

1994

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Closure of Akaitcho Hall a Bad Decision

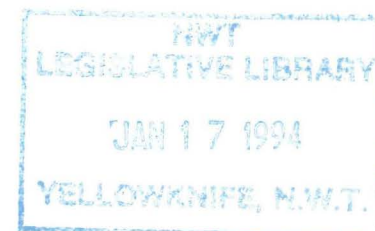
YELLOWKNIFE (January 14) - Closing the Akaitcho Hall Student Residence in Yellowknife is a bad decision which could have a severe impact on the future of aboriginal students, according to Sam Gargan, MLA for Deh Cho.

The Executive Council has given approval-in-principle to close the residence for students attending Sir John Franklin Territorial High School effective this June. Student registration at Akaitcho Hall has declined in the past three years. The Department of Education Culture and Employment estimates the closing of Akaitcho Hall will save \$2-million.

“I think it’s terrible that the government is placing a higher priority on money than the education of our young people,” Mr. Gargan said. “Closing Akaitcho Hall limits the educational opportunities for our children. We must continue to provide them with choices if they are to receive the best possible education.”

The Department has encouraged Divisional Boards of Education to offer more senior high school programs at the community and regional levels. Mr. Gargan said, “The Divisional Boards cannot supply the same recreational, cultural and educational opportunities that are available in Yellowknife. For more than 25 years Akaitcho Hall has provided its students with a tremendous opportunity to share ideas and cultures, which leads to a greater understanding and appreciation of the diversity of the people in the Northwest Territories.”

The MLA for Deh Cho went on to say that the Divisional Boards cannot guarantee there will be enough students in each grade level to ensure a variety of classes and options.



Mr. Gargan said he is concerned that the community level programs may be focussing on a general rather than an academic curriculum. "If aboriginal students stay in their home community, they will have no option but to take programs that restrict their future education to technical schools, while students in larger centres have the opportunity to go on to university. If we continue this way, then we are never going to get native people moving into professional occupations in the future," he said.

According to Mr. Gargan the government should have consulted students and their parents about the decision to close the residence.

In addition, Mr. Gargan expressed concern about the employees who will lose their jobs when the student residence is closed and about the future use of the building.

**Contact: Sam Gargan
MLA, Deh Cho
(403) 669-2270**

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Legislative Assembly Adopts Principle of Zero Tolerance of Violence

YELLOWKNIFE: (February 14, 1994) Members of the Legislative Assembly have adopted the principle of zero tolerance of violence against all people and has endorsed the goal of eliminating family violence by 2000.

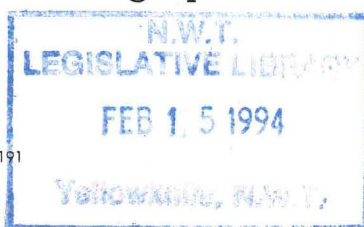
"Adopting this resolution represents a significant step in eliminating one of the most serious social problems plaguing the Northwest Territories," said Naitilikmiot MLA, John Ningark, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly's Ordinary Members Caucus. "As political leaders, we must show dedication and commitment toward the concept of zero tolerance of violence," Mr. Ningark said.

Results of a recent study released by Statistics Canada indicate that violence against women and children is widespread and that women face the greatest risk of violence from men they know. While Statistics Canada did not survey the Northwest Territories, the number of reported incidents of violence is six times the national average.

"Violence is a very significant problem that deserves our serious attention," the Minister of Justice, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi (MLA Sahtu) said. "The elimination of family violence requires a wide range of actions, but at the end of the day, any family violence requires changing our attitudes which allow it to continue. To stop violence, we have to acknowledge that it is happening and not tolerate it continuing," stated Mr. Kakfwi.

North Slave MLA, Henry Zoe added, "We can't solve the whole issue of violence overnight. But I think we have to start somewhere and by bringing the issue up front and making people more aware and promoting zero tolerance, I think we're moving in the right direction."

Representatives of the Status of Women Council of the NWT, the NWT Council for Disabled Persons, the Native Women's Association and the National Advisory Council on Aging made presentations to the Assembly on the issue of family violence. "In 1991, aboriginal women identified family violence as the most dangerous factor to their mental health," Lynn Brooks, Executive-Director of the Status of Women Council said during her presentation. "We have to get past the denial and we have to look for solutions that work."



Ms. Brooks told MLAs, "The zero tolerance declaration is the most important proposition you will ever consider because it says, 'We are the role models. We will pledge from this day forward to accept no violence in our lives.' If the people have no role models in this chamber, where do they seek them?"

The resolution adopted by the Assembly invites all northern leaders to make a similar commitment of zero tolerance of violence against all people

**Contact: John Ningark
MLA, Natilikmiot
(403) 669 - 2298**

(attachment)

Motion

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DECLARATION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

WHEREAS violence against all people, especially elders and disabled people, women and children, and violence within the family in particular, is occurring at levels which are tragic and destructive, not only to those directly affected, but to all of northern society;

AND WHEREAS family violence consists predominantly of violence by men against women and children;

AND WHEREAS violence includes physical, psychological, emotional and sexual abuse;

AND WHEREAS violence has, for too long, been tolerated, the incidence of violence denies, and its effects minimized;

AND WHEREAS the practice of violence is transmitted from generation to generation; children and youth are educated by experience and example to practice violence;

AND WHEREAS everyone is entitled to live free from violence;

AND WHEREAS family violence will only be contained and reduced if northern society refuses to continue to tolerate its occurrence;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly has heard representation from Women's Groups, the Aged, and Disabled and discussed the issue of family violence in Committee of the Whole;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislature adopts the principle of zero tolerance of violence against all people and endorses the goal of eliminating family violence by the year 2000;

AND FURTHER, that this Legislature invites all northern leaders, such as leaders of Aboriginal organizations, municipal governments, trade unions, boards and agencies and societies, to make a similar commitment by adopting this declaration in spirit and in practice.

Date of Notice / ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ: Feb. 11/94

Date of Introduction / ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ: Feb. 11/94

Disposition / ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ:

Carried / ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ:

Moved by / ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ: Ningark

Seconded by / ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ: Kakfwi

Ruled out of Order / ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᓄᓇᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ:

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YELLOWKNIFE: (February 14, 1994) Members of the Legislative Assembly have adopted the principle of zero tolerance of violence against all people and has endorsed the goal of eliminating family violence by 2000.

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Carried / ᓄᓴᓄᓂ ᓴᓴᓄᓂ ᓴᓴᓄᓂ:

Moved by / ᓴᓴᓄᓂ ᓴᓴᓄᓂ ᓴᓴᓄᓂ: Ningark

Seconded by / ᓴᓴᓄᓂ ᓴᓴᓄᓂ ᓴᓴᓄᓂ: Kakfwi

Ruled out of Order / ᓄᓴᓄᓂ ᓴᓴᓄᓂ ᓴᓴᓄᓂ:

Standing Committee on Finance Issues Report on Government Budget

YELLOWKNIFE: (February 15, 1994) Members of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance believe the 1994/95 budget proves the Government of the Northwest Territories has not developed an overall strategy to deal with major fiscal issues.

Chairman, Jim Antoine (MLA Nahendeh), released the Committee's 102-page report on the review of the 1994/95 Main Estimates to the Assembly today. The report was prepared after the Committee met in Yellowknife from January 10 to January 28, 1994 and reviewed the spending plans of all but one government department.

The Committee noted the government has set out an ambitious schedule of initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year. "While most of the proposed initiatives sound very good by themselves, Committee Members are very concerned about the government's ability to accomplish all that has been set out, within the limits of the resources available," Mr. Antoine said. "There is a need to do a few things well as opposed to a lot of things poorly," he stated.

Committee members approached the review of the 1994/95 Main Estimates with several guidelines in mind. Among them:

- The need to continue to avoid an accumulated deficit. The Government of the Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in the country that has managed to avoid accumulating a deficit. It is important to maintain this trend in view of the Territories financial dependence on the federal government.
- The ongoing need to increase territorial revenues and decrease this dependence.
- Using new and innovative approaches to conducting the business of government.
- Examining economic and business opportunities to allow northerners to become increasingly self-sufficient.



Of all the Departments reviewed, the Standing Committee on Finance is particularly concerned about the Department of Health. Committee members are extremely frustrated with the absence of leadership and lack of responsiveness demonstrated by this department. Mr. Antoine said, "This Department has not responded to recommendations of Committees of the Legislative Assembly or the Auditor-General. This Committee will not recommend approval of the Department's budget until an adequate response to its recommendations has been received."

The Committee also expressed its disappointment with the Government's inaction on the issue of family violence. MLAs have adopted the principle of zero tolerance of violence against all people and endorsed the goal of eliminating family violence by 2000. Mr. Antoine said, "I am disappointed that the government is not planning any new fiscal initiatives in 1994/95 to address this issue. Despite comments last week about the need to deal with family violence, it seems the Cabinet is not interested in making this a priority."

The Chairperson said the Committee wants the Minister of Finance to provide strong, focussed leadership on fiscal matters. "Now is the time for creative solutions to deal with the many financial issues facing this government. We don't see that creativity or leadership in this budget," said Mr. Antoine.

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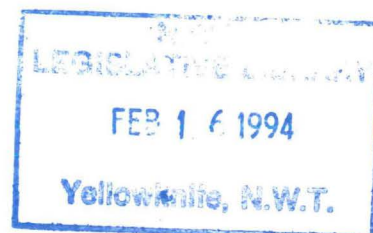
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THIRD STRATEGIC WORKSHOP

YELLOWKNIFE (April 7, 1994) - Members of the Legislative Assembly will travel to Fort Smith next week for a four-day planning workshop.

The April 11-14 meeting of all Members is the third such gathering. Strategic planning sessions were held in Fort Providence in April, 1993 and in Cambridge Bay in October, 1993.

“There have been a number of significant political developments since our Cambridge Bay session,” said caucus Chairperson, Fred E.Koe (MLA Inuvik). “This workshop will provide the opportunity for Members to further their understanding of these complex issues,” said Mr. Koe.

Members are scheduled to discuss a number of items related to the implementation of division. They will receive an update on the work of the Nunavut Implementation Commission and the Constitutional Development Steering Committee. MLA's are also expected to consider financial issues associated with division and the GNWT administration's approach to implementing division.

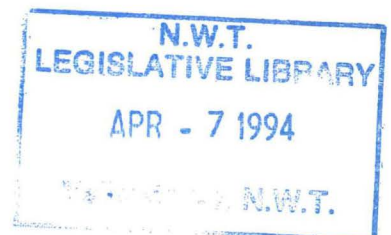
In addition, the third Strategic Planning Workshop will deal with the operation and accountability of Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly, the process of electing a Premier and the recall of MLAs.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

THIRD STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

FORT SMITH, NWT

DAY 1

NUNAVUT / WESTERN CLAIMS & SELF GOVERNMENT UPDATE

1. Commitments made by DIAND Minister regarding self-government and treaty land entitlement in the western NWT have created expectations among aboriginal groups. Caucus is concerned about the ability of the federal government to live up to these commitments. As well, these commitments could have serious implications for the viability of public governments in the western NWT and Nunavut. Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental & Aboriginal Affairs to follow up and seek clarification of federal policies and mandates with the Prime Minister and the Minister of DIAND.
2. Financial ramifications to the GNWT of self-government arrangements needs to be addressed. Minister of Finance to include this issue in future formula funding negotiations with Ottawa.

MODERNIZATION OF NWT ACT

3. Modernization amendments similar to the Nunavut Act be pursued with the federal government.

DAY 2

NUNAVUT IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION / CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

4. A paper be prepared outlining the jurisdiction of the GNWT and the obligations of the Federal Government with respect to consultation with the GNWT. The paper should include an analysis of the current federal position on self-government, fiduciary responsibilities and constitutional development and the implications of that position for the GNWT.

5. The Premier write a letter to the Prime Minister expressing concern with the mixed messages being received from DIAND regarding self-government and treaty land entitlement and the consequences for public government in the west and, by implication, Nunavut. The draft letter to be circulated to all MLAs prior to mailing. A follow-up meeting with the Prime Minister to be pursued with the objective of further sensitizing the federal Cabinet to the consequences of the DIAND Minister's approach to these issues.
6. An offer be extended to the Constitutional Development Steering Committee to use that forum as a vehicle to address implications of and circumstances for self-government and treaty land entitlement initiatives.
7. The Special Joint Committee on Division provide advice to the Minister of Finance on the financial implications of division to be taken into account in formula financing negotiations with the federal government.
8. The Minister of Intergovernmental & Aboriginal Affairs write a letter to the Minister of DIAND expressing concern with the position of the federal government as expressed in the letter from Rayner to Beaulieu dated April 8/94.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS FOR 1995 ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES

9. Endorsement of the draft report as presented. The report and associated amendments to the Legislative Assembly & Executive Council Act to be presented at the resumption of the 6th Session in October '94. It is understood that further boundary changes may be required following the resolution of the Dogrib Claim.

OPTIONS FOR 1995-1999 CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY PROCESS

10. The Special Joint Committee on Division conduct further review and consultation and report back to Caucus.

APPLICATION OF CURRENT FORMULA TO TWO TERRITORIES

11. The Minister of Finance to receive on going advice from the Special Joint Committee on Division regarding the financing of Nunavut and the Western NWT after division.

DAY 3

PUBLIC GOVERNMENT EDUCATION, TRAINING AND HUMAN RESOURCES INITIATIVES

12. MLAs consciously work with their communities in trying to foster a positive attitude towards education and its long term benefits for the employment and self-determination aspirations of northern people. Family support in the encouraging the academic aspirations of young people should also be strongly advocated.

OPERATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF STANDING COMMITTEES

13. The report produced by the Chair's Liaison Committee be referred to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures & Privileges for further review, especially concerning recommendation 14.1, and that a report be prepared for tabling in the Legislative Assembly at the resumption of the 6th Session in October 1994.

SELECTION OF A NEW COMMISSIONER

14. Caucus agrees to recommend the following names (in order of preference) to the Minister of Indian & Northern Affairs for appointment as the next Commissioner of the Northwest Territories:

Tony Whitford
Jim Bourque
Helen Maksagak
Lucy Lafferty

DAY 4

ELECTION OF A PREMIER

15. The issue of Electing a Premier at large be referred to the Nunavut Implementation Commission and the Constitutional Development Steering Committee, without recommendation, for consideration as part of their on going constitutional development efforts in preparation for division in 1999.

RECALL OF MLAS

16. The issue be referred to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges for further study.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS DURING REMAINDER OF TERM

17. The Reshaping Northern Government Working Group has fulfilled its goals and will be disbanded after taking appropriate follow-up measures on the 3rd strategic planning workshop.
18. The Special Joint Committee on Division, in consultation with other House committees, will take over the lead responsibility for organizing future strategic planning workshops.
19. A fourth strategic planning workshop will be held Aug 24-27, 1994, subject to confirmation by the Special Joint Committee on Division by May 31, 1994. Location in the Keewatin Region, specifically Baker Lake and an adjacent lodge.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE
PRIVATIZATION OF POWER CORPORATION**

YELLOWKNIFE (May 9, 1994) - The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has decided to examine the Government's proposal to privatize the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

In April, Premier Nellie Cournoyea tabled a report in the Legislative Assembly which examines the Cabinet's proposal to turn the Power Corporation into an investor-owned utility.

"Committee Members feel it is important that northerners have every opportunity to examine the proposal from different points of view." said Committee Chairman, Fred E. Koe (MLA Inuvik). "We want people to make their opinions known to us," he said.

The Premier has been invited to appear before the Committee on June 28, 1994 to discuss the privatization initiative. The Union of Northern Workers has also been invited to make a presentation.

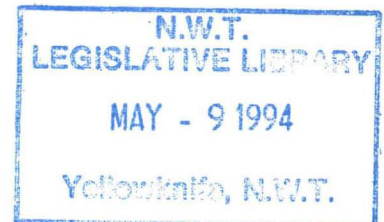
The Committee plans to broadcast the meeting live on Television Northern Canada in English. The hearings will be rebroadcast the following day in Inuktitut.

The Standing Committee will then research the issue further over the summer and meet in late August to plan further public hearings. Those hearings will be held after the 6th Session of the Legislative Assembly meets in the fall.

For more information contact:

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**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1993 RECEIVED.**

YELLOWKNIFE (May 12, 1994) - The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has received the Report of the Auditor General for the year ended March 31, 1993. The report deals with matters dealing from examination of the accounts and financial statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the year ended March 31, 1993.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Report of the Auditor General has been forwarded to that Committee by the Speaker.

Copies of the Report are available by contacting the Clerk's office.

For further information contact:

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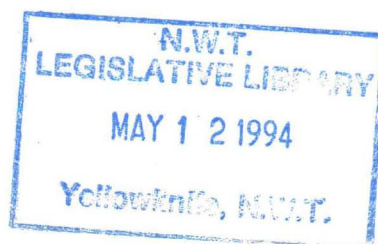
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INITIAL LEADERS MEETING ON DIVISION

YELLOWKNIFE (June, 15,1994) - Leaders of three major groups involved with division of the Northwest Territories met for the first time here recently to discuss issues of common interest.

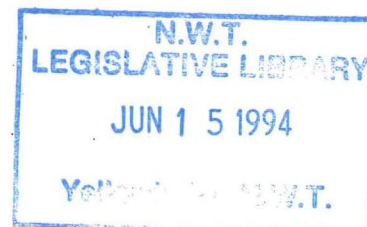
The Co-chairs of the Legislative Assembly Special Joint Committee on Division, the Hon. John Todd and Jim Antoine (MLA, Nahendeh) met with John Amagoalik, Chief Commissioner of the Nunavut Implementation Commission and Jose Kusugak, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc..

The meeting provided an initial opportunity for the organizations to get together to discuss issues such as training, infrastructure development and cooperation in research. Mr. Todd indicated that the meetings were productive. "Ongoing consultation and cooperation among the different organizations is essential to the success of division and the creation of two new territories," Mr. Todd said.

There was common interest in ensuring that implementation of division proceed in an orderly manner. It was also agreed that implementation must recognize the needs of northerners to participate in the division process and any benefits must remain in the North.

The Special Joint Committee, the Nunavut Implementation Commission and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. agreed to share information and where possible, work jointly on research and training initiatives.

Similar meetings will be held, as necessary, to address major initiatives and outstanding issues.



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94-01

New Structure Enhances Public Use of Capital Site

YELLOWKNIFE (July 21, 1994) - The building of an open-air, log structure on the grounds of the N.W.T. Capital Site was announced today by the Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly.

Intended as an area of quiet contemplation, "The Place of the People" will be erected in a secluded area overlooking Frame Lake on Yellowknife's Capital Site.

"I feel this unique structure will add to the recognition that not only the Legislative Assembly building itself, but the entire Capital Site is for the enjoyment and use by residents and visitors alike," said Ms. Marie-Jewell.

Construction of the building was supported, in part, by the National Capital Commission as part of a continuing program to link the capital cities of Canada and the Northwest Territories. In 1993, a major component of the linkage program was the creation of three special banners by a northern artist which are still flown in Yellowknife and Ottawa.

"The Place of the People" was designed by Gino Pin, of the Yellowknife firm, Pin, Matthews Architects, one of the principal designers of the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly Building and surrounding site. Five log-builders from Lutsel K'e, Fort Simpson and Fort Resolution will take approximately 200 hours to complete the construction.

The hand-peeled, white spruce logs were harvested on the Slave River in 1990 and floated down the river to Fort Resolution. Additional log materials came from the Fort Liard area.

The commemoration of "The Place of the People" will take place in a public ceremony on August 4, performed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell; Marcel Beaudry, Chairman of the National Capital Commission; Cece McCauley, NCC Commissioner, Hon. Don Morin, Minister of Public Works and Services and Yellowknife Mayor Pat McMahon.

For more information, contact:

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94-02

Investing in Our Future

YELLOWKNIFE (October 11, 1994) Members of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance believe the Government of the Northwest Territories needs to focus more of its attention on social development.

Chairperson, Jim Antoine (MLA Nahendeh), released the Committee's report *Investing in Our Future* to the Legislative Assembly today. The report examines major financial and policy issues facing the territorial government.

Members of the Committee urged the territorial government to develop a social action plan which would concentrate on long-term investments in the people of the Northwest Territories. "This government is perceived as a government focussed on economic development," Mr. Antoine said. "There is a fear that this focus may be diverting attention away from pressing social issues."

The Committee recommends three areas the government should focus on during the next year. These are consistent with emerging priorities and with recommendations of various Standing and Special Committees of the Legislative Assembly.

The three areas:

- **Early Intervention - Children with Special Needs.**
More than half of the residents of the Northwest Territories are under 18 years of age. "It is imperative that the needs of this group be identified and addressed because it is with these people that our future rests," Mr. Antoine stated. The Standing Committee supports a recommendation made by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services that interdepartmental agreements are needed to ensure that early intervention services are available right away.

- **School-Based Youth Services**

The Committee identified a pilot program being used in Edmonton schools which is designed to ensure that "at-risk" and "potentially at-risk" students and their families have school-based access to a wide range of services provided by professionals such as nurses, police officers, social workers, therapists and probation officers. The Committee has previously recommended that three government departments examine the Edmonton-based model and implement similar pilot projects in each region during the 1994/95 school year. The Committee feels the government hasn't responded satisfactorily to its recommendation.

- **Family Violence**

Few new resources have been committed by any department to help ensure that the goals set out in the **Declaration of Family Violence**, supported by the Legislative Assembly in February, 1994, are achieved. The Department of Health and Social Services is developing a plan to respond to family violence and sexual abuse issues. The Standing Committee wants to see specific budget plans to support this initiative in the 1995/96 Operations and Maintenance budget.

In addition, **Investing in Our Future** outlines the concerns of the Standing Committee with the financial stability of the government prior to division of the Territories in 1999. Committee Member Charles Dent (MLA, Yellowknife Frame Lake) said, "In preparing for division, it is necessary to target for a balanced budget. The government's 'fiscal house' must be in order so that dividing an accumulated deficit not be added to the many challenges presented by division."

The Standing Committee recommends that legislation be introduced that requires the government to ensure that on March 31, 1998, no deficit has accumulated. The Committee recommends that this legislation be introduced during the life of the 12th Legislative Assembly.

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94-03

Standing Committee on Legislation to review Bills

YELLOWKNIFE (December 1, 1994) Members of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Legislation will be meeting in Yellowknife during the week of December 12, 1994 to conduct public hearings to review a number of Bills and two Legislative Action Papers.

The bills have received Second Reading in the Legislative Assembly and have been referred to the Committee for further, detailed review. The items to be considered are:

- Bill 3 - An Act to Amend the Judicature Act
- Bill 5 - An Act to Amend the Maintenance Act
- Bill 8 - An Act to Amend the Dental Mechanics Act
- Bill 9 - An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act
- Bill 10 - An Act to Amend the Liquor Act
- Bill 12 - An Act to Amend the Judicature Act No. 2
- Bill 14 - Miscellaneous Statutes Amending Act
- Bill 15 - An Act to Amend the Elections Act
- TD 3-12(6) Legislative Action Paper on the Office of the Ombudsman
- TD 4-12(6) Legislative Action Paper on Heritage Resources

“Public input is a key component of the review process,” said Sam Gargan (MLA Deh Cho), the Chairman of the Standing Committee. “The Standing Committee encourages interested persons or organizations to submit written comments or concerns on any of these bills.” Submissions or requests to make a presentation to the Committee in person must be made to the Committee Clerk by **Wednesday, December 7, 1994.**

In addition, the Standing Committee will be conducting further public hearings in January 1995 to review the following Bills:

- Bill 2 - An Act to Amend the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act
- Bill 4 - An Act to Amend the Limitations of Actions Act
- Bill 6 - An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Act
- Bill 7 - An Act to Amend the Cooperative Associations Act
- Bill 11 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
- Bill 13 - An Act to Amend the Fair Practices Act

In November 1994, the Government also referred the Legislative Action Paper, Rewriting Liquor Laws in the Northwest Territories to the Standing Committee.

This paper was developed after extensive public consultations throughout the Territories. It represents a comprehensive effort by the government to address the concerns of northern residents about present liquor control legislation. The paper summarizes a range of principles and concepts on which a new Liquor Act could be based.

Copies of the Action Paper on Rewriting the Liquor Laws are being distributed by the Standing Committee to stakeholders identified during the Liquor Law Review. Additional copies may be obtained by contacting the Committee Clerk at the address below.

The Standing Committee's public review of the Action Paper will not duplicate the consultations of the Liquor Law Review. Rather, it will give all residents the opportunity to comment on the paper through a variety of methods, including teleconferencing, written submissions and oral presentations. Mr. Gargan said, "The Action Paper presents a number of extremely complex issues with a variety of implications that are of great concern to every northerner. The Committee wants to make sure that northerners are heard and their concerns are reflected in the development of such important legislation."

The Committee encourages all organizations and individuals to involve themselves in the consultation process by directing their comments and concerns to their Member of the Legislative Assembly or the Standing Committee on Legislation. The Committee would like to receive input by **January 20, 1995**, at which time consideration, based on response, will be given to the scheduling of community visits by the Committee.

Contact:

David Hamilton, Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2L9
Tel: (403) 669-2299
Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784
Fax: (403) 920-4735

94-04

Pages Honoured

YELLOWKNIFE (December 9, 1994) The efforts of 68 young men and women were recognized by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, during a brief ceremony today.

The students, who worked as Pages during the Sixth Session of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly, were presented Awards of Appreciation signed by the Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, David Hamilton. The ceremony took place in the Great Hall at the Legislative Assembly building in Yellowknife.

The students are enrolled in Grades 7, 8, and 9 at Sir John Franklin High School, William McDonald School, Mildred Hall School, Ecole St. Joseph School, Range Lake North School and Ecole Allain St. Cyr in Yellowknife and Kaw Tay Whee School in Dettah.

"It's through your hard work and dedication that Legislative Assembly Sessions are able to run smoothly," said Mrs. Marie-Jewell at the awards ceremony. "All the Members truly appreciate your efforts," she stated.

The page program is designed to allow young high school students who are developing an interest in the legislative process or in public affairs an opportunity to see first-hand how public policy is decided by the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Pages are hired during Sessions, based on their academic standings and general attitude, upon the recommendation of their teachers and principals. They provide essential services to the Members and officers of the Legislative Assembly.

Three students from the Keewatin, who also served as Pages during the Sixth Session, were honoured earlier by the Speaker.

Contact:

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Coordinator, Public Information
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Fax: (403) 920-4735

94 - 05

Jeannie Marie-Jewell Resigns as Speaker

YELLOWKNIFE (December 15, 1994) Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, (MLA Thebacha) announced today her intention to resign as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Mrs. Marie-Jewell expressed her regret about not being able to continue to serve the House as Speaker, but indicated that the concerns of her constituents must receive priority.

Mrs. Marie-Jewell said she is dismayed by a recent Cabinet decision calling for proposals for the provision of air tanker services to fight forest fires.

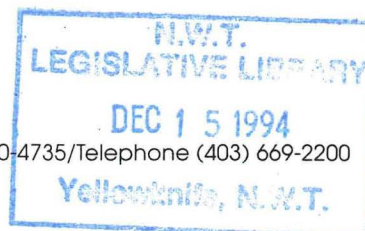
"The people of Fort Smith are totally disappointed and dismayed that the government is not fulfilling a commitment that was made publicly on this matter," said Mrs. Marie-Jewell. "It's such a crucial issue to my constituents, that I feel I must step down as Speaker in order that I can pursue this matter, on their behalf, in as vigorous a manner as possible as an Ordinary Member. Specifically, I feel that the Minister of Public Works and Services, the Honourable Don Morin, may have placed himself in a position of conflict by allowing his personal interest to potentially impact on a Cabinet decision," she stated.

Mrs. Marie-Jewell indicated that, as Speaker, she was bound to uphold the long-standing convention that the Speaker must be seen to be scrupulously neutral and impartial.

Born in Fort Smith, N.W.T., Mrs. Marie-Jewell became the first aboriginal woman Speaker in Canada when she assumed the duties on December 13, 1993. She was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1987.

The Speaker's resignation is effective at 5:00 p.m. local time today.

The Speaker's duties will be assumed by the current Deputy Speaker, Brian Lewis (MLA, Yellowknife Centre) until the House reconvenes on February 15, 1995. At that time, the House will fill the vacancy.



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(attachment)

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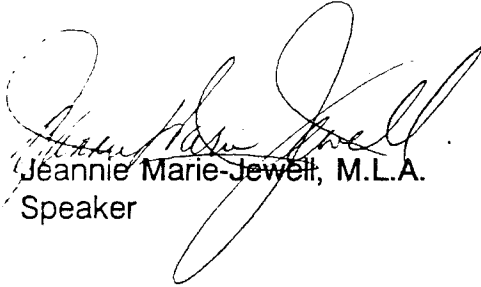
December 15, 1994

DAVID M. HAMILTON
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

I would like to inform you and, through you, all Members of the Legislative Assembly of my decision to tender my resignation as Speaker, effective at 5:00 p.m. today. I have already informed the Management and Services Board of my decision in a meeting held today over the lunch hour. As you are aware, an issue of significant importance has arisen affecting my constituency. This issue has placed me in a position where I have been compelled to challenge the fairness of a Cabinet decision and the integrity of a Cabinet Minister in order to fully represent the interests of my constituents and, I suggest, the interests of all citizens of the Northwest Territories.

I have a great deal of respect for the role of the Speaker, in particular, the strongly held convention that the Speaker must not only be neutral and impartial, but must be seen to be neutral and impartial. Hence, out of respect for the institution of the Speaker and as a result of my desire to fully represent my constituents, I hereby tender my resignation.

I would like to say that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Speaker. I look forward to continuing to serve the House even if in a different role.


Jeannie Marie Jewell, M.L.A.
Speaker

94 - 05

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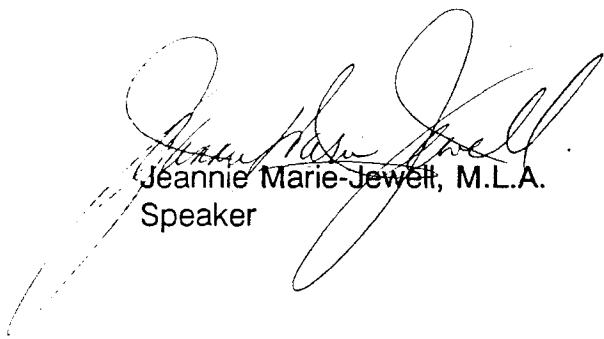
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Jeannie Marie Jewell, M.L.A.
Speaker

50 cents

Fort Smith F.W.I.

GNWT flip flops on plans for aircraft maintenance and tanker base

by *Demar Schwichtenberg*

A statement issued last Tuesday shows the GNWT has once again done a complete about-face on its plans for the proposed aircraft maintenance and tanker base in Fort Smith.

Until recently the government had been negotiating a "sole source" with Dene/Metis Holdings for both the construction of an aircraft hanger in Fort Smith and also, as part of a consolidated package, for operation and maintenance of the N.W.T. firefighting aircraft fleet, including the provision of additional aircraft.

But now the GNWT has reversed its stand and is calling "for proposals from northern air companies for the provision of air tanker services over a five-year period, beginning with the 1995 season."

The decision essentially leaves Dene/Metis where it started when plans for the tanker base were first put forward more than two years

ago - negotiating with the GNWT to build only the hanger for maintenance and storage of aircraft.

Negotiations between the Department of Public Works and Services, headed by Don Morin, were to be completed November 30 of this year but have been extended to April 30, 1995.

Thebacha MLA Jeannie Marie-Jewell calls the decision to split the contracts "ill-advised" and says she has asked premier Nellie Cournoyea to have another look at the decision. But she remains confident the base will still come to Fort Smith.

"I think this is a very abrupt and not very far-sighted approach by the GNWT," says Marie-Jewell. "But I strongly believe the construction of the tanker base will go ahead."

Smith mayor Dennis Bevington concurs. "I'm not very happy with the way things have developed but I think there are still opportunities

for Dene/Metis to have a large part of the action," he says. "But now it will require more effort."

Morin defends the decision, saying negotiations with Dene/Metis had not proceeded as quickly as planned, leading to concerns over the provision of firefighting aircraft services for next summer. As for the five-year contract, DPW says the time frame is needed to allow northern companies to assume the necessary financial commitments.

In its latest announcement, the GNWT is calling for proposals on three air tanker services: two to operate and maintain two of the territorial government's CL215 bomber groups and one to supply, operate and maintain a land-based bomber group. A group consists of one or more air tankers and associated bird dog aircraft.

For the past 21 years all these services have been provided by B.C.-based Conair Aviation, at an annual cost of \$5.5 million, but the last contracts expired last September.

Since then, negotiations have been underway for Dene/Metis - a joint development corporation - to supply a full package of firefighting aircraft services. Since Dene/Metis lacks the expertise to supply, maintain, and operate aircraft, a partnership deal with Conair was put forward.

But the GNWT cabinet, especially Morin, have insisted the negotiated contract requires 100 percent northern ownership and that Conair is an unacceptable partner. "This is 1994 and northern companies will be getting the money spent by this government," says Morin.

Using northern companies to do work previously done by Conair will cost more money but Morin defends the extra expenditure, saying it is the cost of promoting northern business.

How much extra, no one knows. "They will have to pay a premium, no doubt," says Marie-Jewell. "But how much I don't know."

House Speaker alleges conflict of interest

Thebacha MLA Jeannie Marie-Jewell has accused Department of Public Works and Services Minister Don Morin of conflict of interest in his handling of the negotiations surrounding the proposed fire-fighting aircraft maintenance and tanker base in Fort Smith.

Marie-Jewell plans to make a push for an inquiry into the matter and says, if necessary, she will resign her position as Speaker of the House to pursue the allegations.

But when contacted by the Slave River Journal late Tuesday afternoon, Morin denied any conflict of interest.

"I'm surprised, to say the least, that the Speaker of the House would make these allegations," he said, adding "that's all I have to say on the matter."

In a Journal interview Tuesday morning, Marie-Jewell said her allegations focus on the relationship between Morin and B.C.-based Foulger Aviation Services.

Owner Bill Foulger put in a bid to do the GNWT's recent Fire Management Review but was not awarded the tender. But Foulger Aviation was later appointed to do a paper outlining the options open to the GNWT regarding its negotiations with Dene/Metis Holdings and the involvement of Conair in running the proposed tanker base in Fort Smith.

The Foulger report was critical of the proposed partnership between B.C.-based Conair and Dene/Metis, arguing northern aviation companies could do the job.

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Speaker alleges conflict of interest

The report apparently formed the basis of the territorial cabinet's recent decision not to support the Conair partnership, a decision Marie-Jewell says is detrimental to her constituents.

Marie-Jewell says awarding the report contract to Foulger Aviation, a southern company, is in itself suspect, given that northern companies would have been capable of doing the same job. Fort Simpson-based Hemlock Aviation Services later wrote Premier Nellie Cournoyea asking why a southern firm was appointed when northern expertise is available.

After what Marie-Jewell calls "repeated" references to Foulger Aviation by Morin, she looked more closely at the company and found one of the consultants work-

ing for Foulger was Norman Zigarlick, now head of the Deninu Kue Development Corporation in Fort Resolution.

Zigarlick has what Marie-Jewell calls a "close financial relationship" with Morin. Namely, Zigarlick lives in Morin's home in Fort Resolution (while Morin is in Yellowknife) and pays rent.

When contacted by the the Journal, Zigarlick strongly denied any kind of unusual relationship between himself and Morin. He says he left the employ of Foulger more than a year ago, but does rent Morin's home, adding the arrangement is a temporary one.

He adds although he and Morin have known each other since their teens, there is "nothing more than a rental arrangement between myself and Don Morin."

Still, Marie-Jewell says she can't believe some of the decisions made by Morin with regard to the tanker base and remains convinced a conflict of interest exists.

