeting and the government is helping the community out with some planning money. There is a committee set up to look into all aspects of building this and the committee is working very well. Eventually the planning will end, in the next few weeks or months, and it will be time to get some capital funds. What is required is \$1.8 million, so the community in Simpson is very hopeful that the government will be able to come through with some of the capital money this year. The people in Simpson are very anxious that in the spring or in the summer if the territorial government can find the money they can begin the construction of this complex. I just wanted to tell you, so when you do hear about the government giving Simpson a couple of million dollars, you will not be shocked and surprised; you will know that it is for a good reason and a good purpose.

Total O And M, Sport And Recreation, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Sport and recreation, \$3,065,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 12.09, detail of grants and contributions, \$23,504,000. Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

Motion To Invite Sport North Witnesses And Defer Detail Of Grants And Contributions, Department Of Local Government, Bill 1-83(1)

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that this Assembly invite the Sport North organization officials to appear before the committee of the whole and that this committee defer consideration of grants and contributions under the Department of Local Government, which includes \$290,000 to Sport North, until we have had a chance to hear from the Sport North officials as to why NWT athletes and staff contingent presently at the Canada Winter Games do not include residents from all over the North and people of all cultures in the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Your motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, just to say that I think it would be very interesting and worthwhile to have Sport North officials appear before us and have a good general discussion about sports in the North -- how the sports are organized throughout the North and what this particular Sport North organization does. I cannot help but think that it would be very interesting and beneficial to us all to hear what they have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I agree that it would be a good idea to have the Sport North people appear before the committee of the whole and give Members of the committee an opportunity to hear the philosophy that they have about sending athletes to various competitions from all over the Territories. I think it would be very nice to be able to listen to what they have to say, and listening to the kinds of comments that have been made about sport and recreation I think that sometimes we might be confusing those terms. I do not think that they are one and the same thing. I think that it would be a very good idea if we could get people involved from all over the Territories, to represent territorial teams when they go to things. I would be more concerned with the philosophy of recreation and participation of people in recreation, which covers a wide variety, and in sports.

I think throughout the last while in sporting circles the definition of sport has been very much widened -- the scope of sports, as we would normally think of them. I do not agree with the motion in total because we are talking about a deferral and I take from the meaning of deferral that if we are not satisfied with the philosophy that they have been moving, then we are going to do something about the amount of money that is given to the Sport North.

MR. SIBBESTON: Of course.

MR. CURLEY: Of course, why not?

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I believe that Sport North does a great deal in terms of recreation. In terms of their getting involved with a lot of national sports, I have some concern there, but I do not have any difficulty with what they are doing in terms of getting people involved. I think that it would be very interesting to have them here to discuss what they are. I am not indicating that I have a concern just because there are a number of athletes from Yellowknife -- that does not bother me because when the athletes from Fort Smith or Fort Resolution or Fort Providence or anywhere else, are of a calibre and they reach that particular height to get involved -- then they will be. They have been in the past and I am convinced that they will be in the future. I am not looking at it in terms of simply trying to say that everybody comes from Yellowknife because of its base, but it is quite obvious to me and it should be obvious to everyone else, that they will for that particular reason, have more of the better athletes.

#### Northern Games And Dene Games Not Open To All Athletes Across The North

So I think that I would agree that we have the Sport North organization appear before the committee so that we can have a chance to hear from them as to why they have the philosophy, why the athletes and staff contingent do not include residents from all over and people from all cultures. There are other cultural games in the Territories that are not open to all athletes of the Territories. The Dene Games are not open to all athletes across the North; there are a very few non-Inuit, non-Dene people who would like to participate in those games. With the idea of Sport North, where they do get involved with participation and bring out the kinds of sporting events and the recreation policies of the government, I think that they are on a proper track. I have no difficulty with having them come here and listen to what they will say in trying to defend what they are doing and their philosophy but I do not agree with the deferral of the grant to Sport North itself if we are not going to deal with the grants and contributions to other particular sport or recreation groups to which there are these grants and contributions given.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the money that is used for NWT athletes to travel to Canada Winter Games comes from the federal government. It is not territorial government funds and this \$290,000 grant to Sport North is used for northern sports activities. Maybe we will find out if the officials come here but I wanted to make that clear. My investigation in this matter with Sport North people led me to believe that they are merely selecting NWT athletes to travel at federal expense to a federally organized winter games. So I do not think we have quite as much financial stake in that as if it were territorial money being used. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Invite Sport North Witnesses And Defer Detail Of Grants And Contributions, Department Of Local Government, Bill 1-83(1), Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour raise your hands. Down. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Detail Of Capital

Page 12.19, detail of capital, \$22,030,000. Agreed? Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: That is a big jump you made. I would suggest that you give us a little bit of time to think about it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): It is the next page. Starting from page 12.11 to page 12.19, \$22,030,000. Is the House agreed? Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard.

MR. SIBBESTON: I do see a few things in there for my constituency and I am satisfied. It looks like we are going to get a few dollars this year.

---Applause

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I wonder if I got anything out of it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Ms Cournoyea.

Tax Relief Grants

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the home-owners property tax relief grant, the Minister did make a statement earlier about the supposed increase to that. Was that an increase to the number of home-owners who would be receiving the grant or is the government giving an increase per person over last years grant?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, the intent of the program was that it was going to be a three year program. The first year was going to be \$200, the second year \$300, and this coming year we had planned to increase the home-owners tax rebate to \$400. However, the matter still has to go before the Financial Management Board and this is an item that the Financial Management Board will be dealing with very shortly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Detail of capital, \$22,030,000. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, on the senior citizens tax relief grant, where is that earmarked for and what communities have taken advantage of the relief grant? What is it? Maybe you can explain it a bit more.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: The amount indicated there for \$16,000 is for senior citizens who do own their own homes; they are reimbursed for the taxes that are paid to the municipalities.

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

Recreation Funds For Keewatin Region

MR. WRAY: Mr. Chairman, under recreation I see that funds have been allocated to headquarters, Fort Smith region, Inuvik region, Baffin region and Kitikmeot region, but I do not see anything for the Keewatin region. Is that just a printing error? On pages 12.17 to 12.19, under recreation, there do not seem to be any expenditures listed for the Keewatin region at all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, under the five year plan, it is on the drawing board that the Keewatin will be getting recreational facilities in 1986-87. There are six recreation facilities going into that region at that time, and this is the submission that we have received from the Keewatin region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Detail of capital, \$22,030,000. Mr. Wray.

MR. WRAY: Supplementary, Mr. Chairman: 1986-87 is five years from now. I take it that the Department of Local Government is saying that the Keewatin region has enough recreation facilities to last them for the next five years. I find it very strange that every region in the North is getting money except the Keewatin region. Now maybe the regional office does not think much of recreation, but the people in the communities sure do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Mr. Chairman, these are the priorities that the Keewatin regional office has worked out with the communities within that region, so the priorities outlined here have not been made by the Department of Local Government as such; it is in consultation with the communities involved. If the communities had made this a priority, then it would have been reflected in the five year capital plan.

Detail Of Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Detail of capital, \$22,030,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): This department has been deferred until such time as we can meet with the Sport North organization. I would like to thank the witnesses. I will see you next week some time. The next department is the Department of Public Works.

AN HON. MEMBER: Report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister, you have 15 minutes for your opening remarks. Mr. Minister.

Employment Initiative Programs

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, yesterday when we were talking about the Department of Local Government, I think the Member for the Western Arctic asked some questions about employment initiative programs that were a part of the federal government. I think she raised what department in the government was responsible for it and whether there was a list of what programs had been approved. I would just like to indicate that I, on behalf of the government, signed an agreement, so that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is administering those grants. I have copies of the grants that have already been allocated to communities in the Territories, what they are for, and then the amount of each of those grants under that employment initiative. If I could get those passed out, I think it would answer the question that the Member for the Western Arctic asked yesterday.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: I would further, Mr. Chairman, move we report progress.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk.

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

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-83(1), and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any announcements from the floor? Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to indicate to Members that the federal government has announced that Rendezvous Canada, an economic show, will be held in Edmonton, and that this Rendezvous Canada tourism show will be sponsored by the city of Edmonton, the province of Alberta, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory. It was announced early this afternoon in Ottawa and we will be part of it.

I also would want to inform Members that the Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, the Minister of Employment and Immigration Canada, has announced today a federal summer student employment program in which the Northwest Territories will be participating, and there will be over one million dollars available to this government to create student jobs in the Territories next year.

---Applause

I would just like to indicate, sir, that this will allow for an internship by summer students to help them develop their knowledge and skills and deal with private sector and non-profit organizations. The idea of it will be to obtain practical work experience in areas that they would wish to pursue upon completion of their student days, and so they would be able to get an easier entry into the permanent labour force across the country. We will be participating in it as a government, and we would hope to be able to have even some of the municipalities participate in it, and therefore some students from various communities around the Territories may even apply for summer work through the municipalities, so that has been announced and there will be further details announced.

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

ITEM NO. 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Friday, February the 25th, 9:30 a.m.

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), 13-83(1), 14-83(1), 15-83(1), 16-83(1), 17-83(1), 18-83(1)
16. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Friday, February 25th.

---ADJOURNMENT



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