



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**5th Session**

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**Speaker: The Hon. Richard Nerysoo, M.L.A.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of the Housing Corporation.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table on behalf of my colleague, the honourable Minister of Personnel, Tabled Document 29-89(2): Public Service Vehicles Act, draft legislation.

I also would like to table, on behalf of my colleague, the Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Tabled Document 30-89(2): Status of Women Council Act, draft legislation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Justice.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents: Tabled Document 31-89(2): Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on the Examination of the Accounts and Financial Transactions of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1989; Tabled Document 32-89(2): Public Accounts of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1989; Tabled Document 33-89(2): The Northwest Territories Law Foundation, Sixth Annual Report, for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1988; Tabled Document 34-89(2): Public Utilities Board 1988 Annual Report.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion.

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

#### ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

##### Notice Of Motion 14-89(2): To Authorize Speaker To Set Sitting Hours

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on November 3rd I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours as he may consider necessary in order to ensure that the business of the House can be dealt with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

#### ITEM 14: MOTIONS

##### Motion 11-89(2): Low-Level Flights In The NWT

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move the following motion:

**WHEREAS** the ninth session of the 10th Assembly of the NWT on March 5, 1987 unanimously adopted a motion opposing the low-level flights over the southern NWT and calling for a full public inquiry into this matter;

**AND WHEREAS** the Department of National Defence conducted an environmental assessment and review of the low-level flights that did not adequately document community views and land use;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government of the NWT, the people of Snowdrift, Dene Nation, Metis Association, South Slave Regional Council and other groups have expressed opposition to the flights and called for public hearings on this matter;

**AND WHEREAS** The Minister of National Defence approved the use of the low-level military flight route IR-902 over the southern NWT on June 14, 1989;



AND WHEREAS the community of Snowdrift has decided to initiate a legal action to prevent the low-level flights and calling for public hearings on the flights;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for Aivilik, that the Legislative Assembly reaffirms its opposition to the low-level flights in the NWT;

AND FURTHER that this Legislative Assembly supports the efforts through legal action by the community of Snowdrift to prevent the low-level flights;

AND FURTHER that this Legislative Assembly requests the Executive Council to immediately demand that the Minister of National Defence withdraw his approval of the low-level flights on IR-9820;

AND FURTHER that full public hearings be held on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Morin.

#### Need For Full Environmental Assessment Review

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I am bringing this motion forward in the House today is basically so that the Legislative Assembly will reaffirm its opposition to low-level flights. The community of Snowdrift, as well as other native leaders, have tried every avenue open to them to try to get the Department of National Defence to do a proper full environmental hearing on this low-level flight issue. The Department of National Defence has continually said no, they do not want to do that. They think they are above the law, as far as I am concerned. They just want to do what they want to do and as people know here, the only thing they do is send us notes of what they are going to do.

There is a process that the Government of Canada uses to evaluate any project that would have an impact on the environment and that is the EARP process. There is no reason why this type of project should not go through a full EARP process. We have tried, we have met with the Minister of National Defence and tried to convince him to do that. In meeting with Bill McKnight and talking with him, we would have got more satisfaction talking to the wall. He did not want to change his mind; he did not want to look at the movement of the flights. He said he may consider raising the altitude of the flights.

We in the South Slave region strongly feel that these flights are going to have a devastating effect on the community of Snowdrift. Basically what it looks like from the map they have supplied for us to review, is that the corridor that these B-52 bombers will follow just followed the migration route of the caribou. To us, that is going to cut off our access to caribou meat. We believe that the caribou will change their migration, they will not come as close to our community and basically that will cut off our way of life.

#### Legal Action The Only Recourse

We did not make the decision to take the federal government to court as just a quick decision. We thought long and hard about it and we realized the seriousness of it. As for the Minister of the Department of National Defence, if he would listen to people then he would not find himself in court. But there is no way they would listen to our concerns, so the only avenue left open to us was the courts. Hopefully the court will rule in our favour and stop the flights until a full public inquiry is done.

They did do an initial environmental assessment. They came into Snowdrift for three hours and they expected our people to mark all the trap lines on the map, tell them where the caribou are, tell them where the animals are, the musk-ox, for a three hour session in the middle of the winter when all our people were out on the land. There was hardly anyone in the community to even meet with them. So the initial environmental assessment that they did do is not worth the paper it is written on. This government had made commitments to work with them, to assist them to do



a proper environmental assessment on what they knew existed out there, what the animals' habitat was and such, but there was a question in the House the other day to the Renewable Resources Minister and I do not even think our own government knows basically what is happening out east of Snowdrift with the caribou. So it is a crucial issue and we have to, as leaders of the NWT, take a public stand against it and reaffirm our commitment to keeping the North basically free of this type of military action. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just a reminder that Members should stick to the question that is being asked in terms of the arguments that are being raised. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Effect Of Low-Level Flights On Migration Routes

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As seconder of the motion, on the "Now therefore" part and opposition to low-level flights in the NWT, I have been concerned about this. In our area the planes that fly at low level are very loud. They make a very loud noise and I have also heard from the people of Labrador, more than once, through the telephone and through television and through other forms of media that they are opposed to the low-level flights because the animals are leaving the area where there are low-level flights. We have heard this through all forms of media. One of the reasons that I seconded the motion is that in Rankin Inlet they started extending the air strip last summer and perhaps three or four years before, they put concrete on the airstrip, and they have plans of utilizing that airstrip, to use F-18 planes in the future.

I think that we should be asking the people of the Northwest Territories what kind of policies or what kind of acts there are in place for military people? What are you going to be doing about our environment and the animals, to prevent them from running away? The reason that I am using Rankin Inlet as an example, Mr. Speaker, is that Rankin Inlet is a place where the birds migrate, geese and snow geese. When we hear any form of planes that are very loud and that make a lot of noise, the birds that migrate through Rankin Inlet would hear these big, loud noises. The planes would be flying very low and they would be very loud. Perhaps the birds would migrate to a different route. If they start migrating through a different route our main way of life and food means are gone. That goes the same for caribou. Before the mining started in Rankin Inlet I heard that there used to be a lot of caribou. If they start utilizing Rankin Inlet as a base to use low-level flights perhaps the caribou too would start migrating through a different route.

Mr. Speaker, consideration of these things, that is why I seconded the motion, in opposition to low-level flights of military planes and I am not too happy about these things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion 11-89(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed to the motion? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion to allow the Speaker to extend the sitting hours.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with a motion today. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Lewis.

Motion 14-89(2): To Authorize Speaker To Set Sitting Hours, Carried

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS there are a number items of business still to be considered at this session;