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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2000****MEMBERS PRESENT**

Honourable Roger Allen, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Honourable Jane Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Good afternoon, colleagues. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 41-14(3): White Ribbon Campaign – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nation-wide efforts of men and women who are working towards ending violence against women.

December 6th is the anniversary of the 1989 Montreal massacre in which 14 women were killed at the hands of a man who had a deep hatred of women. In response to this atrocity, the Canadian government proclaimed December 6th as a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Commemorative events occur on this day across Canada, including here in the NWT, to remember the women killed and to continue action to end violence in all its forms.

The White Ribbon Campaign is a national campaign that started in 1991 in response to the Montreal massacre. Its purpose is to end men's violence against women. The campaign, started by men, targets men of all ages to:

- do educational work in schools, workplaces and communities on the issue of men's violence;
- support local women's groups; and
- wear a white ribbon during November 25 to December 6th – this ribbon is a personal pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

Mr. Speaker, in these past few weeks, we have heard from Members of this House, as well as groups across the Territories, that violence in our society, in our communities and our families, continues to be a destructive force. I wish to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations to speak out against violence in all its forms.

I ask Members, leaders and organizations to join me in supporting the White Ribbon Campaign and community events commemorating the December 6th National Day of

Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. White ribbons will be available to Members prior to November 25th. As in the past years, the YWCA, in partnership with other organizations will be holding a vigil on December 6th in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, as one Member has already stated in this session, speaking out against violence should not only happen on special days or weeks that we designate. It should be a part of our daily actions and reflected in the ongoing work of this Assembly. Participation in and support for these upcoming events is one way to continue our commitment to strive to eliminate violence against women. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Déclarations de ministres. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Youth, Mr. Allen.

Minister's Statement 42-14(3): CYAID 2001 Conference Update

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to formally invite all Members to a reception in the Great Hall later on this afternoon. This reception is to recognize all the efforts and dedication displayed by the Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving 2001 organizing committee. The students of the conference organizing committee will also be providing Members with an update on their fund raising activities.

As the Minister responsible for Youth, and a Member of the 14th Legislative Assembly, I truly support an initiative such as this. From March 22 to 25, 2001, over 500 enthusiastic youth from across Canada will arrive in the City of Yellowknife to participate in this conference. An event of this magnitude will certainly raise the awareness against drinking and driving, not only at the territorial level, but also at the national level.

I look forward to working with the youth in ensuring that this message does get across to the people of the North, so that we can work to improve awareness of this fight against drinking and driving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Déclarations des députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 3: MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Environmental Clean-up of Giant Mine

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year and a half since Royal Oak Mines was ordered into receivership. The workers at the mine and people in this community have had to deal with the emotional and economic scars left by the loss of jobs, reduced severance packages, and under-funded pension plan.

Mr. Speaker, the issue that will continue to hang over all our heads in this community for years to come, is that of the need for the environmental clean-up at Giant Mine. Mr. Speaker, this is a federal government problem. For over 50 years, Giant Mine operated under federal regulations and the federal government reaped the benefits of the royalties, but it is now the people of the North who are stuck with the huge liability of this potential environmental disaster. This environmental danger includes contaminated tailings ponds, the residue from fuel spills, and storage drums full of arsenic trioxide dust. Mr. Speaker, that is only on the surface.

What if the 260,000 tons of arsenic dust buried deep in the mine starts to seep into our watershed? The environmental implications are horrible. What commitment has DIAND made thus far to address these concerns? Well, for the surface reclamation, small contracts this year and last for under \$500,000, which amount to a drop in the bucket towards the \$16 million estimated cost of what is needed to clean up the surface.

What about the estimated \$250 million cost over 20 years for the underground clean-up? Mr. Speaker, DIAND's response in June was to reduce this year's clean-up budget by over 30 percent to just \$3 million and with the majority of that money going to the Colomac Mine clean-up.

DIAND's Royal Oak team, who was focussing on the clean-up of the two mines, even had to be dissolved in July due to the lack of funding. Mr. Speaker, I understand that recently the Royal Oak team under DIAND has been re-established, but there does not seem to be any long-term planning or direction. This issue is too important to leave to federal whims. Our government must make this a priority. We must demand that the federal government make the necessary commitments to address this environmental nightmare that looms over us all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement on National Addictions Awareness Week

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to speak briefly to the issue of National Addictions Awareness Week. Like the issue of family violence, this is not a single issue unrelated to other major concerns that affect us as a Territory, that affects our communities or our families.

Mr. Speaker, like any other fundamental issues dealing with people, a lot of the solutions exist at the community level, involve the family, the parents, the community, having children born healthy, having simple decisions made that will effect the life of those who are going to be born. Mr. Speaker, while we can support and encourage people in our communities to be careful, do not do drugs, do not drink, we, as a government spend millions of dollars trying to assist, support and deal with, on an intervention basis, the problems that result from addictions.

As a government, Mr. Speaker, as with family violence, we have to demonstrate to the people that we are working together, that health and social services is working with education, is working with housing, is working with employment, with renewable resources. There are issues that have to be dealt with as a collective, unless the government can in fact put these recourses to work together to demonstrate a coordinated return and effort in dealing with these issues. It is very difficult to tell the communities to encourage people to deal with these issues when we do not provide the necessary support in a careful coordinated way.

As with family violence, Mr. Speaker, we have to never forget this issue, but as a government, we have to demonstrate to the people that while there may not be lots of new money, we can do a better job spending the money we have as we work with the families and individuals in this very important area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement on Political Activities of Senior Government Officials

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regard to the public perception of how a senior bureaucrat in this government can be out there campaigning for a federal party in a federal election, yet all other government employees in this government are restricted. I, for one, feel that is not fair. It is either we open it up for everyone, or we exclude everyone. Mr. Speaker, I feel that by doing this, we are jeopardizing our relationship with other parties in Canada and also the federal government's obligations and commitments that we have with them. Whoever we get in a federal election should not be interfered with by a senior person in this government. All of our employees cannot take part. Yet, Mr. Speaker, when we have territorial elections, federal elections, people know in our communities that you cannot be party to an election if you are a government employee.

Mr. Speaker, we have fought against the federal government on issues like gun control from this House. We have fought on issues in regard to the incremental cost for division against the federal government. Yet, we have not seen anything coming forth in that area. Other areas we have confronted the federal government on are in regard to the oil and gas and diamond industries and trying to antagonize them from putting money into these resources. To date, we have \$3.7 million which, as we all know, comes from an aboriginal fund which is funded through Indian Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, we do not have an economic agreement with the federal government to date. Yet, our head chief of staff is running a campaign for the same government we have been fighting with for the last number of years over issues on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, with no outcome.

I know for a fact there have been other issues we have had to deal with in regard to the \$100 million cut that we took in our transfer payment from the federal government, which is affecting the health care and the programs and services we deliver to the residents of the Northwest Territories. I, for one, do not feel this is fair to our employees. If we are going to do this for one employee, we have to do it for all of our employees. They are protected under the Public Service Act and we have to do something about that.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Déclarations des députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement on Impact of Doctor Shortages

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituents continue to be concerned about the level of medical services available and the lack of certainty for the availability of doctors. This is a valid concern. I would like to say that my constituents and I certainly understand that this pales in comparison to the situation that smaller communities in the Northwest Territories have, where there are in fact no doctors, and they are forced to come to Yellowknife for medical services or travel elsewhere. Why is this the case?

Mr. Speaker, jurisdictions across North America are struggling to maintain their level of medical services. Sustained competition for qualified medical staff is hurting us. We know there is a worldwide shortage of medical practitioners, registered nurses, particularly in specialty nursing areas, general practitioners, and shortages of doctors in specialty areas such as radiology and pharmacy to name a couple.

Medical professionals now have their choice of positions almost anywhere in the world, Mr. Speaker. Not only do we, the Northwest Territories, have a recruitment problem, we have a retention problem, as territories and provinces continue to outbid each other for these services. Northern Ontario cities, and that includes such remote and isolated villages as Thunder Bay and Sault St. Marie, Mr. Speaker. The Province of Ontario has realized this dilemma and taken some steps to help. Medical graduates who are willing to settle in any of northern Ontario's outposts, can receive up to \$80,000 in free tuition and incentive payments, along with free office space. Where does that leave the Northwest Territories?

There is no doubt we are in a chronic and long-term shortage of doctors and medical specialists. We cannot afford to keep upping the ante. Instead, I believe we can and should be looking at alternatives to what is now a very rigid and institutionalized style of medical support.

My constituents are asking about alternatives. What can we do, Mr. Speaker, to allow midwifery in communities and promote the services of nurse practitioners in our clinics and see alternative medical therapies introduced? I intend to pursue this later today through further questions to the Minister responsible for Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement on Candidates for Rae Band Chief

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the community in which I live is a traditional community in many aspects. Family values are held dear. Extended families remain in close contact and the gender roles are defined. Right now in Rae, there is a significant change occurring which reflects how the values of the community have been changing.

For the first time, two of the five candidates running for band chief are women. Some people are opposed to a woman running, even opposed to the age of the candidates, but the majority of people support this move. Last night, a candidates forum was held. Each candidate was brought out individually and told the community why he or she was running for chief.

As in many small towns, there is a great interest in local politics and the forum was well attended. The meeting began at six and went on until after midnight. The forum was an opportunity for community members to state what they were looking for in a chief. People want their chief to be a positive role model, to be approachable, and to listen and talk to the people. Now understanding that, the main issues the people want the chief to deal with are local job creation and training opportunities.

I would like to extend my best wishes to all the candidates running. I encourage all the residents of Rae to make sure that they vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. Déclarations de députés. Le député de la Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement on National Addictions Awareness Week

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week from the 12th to the 18th is National Addiction Awareness Week. In the Deh Cho, many of the communities have taken time to organize activities to bring awareness to this issue. I want to mention a few of the activities that have taken place in the communities I represent to show how important this week is to the people of Deh Cho.

In Fort Providence, they kicked off the week with a fire feeding ceremony. They have held a sober walk, sobriety recognition awards, movie nights, and sharing circles. On the Hay River Reserve, they have also hosted fire feeding ceremonies, AA meetings, sober walk, a health information fair, and a family dance. In Kakisa, they are also having a sobriety appreciation dinner and a movie night for the children.

I would like to thank all the organizers for their efforts and encourage everyone to participate in the next couple of days, as the week is not over yet. I also want to take the time to recognize and thank a few people from the communities who I believe have dedicated a lot of their time. Most of these people are not paid people in the field of addictions. However, they find that it is a worthy cause and have dedicated a lot of their own efforts.

In Fort Providence, we have Allen Rohiten, Margaret Thom and Joachim Bonnetrouge. In Kakisa, we have the husband and wife team of Julian and Ruby Landry. On the Reserve, Mrs.

Georgina Fabian. While we all recognize that most of the addictions are easy to identify, alcohol, drugs, nicotine, gambling, although some would contest whether Bingo is really an addiction, there are symptoms out there that are not easily recognized. They are plaguing the people of the community and also this government.

FAS, for instance. The Minister of Health has indicated there are communities and schools where the students are affected by FAS up to 40 percent. These addictions also result in low self-esteem in the communities, and violence. This government, along with the communities, has to attempt to deal with the core problems that are in the communities and leading to a lot of these addictions. High unemployment, overcrowding in the houses..

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLeod, your time for your Member's statement has expired.

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. McLeod, you may continue.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I bring up the issue of lack of resources because on two occasions this week, I had an opportunity to speak to the community health representative. She has indicated that her wages amount to a net take home pay of \$500 every two weeks. I think that is too low. I think that is not a justifiable amount for somebody who spends their life dedicating and raising the profile of these issues and being a frontline worker. Alcohol workers in the communities that are represented, both indicated that they have not had a raise in over 10 years. I question how much support we are giving our frontline workers. Although 64 percent of this government's budget is dedicated to the social envelope as we call it, how much of that is a result of addictions?

In closing, I want to say that addictions is a serious matter. We all have to work together. We have to continue to raise the profile of this issue, and I want to thank all of the people in the communities for their dedication and perseverance in assisting people to overcome some of these problems. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Mr. McLeod. Member's statements. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement on Accountability of Members

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, as the Member for the Sahtu and a Member of the Legislature, I want to talk about accountability. As Members of the Legislature, we are elected, as the Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland said yesterday, to be truthful, up-front and accountable. I say that yes, that is true and it applies to every Member who stands up and speaks in this Legislature.

I ask the question, who will be accountable when Members of this Legislature stand up and make statements that have no basis in fact, that are in fact untrue, and who made unfounded, unsubstantiated allegations? Who will be accountable for Members who stand up and make statements that tarnish the

credibility of this Legislature? We expect all Members to be up-front and truthful, or is it just Members in Cabinet?

I say that all Members should be expected to be truthful and up-front and that when Members make statements that are not true, make allegations that have no basis in fact, yes, I agree they should be truthful and stop making unfounded and false statements, and apologize when they do so inadvertently. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement on Access to Information

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Premier for setting this up. I too agree that we must all be accountable for our actions as Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have been very accommodating. I have waited patiently for the other side of the story and I am disappointed, Mr. Speaker, that the other side of the story has not come forward. Mr. Speaker, I think Members of this Assembly, Members on this side of the floor have even provided options that could be done to try to clarify this situation. In fact, a letter was sent to the Premier dated November 14, in which we gave three options to clear up the situation.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has continued, in my situation at least, to be evasive. I will quote, Mr. Speaker, from unedited Hansard of November 14, 2000, page 1460. In response to my question, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi stated in one of his responses:

"I have said before that I know Members can say outrageous things. They can say things that are not based on fact. They can create legislation that does not exist and make reference to it".

Mr. Speaker, I spoke of legislation, the Access to Information and Protection Act. That is not a phantom piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. We even quote section 23(4)(e) which refers to what kind of information we would be allowed under the Access to Information Act.

Mr. Speaker, he could have dealt with this up-front in one day, in a matter of an hour, but no. The leaders of this government have chosen to try to side step the issue, to swim in the grey areas, they say, but that has not been clear. I even took the Premier up on his offer to see the contract for myself. As of yet, I have not been granted approval to see that. How can I make my mind up or make a decision on half of the information? I was hoping that the Premier and the Cabinet would supply the other half of the information so that we could clear this up. By purposely not doing that, we have created confusion. We have created conspiracy theories and we are losing confidence, Mr. Speaker. Again, I hope that the Premier will have the opportunity and do the right thing and show that information to us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Déclarations des députés. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Member's Statement on Action on Violence Against Women

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Like the honourable Member for Hay River South, I would also like to pay tribute to the 14 young women who were killed in Montreal on December 6, 1989. I also would like to pay tribute to all the other women.

According to a document called "First Mourn, Then Work for Change", 100 women a year die in domestic violence, Mr. Speaker. As we are approaching that date and we will not be in the House in Session on that date, I want to remember those women and all the other women and their families.

To honour those women, we should be looking at ways to make changes, to make things better for women. We do not have to look very far to see that there is a lot that can be done to improve the lives of women in the Northwest Territories. Women are often prohibited from taking part in work or political activity due to childcare problems. For instance, there is no capital funding program to assist communities that do not have suitable buildings to set up a day care centre, Mr. Speaker.

There is also a lack of flexibility with day care programs which are mainly offered during the day time, but not nights or weekends. Seventy-nine percent of all Northwest Territories single parents are females, Mr. Speaker. Day cares are needed. If they do not have the resources in their communities for high quality day care with flexible hours, they are limited to what they can do outside of work and the home. By creating this situation, we as a collective community are short changing ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, in our Members' Conduct Guidelines, we are bound to do our utmost to promote the equality of all our people, yet women are still earning less than men. The average income for women in the Northwest Territories is 71 percent of what a man earns. Mr. Speaker, that is not equality.

I hope Members of this House will find time to make a real effort to boost services to women. Mr. Speaker, we need to respect women. We need to respect our wives, our mothers, our sisters, our aunts and our friends, if we are to avoid violence against women and if we are to accept them as equals. Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to wear the white ribbon. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Member's Statement on Literacy Strategy and Training Initiatives

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are coming to the end of session, I thought that it was important to re-raise the issue of the literacy strategy that this government is working on. I hope indeed that the next time we get together to meet, we will be discussing how to implement the new strategy, because I think that it is one of the most critical issues we face today, Mr. Speaker.

Indeed, I met a gentlemen the other day at a function who asked me what I thought the most important challenge was for us to rise up and meet in the Northwest Territories. I thought about it for a few minutes and decided that I thought training was going to be very important for us, Mr. Speaker. We are

faced with the potential of immense economic opportunity but these opportunities will pass us by, Mr. Speaker, if we do not have, folks who are trained. He said to me that yes, indeed, training will be critical and we will have to work with industry to ensure that Northerners are trained.

However, he suggested to me that it was important to realize the industry would find a way to hire southerners if we were concerned only with training our people who did not have a basic level of education and did not have literacy skills, Mr. Speaker. I think that it is important for us to realize that we put a lot of money and a lot of effort into education, into adult basic education and into literacy.

BHP, Mr. Speaker, has recognized this and they are embarking on their own literacy strategy and spending considerable dollars in this area. We cannot continue to be focussed on protectionist strategies. Socio-economic agreements are fine, Mr. Speaker, and they are a good idea to get us started, but eventually we are going to have to be competitive with the south if we hope to employ Northerners and hope to ensure that these benefits do not pass us by.

I would suggest that we have been employing somewhat of a push strategy for getting our people hired. I think we want to concentrate, Mr. Speaker, on the pull. Let us educate our people. Let us concentrate on literacy, so that when we train them, we are training the best people possible.

Mr. Nitah spoke earlier about the need to wage the war on poverty. Mr. Speaker, I believe that he is right. I believe the war on poverty starts with education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Déclarations de députés. Madam Lee.

Member's Statement on Accomplishments of the Office of the Speaker

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the last day or the last day, I do not know for sure, I would like to take this time to congratulate you and your office for the positive accomplishments you have achieved over the last year, Mr. Speaker.

Changes, especially positive changes, come very slowly in institutions like this. I believe we must recognize them when they come. For example, I commend you for the ease with which you introduced the traditional Dene outfits for our staff here. It was done so smoothly that we take it for granted, and it seems as though it has always been here. I think the significance of that is recognized by everyone, everyday when they turn the TV on.

Mr. Speaker, for one who is limited from speaking out by virtue of your office, I must say your actions speak very loud and clear. To give more examples, I congratulate you on the appointment of the first woman Sergeant-at-Arms, Nicole Latour-Theede, and the three very prominent positions of Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Carol Roberts; Official Languages Commissioner, Phoebe Tatti; Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner, Elaine Keenan-Bengts, who are all women, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate you and the Board of Management for recognizing that it is not hard to find excellent

women who just happen to be the best man or person for the job if you look for them.

There are other changes we noticed, Mr. Speaker, that we take for granted which has become a reality without a lot of fuss. I congratulate you for enlarging our parking lot without damaging too much of the environment surrounding us. I have noticed that you have introduced name tags for staff and visitors. I am not sure if there have been any complaints, but from where I sit I see that as a change.

So you have done a lot, Mr. Speaker. You did it very quietly. I would just like to encourage the government to move as swiftly and positively and without much fuss in improving lots of great things. So, I congratulate you and thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: In situations like this, two-and-a-half minutes is not enough.

-- Laughter

Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Member's Statement on Subject Matters Discussed by the 14th Assembly

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a very little while, next month, our communities will be going to the polls for municipal elections. They will also be taking part in the federal election shortly.

In regard to the municipal elections, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage people to run for leadership positions and be active in the voting process, both federal and municipal. There are also community corporation elections in some of my communities as well.

The point I wish to make here, Mr. Speaker, is that I am not sure whether I would like them to follow our examples in this House. I have been told from back home, that we seem to spend a lot of time squabbling over what salaries are for our EAs, what the roles and responsibilities are of our staff, rather than major issues that are bothering this Territory, such as economic development opportunities, our social problems and our health problems. The people I speak to at home would like me to urge people, the Members here, to concentrate on more serious issues in this government. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Member's Statement on Concerns of Disabled Persons

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I had hoped to make a statement on the plight of our disabled residents in the Northwest Territories and especially Hay River. I feel a little disabled myself today because I have not had the time to put into this Member's statement what I had wanted to because of the length of our sessions and the number of meetings we have been having. I think it is important that I do mention the plight of these disabled people.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a committee formed in Hay River comprised of residents with disabilities. They felt this was necessary in order to have their needs addressed. Mr. Speaker, they do have many needs that we as a government have to be aware of and prepared to deal with.

In Hay River, Mr. Speaker, there are many buildings that are not handicapped or wheelchair accessible. In some cases, people with disabilities have a hard time accessing the medical services that they require and, Mr. Speaker, some of them need very special treatment.

Mr. Speaker, Hay River is the only tax-based municipality in the Northwest Territories that does not offer people with disabilities any property tax relief. The Town of Hay River, Mr. Speaker, and this government cannot seem to come to an understanding or an agreement as to who and how the subsidies should be administered.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the fuel subsidy program for seniors that is administered by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is not offered to people with disabilities who own their own homes. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is high time, in view of the skyrocketing fuel prices, that we offer persons with disabilities some badly needed assistance. In this way, we could help them help themselves and, in a lot of cases, feel a lot better about themselves.

Mr. Speaker, this is not acceptable, given that approximately 80 percent of our people in the Northwest Territories with disabilities have a personal income of less than \$20,000. Of this group, 48 percent have a personal income of less than \$10,000. I would think surely that we as a government would not be adverse to helping this segment of our society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement on Wishes of Success to Hunters and Trappers

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I stand and want to recognize the hunters and trappers and also the harvesters in the Mackenzie Delta and specifically my riding of Inuvik Twin Lakes, recognizing that they are going through difficult times trying to sustain a livelihood that we are so accustomed to. I just want to stand here and wish them well for this trapping season. Hopefully they will have a prosperous season as well as a safe one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return to Question 172-14(3): Public Sector Salary Comparison

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Braden on November 1, 2000 regarding public sector salaries.

The tentative agreement reached with the Union of Northern Workers, and that is currently in the ratification process, will provide for an increment to the pay line of 3.8 percent in the first year and 2.5 percent in the second year. These increases maintain the competitive position the GNWT holds in comparison to other public sector employees in Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 176-14(3): Bison Problem in Fort Providence

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. McLeod on November 1, 2000 regarding the liability of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development should the bison in Fort Providence injure or kill someone.

Liability depends upon the facts and circumstances of the incident from which a claim for damages arises. Generally, the Government of the Northwest Territories is not liable for damages caused by the actions of wild animals and would not be held liable for the actions of wild bison in Fort Providence.

The bison in question were introduced into the Fort Providence area by the federal government in 1963. RWED sets the quota for the number of bison that may be harvested, in consultation with the community of Fort Providence and undertakes some research to understand the impact of those harvests on the herd. However, the department does not manage individual bison within the herd nor does it control their activities or movements.

The department has expressed its willingness to work with the Hamlet of Fort Providence and the Fort Providence Resource Management Board (FPRMB) to develop a plan to deter bison from occupying Fort Providence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 178-14(3): Fulfilling Government Promises

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Dent on November 1, 2000. The question was, will this government deliver on promises made by employees to members of the public or to aboriginal governments.

The question is very broad and the Member did not provide information on any particular circumstance that may have given rise to the question.

However, it is clear that when an employee takes a position that is consistent with the law of the GNWT and Canada, is reflective of current GNWT policies, Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly's direction, and is within the GNWT's financial capabilities and the employee's authority and mandate, then that position will be acted upon by this government.

I would be happy to provide more specific information to a more specific question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 193-14(3): Remittance of Taxes Owed to the GNWT

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Bell on November 3, 2000 regarding payroll tax remittance.

All of the \$8.8 million collected in payroll tax in 1999-2000 consisted of tax remittances. Over 90 percent of payroll tax registrants remit the tax on or before the due date, with the bulk of the remainder remitting shortly thereafter.

Recognizing the administrative burden faced by small businesses, the Department of Finance attempts to be flexible in ensuring compliance. However, the department, in following up, does remind late filers of the interest and penalty provisions in the Payroll Tax Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 279-14(3): Summer Student Employment Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Bell on November 15th regarding whether the recommendations from the report of the Student Working Group on Student Graduate Employment would be enacted by Christmas break.

As mentioned in an earlier response, the Department of the Executive is working with NorthWin to quickly implement an online student employment Web site. This Web site will allow students to apply online for summer employment. The contract for the Web site is being awarded this week. While there will be an attempt to get the site up and running by late December, corporate human resource services will also be advising students of how they can submit applications either in person or online during the Christmas break for possible summer employment in 2001.

In terms of the other recommendations in the report, they will be reviewed by a committee of human resource practitioners over the coming months with the objective of revising and improving the student summer employment program for summer 2001.

Mr. Bell also asked about possible employment over the Christmas period for students. While some students may be home early enough to obtain a short period of casual employment, the mandatory leave days mean there is limited casual work over the Christmas break within government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Kakfwi. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 225-14(3): Hotel Room Tax Survey

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Ms. Lee on November 7, 2000 regarding the hotel room tax survey. The contract is for the amount of \$20,000. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITIONS OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Roger Allen and myself, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce people from Inuvik. We do not have an opportunity like this very often. Mr. Brian Desjardin of the town of Inuvik and Christine McLeod, who is a youth councillor, are down here attending the Tech 2000 Conference.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Bienvenue. Mots de bienvenue aux visiteurs. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some constituents of mine, Mr. Speaker. Sue Ireland is in the gallery and, incidentally, she is also the Hansard editor. Her mother is up visiting, Darlene Archer, from beautiful Thunder Bay, Ontario. Welcome to her. I understand that Sue's seven-month-old daughter Morgan is also in the gallery. She is quite a fan and listens to a lot of Hansard as mom is transcribing. Join me in welcoming them.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, indeed, they are well represented. Welcome to the Assembly. Mots de bienvenue aux visiteurs. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to welcome all of the visitors who have come to watch the proceedings. Welcome to the Assembly. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 290-14(3): Environmental Clean-up of Giant Mine

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, for some time right after the closure of Giant Mine, there was a lot of work done by this government to get the federal government to pay attention to the environmental problem left by the closure of Giant Mine. I know Mr. Kakwi lobbied federal Ministers Anderson and Nault extensively to do the right thing and get the clean-up underway.

Mr. Speaker, has the Minister of RWED met with these two federal Ministers recently to press for the expedient start to a clean-up at Giant Mine?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 290-14(3): Environmental Clean-up of Giant Mine

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have met with both the Minister of DIAND and the Minister of Environment in early October, I do not have the exact date, and did raise the concerns we have with regard to Giant Mine with them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 290-14(3): Environmental Clean-up of Giant Mine

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At that meeting, was the Minister able to get some commitment from the federal Ministers to proceed with the clean-up of Giant Mine in a reasonable timeframe?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 290-14(3): Environmental Clean-up of Giant Mine

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the commitment I received at that time from the Minister of DIAND is that they would put money back into the process for the cleaning up of Giant Mine. The amount of money they are willing to put in this year is up to a maximum of \$285,000 for surface clean-up. The Minister also indicated to me that they were doing some initial work on the underground problem as well.

With the Minister of Environment, I raised the issue more in terms of this being a serious environmental site and that there was a need for it to be considered when Canada looks at cleaning up any major sites that exist across Canada. In my view, this is a major one. He acknowledged that it was, but did not give me any commitment that it would be on the short list or a list for early actions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 290-14(3): Environmental Clean-up of Giant Mine

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, \$250,000 is a drop in the bucket compared to the \$16 million needed at Giant for the surface alone. We know that it is over \$200 million for the subsurface and we have still got major problems with Colomac. Did the Minister for RWED manage to get DIAND to commit to putting at least a reasonable amount of money into next year's budget so that this process can get back on track?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 290-14(3): Environmental Clean-up of Giant Mine

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of DIAND does recognize the problems we face. He recognizes the cost of cleaning up the mine. He did not give me any firm commitment of how much money would go into their budget for next year, but he did indicate that they would continue to work on this particular project.

Mr. Speaker, I might also add that at the same time, I also discussed with him the responsibility that, in my view, the federal government holds for this piece of property and the environmental clean-up. I am continuing to push that with him,

that this is a federal responsibility and, although we have been forced to put money into it, we should not have to assume that as the Government of the Northwest Territories. It should be done by the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 290-14(3): Environmental Clean-up of Giant Mine

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds from the answers to the questions I have received so far today, that there is no timetable that we can point to with any certainty for this to be undertaken. Will the Minister commit to working with the federal Department of the Environment and DIAND to ensure that the public of the Northwest Territories can hear that this clean-up will be undertaken in a meaningful way, so that we know that within five or ten years we will have a solution here?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Handley.

Further Return to Question 290-14(3): Environmental Clean-up of Giant Mine

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I commit to raising this on every opportunity I have to continue to make sure it is on our agenda and will be pushing the federal government to make a commitment for the overall clean-up of the mine.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that, as a government, we are prepared to put some money into this in the interim, even though we feel it is DIAND's responsibility. It is the federal government's responsibility. We will do some work ourselves to protect worker safety and also to do some immediate clean-up in the short term. We cannot afford to just leave this unattended while we negotiate whose responsibility it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 291-14(3): Political Activities of Employees

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Public Service Act and the Public Service Regulations. It is in regard to my statement about public perception out there where there are certain employees within the government who are taking part in the federal election. Mr. Speaker, all other employees within this government are not able to take part because of the restriction on all government employees, that they are restricted under section 34.2 of the Public Service Act.

So, I would like to ask the Minister, does he have any idea as to how many employees of this government are taking part in the federal election?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 291-14(3): Political Activities of Employees

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of employees in the Northwest Territories and many communities, not just in Yellowknife, but all across the North. The employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories have certain rights that are laid out in the Public Service Act. I really do not know how many are taking part in various political activities. Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice and provide the information to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 292-14(3): Income Support Policies

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Education, the Honourable Jake Ootes. Yesterday I asked the Minister whether the department's position on income support was the result of a legal opinion or the department's interpretation of impact benefit agreements. I reviewed Hansard, and it was not clear why the department has taken the position it has.

I would like to ask the Minister if he could clarify whether it was a legal opinion or a departmental interpretation that guides how impact benefit agreement money is handled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 292-14(3): Income Support Policies

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the social assistance regulations are pursuant to the Social Assistance Act and the income support delivery must be consistent with both the act and the regulations because income support is a statutory program. The policies were developed to provide communities with consistency in administration of the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 292-14(3): Income Support Policies

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Minister said there are some consistencies in their social programs. As I have contacted the housing department, it is under social programs, and they rate their rents according to the income of individuals. When I asked them if they considered this impact benefit agreement, they said no, this is not part of their policies. I was just wondering, the Minister said there was consistency. Where is the consistency in social programs? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 292-14(3): Income Support Policies

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a project underway for harmonization between the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the Department of Education on their social program to make the program consistent. That is underway at the moment, Mr. Speaker, and we expect to bring that forward that harmonization to make consistency an issue. We should be bringing that forward in the near future.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 292-14(3): Income Support Policies

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday when the Minister answered one of my supplementary questions, he said their negotiators are out there and negotiating on just IBA funds. I was wondering, is this a mandate that was given to the negotiators to deal with this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 292-14(3): Income Support Policies

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe what I said, Mr. Speaker, was that the issue of income support would be, if there is delivery and control, that it would have to be done through the self-government negotiating process, which we have in process in this government. Of course, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is the lead on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 292-14(3): Income Support Policies

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just refer back to my first question. I would like an answer, yes or no. Can the Minister tell me if the department has used legal advice to put this policy in place where they penalize individuals because of the impact benefit funds they are getting? Is this legal advice? Yes or no?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 292-14(3): Income Support Policies

HON. JAKE OOTES: I cannot answer the question in that sense, Mr. Speaker. The departmental officials are following the act and the policies that are in place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes, Mr. Roland.

Question 293-14(3): Information on Chief of Staff Contract

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time is directed to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, as in my Member's statement, this is an issue that has been going on and it is regarding the contract. The Minister gave me a suggestion and said that I could go and view this contract. That has not happened to date. I made the call. I tried to see if we could set up a viewing and that is not happening. So he has given me an empty suggestion.

I would like to know from the Premier, will he once again provide that information to Members of this House to finalize this issue? Let us clean it up. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 293-14(3): Information on Chief of Staff Contract

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Accountability and Oversight has sent me a letter. The chair has written me a letter indicating that the committee is prepared and is supporting the suggestion made earlier this week to proceed with amendments to the Public Service Act to provide clarity to the roles and responsibilities of the political staff.

So we are in agreement with the committee. The chair has also indicated that he understands that a contract cannot be provided for reasons of privacy and so has asked for certain information to be provided to the committee. Mr. Chairman, we are preparing that information for the committee.

I want to point out, Mr. Chairman, that the information that the Member has asked for has in fact been provided on a number of occasions. There was a meeting with the Accountability and Oversight Committee last Friday, which I believe Mr. Roland was not present at, where the deputy minister, the most senior civil servant in this government, has said categorically:

"We cannot put in a contract anything that goes against an act or regulations of this government, that is, we cannot contract out of the Public Service Act and we have not done that."

The Member was not in the room when this information was being provided. Mr. Speaker, we have said consistently we have been advised by our staff that what Cabinet has done or is doing is consistent with the laws and regulations provided to this government. We have said that the contract does not refer to the individual in question as the deputy minister. The contract does not refer to the individual in question as the deputy minister. What the contract does is, in the section, refer to an appendices, which refers to deputy minister-type benefits. The contract says she is a chief of staff and that she is an executive assistant to the Premier and that is the function.

It says that where there is reference to deputy minister, it should read chief of staff, instead of DM, in regard to conflict of interest requirements. This is what we have already provided to Members and the response is being prepared right now to the chair of the Accountability and Oversight Committee, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Before we proceed to supplementaries, I just want to caution Members to be very careful about references to meetings that are outside of this Chamber that may or may not have been in-camera but still have not reported to the House. So just be cautious on how references are made to other meetings that may have been attended. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel that I have to clarify that since the Premier has raised the issue. The Speaker does have my letter stating where I would be. I was....

-- Interjection

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order. Order, Mr. Roland. I am just cautioning the House not to take liberties that may conflict with rules, your rules. So, please, if Members will abide by that and not refer to other meetings that may or may not have been reported to the House yet. Proceed, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 293-14(3): Information on Chief of Staff Contract

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess he can make a comment and get it recorded and I cannot. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, we have asked him for this information and he has, I believe, just quoted from the document saying that where it said deputy minister level, it should say executive assistant.

Seeing that he has quoted from the document, will he table it in this House now, since he is using pieces of the actual information in that document? He is leaving us at a disadvantage and he is going to supply what information he wants to hear. So will he table that now that he has quoted? Table it as it is and not revise it as he has stated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 293-14(3): Information on Chief of Staff Contract

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all respect to your requests that we adhere to the rules, I was simply quoting statements made by Liz Snider, the secretary to Cabinet, in response to questions that were made. I was not making references myself personally from the contract.

As I have said consistently, the contract cannot be tabled and cannot be provided to Members as is, due to privacy reasons. We have an obligation, I believe under the Act to protect the privacy of employees of this government. This is personal information that is entrusted to us by employees. I would ask the Member to respect that, to quit implying that I am...

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order has been called. Mr. Roland, your point of order please.

Point of Order

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My point of order is the fact that the Premier has quoted from a document that we do not have access to, therefore limiting my ability as a Member to do the work that I have before me. He is refusing documents. He has quoted from the document, Mr. Speaker. He has referenced it in this House. I believe his obligation now is to table that document as it is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. I do not believe you have a point of order. I think your question was directed, "Would you table it?" and perhaps the Premier, in his own way, was getting to that question and you interrupted him. I am sure he was fast approaching the answer to it. So your point of order is disallowed. Mr. Premier, would you care to conclude your answer?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify a minor point, the deputy minister, or the secretary to Cabinet, Liz Snider, had made some statements to Members earlier in the session and I was simply quoting her at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I am going to have to ask if you would answer the question. We are beginning to sound like a debate and I do not think that is within our rules. The question was asked and I realize the Ministers can answer any way they choose, but it is now going beyond an answer.

Supplementary to Question 293-14(3): Information on Chief of Staff Contract

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, since the Premier quoted from the document, from the contract, I believe that now he is obligated to table that in the House. Will he do so, so that we can do our work? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 293-14(3): Information on Chief of Staff Contract

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been quoting what the secretary to Cabinet has stated to Members of the Legislature earlier in the week. I was not quoting from the document. I was simply reiterating what the good Member missed because he did not attend a certain meeting earlier in the week.

But let me be clear. The contract, as I understand it, does not spell out the roles and responsibilities in detail that the Members want. That is provided, in fact, through the ministerial guidelines, what an executive assistant does. So in that regard, the contract is of no particular use to the Members in any case.

But, the chair of the Accountability and Oversight Committee, on behalf, I understand, of all Members of the Legislature, has asked for certain information: classification of the position; salary range of the position; discretionary benefits; and, I believe employment responsibilities. And as I have said, we are preparing that information. So what is the Member's problem? I do not understand. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 293-14(3): Information on Chief of Staff Contract

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My problem is the fact that I believe I heard the Premier say in the contract where it states deputy minister should be executive assistant. Is he revising history? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. I am not sure of the question. I am not sure of the question, Mr. Roland. Could I ask you to restate the question, please?

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, for the record, the Premier stated earlier that in the contract where it stated deputy minister it should read executive assistant. As I understand that, Mr. Speaker, the contract is written then at a deputy minister level. Is he trying to revise history here now by saying it is an executive assistant position and that is how it should be written in the contract? Is that the fact?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 293-14(3): Information on Chief of Staff Contract

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, one thing I cannot do is help the Member substantiate those allegations and statements that have no basis in fact. Statements that are false, unfounded allegations. I am sorry, some people are leading with their chins and they are going to be left out there dangling. I am sorry I cannot help them with that.

The statements I have been making are from my recollection of what Liz Snider, as the most senior non-partisan civil servant in this government, has stated to Members of this Legislature earlier in the week. I am not quoting from a document. It is a handwritten note that I have kept because I thought it was particularly useful for the most senior civil servant of this government to have provided to the Members of this Legislature. Unfortunately, the Member was not there to enjoy that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 6, oral questions. Point of order, Mr. Roland.

Point of Order

MR. ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, for the second time today, the Premier is stating the fact that I was not at a certain meeting that he felt I should have been. Again, I gave notice as to why I was not going to be there; in fact, to take part in a ceremony in my constituency. He has referred to this twice in this House and that is not allowed, as I know, according to the rules. My point of order is why is he allowed to do that? The fact is he cannot by the rules. That is my understanding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. I do believe there is a point of order there. I cautioned Members before and I will do this again today. If you would avoid references to Members who may or may not be at a certain meeting or in this Chamber, please try to avoid that. Those are your rules and I will take your advice and I will interrupt you if this continues in the future. Please, do not make references to people who are not in the House or were not in the House, or at certain meetings.

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 294-14(3): Midwifery Services in the NWT

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services on the also controversial area of health services in the Northwest

Territories. My constituents, Mr. Speaker, continue to be concerned about the level of medical services available and increasing waiting times to see doctors. In smaller communities, expectant mothers and families especially are affected. Would the Minister of Health advise this House what steps are needed to see the greater use of midwifery in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 294-14(3): Midwifery Services in the NWT

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is possible for midwifery to be used as a resource by health practitioners. Although we do not have any legislation in the Northwest Territories at this time, the department is going to work towards implementing legislation in the next one to three years to designate this and several other presently unregulated professions in the Northwest Territories.

In the interim, Mr. Speaker, the GNWT's certified midwife policy provides an adequate framework within which boards can offer certified midwifery services. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 294-14(3): Midwifery Services in the NWT

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very positive step. I am wondering, has the department taken steps to develop a network of other alternative care delivery in the profession of nurse practitioners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 294-14(3): Midwifery Services in the NWT

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our department is working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment through the college to ensure that we have the availability of training upgrades for nurses who wish to expand their level of education to allow them to practice as nurse practitioners. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 294-14(3): Midwifery Services in the NWT

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, further to the area of alternative health, in order to foster access to broader alternative therapies, can the Minister advise of any regulations or legislation that this Assembly could be looking at to help improve access to alternative therapies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 294-14(3): Midwifery Services in the NWT

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are willing to consider alternative therapies that may be brought forward by health boards. There are issues around licensing. We have an obligation to also protect constituents in the North, ensuring that people who do provide services are well qualified to do so.

As far as expanding the types of services we would insure under the medical insurance program, this would require some research and consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary to Question 294-14(3): Midwifery Services in the NWT

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister made reference to training initiatives to introduce more nurse practitioners in our stable of medical caregivers. In some areas, as I referenced in my statement, other jurisdictions are offering added tuition to help develop their own workforce in this area. I am wondering whether this government has looked at, or is able to offer extended tuition in the especially demanding field of medical care giving? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 294-14(3): Midwifery Services in the NWT

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to tuitions, under the student financial assistance, which does not fall under my department, there is assistance to Northerners who would like to receive training in post-secondary institutions for careers in the medical and social field. We also have quite a long list of educational support programs over and above student financial assistance which would encourage, again, our own northern workers to expand their education. These would include things such as education leave, a professional development fund, a northern development fund and there are also medical bursaries, specifically targeted for medical students. So, there are a number of programs that can be accessed by Northerners. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 295-14(3): Day Care Services in Small Communities

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek the indulgence of my colleagues because I am going to have a long preamble to my question for the honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, my questions deals with...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I am just going to remind the Members that the question period is to get an answer to a question and preamble is to be minimized. You must respect the time we have for question period, Mr. Nitah, so a reasonable amount of preamble and a short question.

MR. NITAH: Well, it would be nice if our colleagues on the other side would answer our questions so we will not need a preamble to set up the question, Mr. Speaker, but that is the fact of the matter. Mr. Speaker, there are 19,210 women, according to the 1996 census, in the Territories. Of them, 13,610 are ages 15 and over. Twenty percent of families in the Northwest Territories are single parents and 79 percent of that 20 percent are women. In the Northwest Territories, we have the highest birth rates amongst teens.

My colleague, Mr. Bell, mentioned earlier that one of the biggest social challenges in the Northwest Territories is training. Yet, our government does not have capital funding programs to assist communities which have no suitable buildings in which to establish a day care centre. If single parents between the ages of 15 and 18 do not have access to day care, how are they supposed to get training and contribute meaningfully to society?

My question to the Minister is, why is there not a capital funding program to assist communities that do not have suitable buildings to house day care centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The question is directed to the honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 295-14(3): Day Care Services in Small Communities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of child care is certainly an important one and we know that from time to time there are difficulties being faced by day care centres throughout the Northwest Territories for financial reasons. In many cases, the day cares are supported community-wise or by organizations that are established. The government, on its part, has several programs in place. One is the Early Childhood Program which provides start-up and operating and maintenance funding. It is about \$800,000 a year for that, and it is allocated, I believe, on a first come, first serve basis throughout the Territory.

We have, as well, the Healthy Children's Initiative of \$1.8 million, Mr. Speaker, that is provided and, again, it is applied for by communities on the basis of their particular programs. Joint decisions on that are made in concert with Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services in the regional area.

There are some programs in place, Mr. Speaker. I also want to remind the Member that we are working on an early childhood development plan for the North. All of these programs, of course, are very much money driven and the question becomes, can we access that money in some fashion or other? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 295-14(3): Day Care Services in Small Communities

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Early childhood education, training, lack of continuity, thanks for plugging that for me. It seems my question just set up for the Minister to explain all kinds of programs that are out there in this area of work. He never answered my question, Mr. Speaker. Why is there not capital funding programs to assist communities that do not have single housing?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 295-14(3): Day Care Services in Small Communities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could get clarification on the question. Was the question on capital funding for day care centres? Am I correct in that? Or is it single housing?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe it was the first one, Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you. We do provide start-up funding, Mr. Speaker. We do not have a capital program to provide buildings in communities for day cares. That is just not in existence. The reason for that is the unavailability, at the moment, for capital funds. I do not think this government has ever set that. Previous governments never addressed this in that fashion. How they addressed it was to provide the funding for start-ups and ongoing operations, through the programs I mentioned earlier. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 295-14(3): Day Care Services in Small Communities

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As usual, this government seems to like to plug here, plug here, and plug there, and call it a program. It is just a bandaid solution to a serious problem, Mr. Speaker. Are there any plans by this government to introduce a program to assist communities that may have problems with suitable housing, that could be used for day cares? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 295-14(3): Day Care Services in Small Communities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, a lot of the day care programs that are operated are done so in concert with local people, the initiative of the local people, simply because of the lack of capital funding and operating funding. We are working on the Early Childhood Development Program but I cannot assure the Member that there is going to be adequate money in this government to address a building program for day cares. Not that we would not want to, but we do have to be realistic at the

moment because I have pressures on ensuring we build schools and so forth. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Your final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 295-14(3): Day Care Services in Small Communities

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the communities, one of the biggest problems is people not showing up for work. A lot of staff at the offices in the communities are single parents, both men and women, which leads to financial problems by organizations and this government takes the brunt of it. We sat in the committee of the whole yesterday talking about one community that needs financial aid to pull themselves out of a debt. A lot of that is attributed to lack of day care in the community.

Again, is there a plan to address that problem in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 295-14(3): Day Care Services in Small Communities

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, I think I am becoming repetitive here, not out of desire or purpose, but there is no way to address this subject other than to state that day cares in general are being operated by community organizations and on the initiative of the community. We provide support funding for that, Mr. Speaker, through several programs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Question 296-14(3): NWT Literacy Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Premier and it is in regard to the literacy strategy. Ordinarily, I would ask Mr. Ootes. One of the guiding principles in the development of this strategy is that the strategy be government-wide and involve all departments, not be simply focused on Education, Culture and Employment. We do not want to see Education, Culture and Employment out on an island trying to sell this thing to the rest of our government.

My question for the Premier, if for no other reason than we are bottom-line focused and bottom-line driven, and we know low literacy impacts health care costs and rates of incarceration, how does the Premier put this to the front of his agenda, before Cabinet and how does he intend to implement this strategy government-wide?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 296-14(3): NWT Literacy Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent was to have a government-wide approach to it, with the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment being the lead. We have said that we will try to develop a

strategy that would be government-wide and that is the approach we are taking. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 296-14(3): NWT Literacy Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you. I recognize that is what we have stated. I would like some clarification on how we are going about that. You will forgive me if I am a little reluctant to believe that this, in fact, is going to be taken up by all the departments eagerly. We have talked about meetings among social envelope departments. They are not as frequent as they should be, we all know that.

I am wondering how the Premier intends to approach this subject and assure that it is government-wide, not just let ECE take the lead and the rest of us will be at a couple of meetings?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 296-14(3): NWT Literacy Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister for Education, Culture and Employment has more detail that can answer the Member's question, so I would like to refer it to Mr. Ootes, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Premier is exercising his prerogative and is referring it to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the approach that has been taken is that this is a government-wide initiative. Education, Culture and Employment is the lead on this and a working group was established of all departments, including Aurora College. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Bell, directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

MR. BELL: My questions were to the Premier, can I not keep directing them to the Premier if he chooses to direct to the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Bell. I believe the Premier has redirected the nature of the questions to the Minister whose responsibility is best served, as his prerogative. Your question?

Supplementary to Question 296-14(3): NWT Literacy Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you. My question will be to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize. I was, in fact, looking for the ringing endorsement from the Big Man, but I will settle for Mr. Ootes.

-- Laughter

I want to know about this working group. I want to know how many meetings we have had to date, Mr. Speaker. It is one thing to set up a working group but entirely another thing to follow this through with whole-hearted commitment. If I cannot

have the Premier's commitment today, in the House, I would like to have Mr. Ootes' that this working group is, indeed, active and is working toward this initiative.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 296-14(3): NWT Literacy Strategy

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The working group has been active. I do not know the particular attendance at each one, but I can assure the Member that this is a very serious subject by this government and is being treated with all the respect that the initiative is deserving of. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 296-14(3): NWT Literacy Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ootes for that response. Can we, in fact, look forward to implementation and discussing implementation the next time we sit down in this House to meet? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 296-14(3): NWT Literacy Strategy

HON. JAKE OOTES: I am sure that we can, Mr. Speaker. We intend to have the strategy together by November 30th. After that, it becomes a case of having implementation and the work plan done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for the Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 297-14(3): Special Needs Survey of NWT Schools

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and it is regarding special needs. It is my understanding that there was a survey on special needs being conducted over the spring. I would like to ask the Minister if he would confirm if that was, indeed, the case that they conducted a special needs survey?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 297-14(3): Special Needs Survey of NWT Schools

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the department has conducted a special needs survey of children in the NWT schools. That was conducted during the early fall and spring period, I believe. The information for that, Mr. Speaker, is being compiled. It was done on a total of 9,000 plus students and we have obtained some very good information from that particular survey. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 297-14(3): Special Needs Survey of NWT Schools

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you. I understand this is a very in-depth study and you have conducted it right across the schools in the North and they have attempted to gather information on all the special needs students, and what their needs are, and how much time these teachers are spending.

However, when the interviews were done, we were all led to believe that the information would be provided and compiled by September of this year, but we are a couple of months past September. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the hold up? Why is that information not available?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 297-14(3): Special Needs Survey of NWT Schools

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is extensive information that we have gathered and it was given to the Statistics Bureau to compile so that we get an appropriate report that analyzes it in an appropriate fashion, and that we ensure that the amount of information we have obtained is properly collated and analyzed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 297-14(3): Special Needs Survey of NWT Schools

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he could give us a target date that we can look forward to, to seeing this information. When will that information be available to us?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 297-14(3): Special Needs Survey of NWT Schools

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to check with the department to confirm that. I do not think that we are very far off and, by that, I mean I believe it may be within the month that we will have it together, Mr. Speaker.

I am dependant, somewhat, on another department having some input into this. As I said, the Statistics Bureau is doing a compilation for us and it may be together today, but I am just not sure of that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Final supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 297-14(3): Special Needs Survey of NWT Schools

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By delaying this document, especially after an indication that this information would be released in September of this year, many of the communities are contacting me and are asking, "Was there something in this document that we have discovered or

realized the magnitude of this problem that has shocked us and is causing delay?"

Is there anything that is in this information that may have caused delay to this survey?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 297-14(3): Special Needs Survey of NWT Schools

HON. JAKE OOTES: I can state that not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, is there anything in here that would cause us to hold the document up. We have been trying to do it properly and I just want to reassure the Member that there is no particular effort here to try to hold the document up for any particular reason. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 298-14(3): Remissible Loans for NWT Students

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I must say that I really appreciate the passion with which the Member of Tu Nedhe speaks on the issues affecting women. It is very good to see, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, my question today goes to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment and it has to do with the remissible loans for students who are returning to school in particular.

I have had many discussions with the Minister on this and I have read the questions and answers on this issue in the House. I am not quite clear about the department's position. I wonder if the Minister could restate, for the record, what the department's position is as of now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes. It appears to be a very in-depth question but I will allow you to exercise your broad knowledge of it.

Return to Question 298-14(3): Remissible Loans for NWT Students

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Broad and in-depth, I suppose. Mr. Speaker, this subject concerns the redesign of the Student Financial Assistance Program and, in the course of doing this, we had a lot of consultation over two years. It involved a Ministers' Commission that looked at this and committees and so forth. They came forth with recommendations. Those recommendations were to focus on northern-schooled and aboriginal students and raise the amount of dollars that students can receive, and present the program within the financial framework.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent program, one that we should be very, very proud of, and I think it is among the best in this country. I think it is important for us all to remember that. Perhaps I can leave the Member to ask a supplementary from there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 298-14(3): Remissible Loans for NWT Students

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for coaching me in that. Let me try a specific question here. I read the answers that the Minister gave to Mr. Dent and I was hoping for this information earlier. Could the Minister advise the House as to how many students are affected by the fact that some students may have to pay back the loan that they are borrowing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 298-14(3): Remissible Loans for NWT Students

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mr. Speaker, the question becomes one of definition because we had transition situations where people were transitioned to different programs. First of all, let me state that no one was cut off of the program. We had individuals, and all individuals received increases in the ability to receive more money for tuition, books, and living allowance, and more loans that are non-taxable and so forth. The number and cost of transition depends on the definition used, but our understanding of the students that the Member may be referring to in this category and the cost of the benefit would be around \$300,000 and about 100 students. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 298-14(3): Remissible Loans for NWT Students

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In talking to him about this issue and reading the answers the Minister has provided, I understand the problem to be the amount of dollars required to reinstate these students. Is that the final position of the department or is he at all willing to revisit it in any way? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 298-14(3): Remissible Loans for NWT Students

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost, of course, is on an ongoing basis. It may be diminishing, but it is not just a one-time cost. As I stated yesterday, the redesign has been implemented and it is based on decisions that were made and consultations and all the work we did in the spring. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 298-14(3): Remissible Loans for NWT Students

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Related to the program, I recall that there were some discussions with other students

who were affected in a different way by the changes in this program. A student group, last year, lobbied us. I am just wondering if there are dollar implications for this other than just this specific group that we are talking about. If there are other implications, could the Minister explain?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 298-14(3): Remissible Loans for NWT Students

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is, of course, the issue of transition and students who had used up their entitlements and there was a request, of course, to expand those entitlements beyond what their entitlements were. That was another issue that was out there by some students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 299-14(3): Making National Aboriginal Day a Holiday

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Earlier this summer, I questioned the Premier with regard to the possibility of establishing or declaring Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday. In the meantime, there have been several letters written to the Premier and also myself asking that we do seriously consider that. There were letters from the municipalities, First Nations organizations, local hamlets and also the Metis locals and band councils. I would like to ask the Premier, has the Premier had an opportunity to consider it and what is he doing on this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 299-14(3): Making National Aboriginal Day a Holiday

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 300-14(3): Honouring Commitments to Students

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Premier for responding to my question from two weeks ago, and agreeing that this government will stand behind commitments made by employees of the government.

-- Applause

Mr. Speaker, that is the answer that I had expected and I would hope for nothing less. Mr. Speaker, I have a constituent who was promised by an employee of this government that if she attended school, passed the courses and remained in the Northwest Territories, that she would receive remissible loans throughout the course of her study. Part way through her course of study, this government changed the plan and reneged on its promise to give her those remissible loans. Will the Premier direct the Minister responsible for Education to

reconsider this position and take a look at honouring the promises that were made to some people in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 300-14(3): Honouring Commitments to Students

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give serious consideration to what the Member is suggesting, but as I said in my response to the question asked earlier by the Member, that amongst a number of conditions, guidelines or qualifiers, it also must be within the government's financial capabilities. We will have to look at what exactly was made and respect that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 300-14(3): Honouring Commitments to Students

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Premier's response and look forward to hearing about the review. I would encourage the Premier to work with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment because as the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment just said to Ms. Lee, some of the costs here are dependent on your definition of grandfathering. I think that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has developed a definition that they would like to see used and are not convinced that is the definition the Minister has referred to. Will the Premier agree to work with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to review what definition of grandfathering is appropriate?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 300-14(3): Honouring Commitments to Students

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the Ministers in this government have responsibilities that are assigned to them, and as the Premier, I am supportive as I can be to help them do the best job that they can. I try to be there everyday for them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 300-14(3): Honouring Commitments to Students

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I asked the Premier to ensure he works with the Minister, is in his earlier response he refers to, within financial capabilities. I am sure there will be some question about the level of financial cost here. I would hope that would be something that would also be examined. Will the Premier commit to examining what was really meant by financial cost?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 300-14(3): Honouring Commitments to Students

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his questions. I will continue to work with my Ministers to ensure that they are supported in their endeavour to do the best job possible for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Dent. The time allocated for question period has expired. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return to Written Question 11-14(3): Compliance Audits of Northwest Territories Businesses

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 11-14(3) asked by Mr. Dent to the Minister of Finance concerning compliance audits of Northwest Territories businesses.

- Q.1 Twelve field audits have been performed on collectors; in addition to these, the government performs desk audits on all registrants once a year on receipt of their annual return.
- Q.2 Six field audits were performed on registrations in the Northwest Territories and six were on southern companies. Desk audits are performed on all filers of annual returns. Of these, 1,088 had a mailing address in the Northwest Territories and 707 were on companies registered outside the Northwest Territories.
- Q.3 Seven field audits showed under-reporting, one audit showed over-reporting, and the balance confirmed the amounts reported. Field audits are undertaken based on a risk assessment. Annual desk audits findings are treated as corrections to returns and not tracked as over or under-reporting.
- Q.4 Of the 12 field audits performed half were southern companies.
- Q.5 Including direct and indirect costs, the payroll tax costs \$163,000 annually to administer.

Return to Written Question 12-14(3): Payroll Tax Remittance

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Return to Written Question 12-14(3) asked by Mr. Bell to the Minister of Finance concerning payroll tax remittance.

- Q.1 In the 1999-2000 year, no registrant was assessed the \$100 failure to file penalty.
- Q.2 The registrant may notify the Minister of Finance of circumstances that could warrant the Minister applying section 38(5) of the Payroll Tax Act, extending the time which a registrant has to file a return and subsequently the time before a penalty would apply.

- Q.3 No remissions of penalties or interest were granted in the 1999-2000 fiscal year.
- Q.4 The Government of the Northwest Territories has two staff performing desk audits of payroll tax remittances and annual returns, in addition to other duties. An investigator, who also audits other GNWT taxes, performs field audits of payroll tax collectors.

Return to Written Question 14-14(3): Funding to Offset Fort McPherson Water System Costs

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Return to Written Question 14-14(3) asked by Mr. Krutko to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs concerning funding to offset Fort McPherson water system costs.

No funds have been offered to the community of Fort McPherson to offset the costs associated with the water system.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has committed to offer the following assistance to the community of Fort McPherson:

- The Department of Public Works and Services will work with the Hamlet of Fort McPherson to update the operating agreement for the water treatment plant. Officials from the Department of Public Works and Services will contact the community in the near future.
- Municipal and Community Affairs will assist the hamlet to develop a plan of action to deal with the hamlet's overall financial position as well as to deal with short-term problems. Staff from Municipal and Community Affairs have contacted the senior administrative officer to develop a work plan in this area.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 7, returns to written questions. Before we proceed to the next item on the order paper, the House will take a short break. I would just like to remind Members to join the Minister for Youth in the Great Hall to meet some of the young people from across the North who have come here to discuss important things with the Minister. The House will take a short break.

-- Break

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. The next item on the order paper is item 9, replies to the opening address. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO THE OPENING ADDRESS

Reply 3-14(3)

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I received a copy of a report from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner which will be tabled later in this House and I would like to speak to the contents of that report.

The complaint was made by the Member for Thebacha and deals with my use of a company vehicle. Mr. Speaker, my

business interests are in an administrative trust. However, Mr. Speaker, it is a family business in which my children and husband are employed. In the process of travelling back and forth to my constituency, my personal vehicle was left in Hay River for a period of time late this summer and in the early fall. The company vehicle was in Yellowknife being serviced.

Subsequently, Mr. Speaker, I took advantage of this vehicle being here and did jump in it and drive it for a period of time. Mr. Speaker, my husband decided to keep my vehicle in Hay River and transfer the company vehicle to his personal ownership, allowing for my use of the vehicle here. This use of the van came to Mr. Miltenberger's attention during this interim time.

In communication with the Conflict of Interest Commissioner in response to this complaint, I did not dispute this allegation or the fact that I should not have been using a vehicle registered to the company. The report indicates that his complaint will not be forwarded to a public inquiry under the rules of the conflict legislation. Any sanction will be at the discretion of the Assembly and I certainly will respect whatever that may be.

Mr. Speaker, I do apologize for failing to attend to this detail of ordering my affairs in such a way as to conform to the rules. This is a good reminder of how diligent we must be as elected officials in attending to matters which may cause offence. I also apologize for an embarrassment this may cause the government or my colleagues in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

Petition 4-14(3): Speed Limit Changes on Highway Between Edzo and Yellowknife

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of speed limit changes on the highway between Edzo and Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 141 signatures of residents of Fort Rae and Edzo. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the speed limit on Highway 3 between Edzo and Yellowknife be changed back to 90 kilometres per hour. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Petition 5-14(3): National Aboriginal Day

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of National Aboriginal Day. Mr. Speaker, my petition contains 114 signatures of Northwest Territories residents. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that June 21st be declared a statutory holiday in honour of National Aboriginal Day.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 88-14(3): Government of the Northwest Territories Combined 1998 and 1999 Public Service Annual Report

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, Government of the Northwest Territories Combined 1998 and 1999 Public Service Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Tabled Document 89-14(3): People Helping People – Northwest Territories Housing Corporation 1998-1999 Annual Report

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled, People Helping People: Northwest Territories Housing Corporation 1998/99 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Tabled Document 90-14(3): Package of Letters Supporting a Statutory Holiday for Aboriginal Day

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier suggested in the Legislative Assembly earlier this year that if there was enough support for aboriginal groups to declare Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday, then his office would seriously consider it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a series of letters supporting a statutory holiday for Aboriginal Day. Those letters of support come from the Fort Smith Metis Council, the Village of Fort Simpson, the Town of Inuvik, the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, the Town of Normal Wells, the Dene Cultural Institute, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Yellowknife Metis Local 66, Metis Heritage Association, the Dene Nation, the Dene National Office, the Metis Nation, Gwich'in Council, Metis Local 52, Hamlet of Paulatuk, Fort Smith Landing First Nations, and Yellowknives Dene First Nations. Mr. Speaker, these letters are in support of making June 21st a statutory holiday.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Tabled Document 91-14(3): Letter From Tim McDonald to Minister Ootes Regarding Student Financial Assistance

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter dated October 31st of this year and it is to the Minister of Education, Mr. Ootes. It is from a territorial resident regarding student financial assistance, or lack of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 13, tabling of documents. The Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Tabled Document 92-14(3): Information Regarding the Fibre Optics System Provided During Consideration of Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2000-2001

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the information that I requested during yesterday's committee of the whole, the Review of the 2000-2001 Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, provided by Minister Handley.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 13, tabling of documents.

Tabled Document 93-14(3): Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner in the Matter of Allegations Against the Member for Hay River South

In accordance with section 102 of part 3 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner in the Matter of Allegations Against the Member for Hay River South, filed under section 100 of the Act. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 14-14(3): Establishment of a Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, November 20, 2000, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe that the Legislative Assembly hereby establishes a special committee to be named the Special Committee on Self-Government Implementation and the Sunset Clause; and further that the following Members be named to the special committee:

- Honourable Jim Antoine, the Member for Nahendeh;
- Mr. Braden, the Member for Great Slave;
- Mr. Delorey, the Member for Hay River North;
- Mr. Lafferty, the Member for North Slave; and
- Ms. Lee, the Member for Range Lake

And furthermore, that notwithstanding rule 88 (2), the following Members be named as alternate members to the special committee:

- Honourable Vince Steen, the Member for Nunakput;
- Mr. McLeod, the Member for Deh Cho; and
- Mr. Nitah, the Member for Tu Nedhe

And furthermore, that the special committee prepare its terms of reference and present them at the first opportunity during the sitting of the Legislative Assembly in February 2001.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 14, notices of motion. The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Motion 15-14(3): Extended Adjournment to February 14, 2001

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 20th, 2000 I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh but notwithstanding rule 4 that when this House adjourns on November 16th, 2000, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, February 14th, 2001.

And further, that at any time prior to February 14th, 2001, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned at that time. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today, I will seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Krutko. You may proceed with your motion.

Motion 14-14(3): Establishment of a Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, my motion, the establishment of a special committee on the implementation of self-government and a sunset clause;

WHEREAS the 14th Legislative Assembly has adopted their vision for a prosperous future, a strong, unified and self-reliant Northwest Territories that can take its rightful place in the federation and the international community;

AND WHEREAS the 14th Legislative Assembly in its document "Towards a Better Tomorrow" believes that aboriginal and other northern leaders working together in support of a common vision and strong sense of identity is the foundation to the better future for all residents;

AND WHEREAS the 14th Legislative Assembly believes that aboriginal people must have greater self-determination over their social, cultural, economic and political destiny;

AND WHEREAS aboriginal and public governments have unique, necessary and complementary roles to play in serving territorial residents;

AND WHEREAS it is important that there be a strong and effective aboriginal and public governments operating cooperatively and in partnership;

AND WHEREAS the system of government of the Northwest Territories must recognize and protect the rights of all residents, balancing individual citizens' rights and collective aboriginal rights;

AND WHEREAS section 2 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides that upon the 14th Legislative Assembly that the current electoral boundaries cease to exist;

AND WHEREAS it is important that the Legislative Assembly give consideration on the impact that this section would have for the future of public government in the Northwest Territories and upon the implementation of self-government;

AND WHEREAS the systems of government in the Northwest Territories should be valuable, workable, and affordable;

AND WHEREAS self-government negotiations with aboriginal people are well advanced in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has responsibility for delivery of programs and services to all residents of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly desires to work cooperatively with all aboriginal governments in implementing their inherent right through final self-government agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly should consider matters under its authority that are impacted by the implementation of self-government in the areas of legislation, programs, services, and finances to provide advice and direction to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that the Legislative Assembly hereby establishes a special committee to be named, Special Committee on Self-Government Implementation and the Sunset Clause;

AND FURTHER, that the following Members be named to the special committee:

- the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine;
- the Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden;
- the Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey;
- the Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty;
- the Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee;

AND FURTHERMORE that notwithstanding rule 88(2), the following Members be named as alternate members to the special committee:

- the honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen;
- the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod;
- the Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the special committee prepares its terms of reference and present them at the first opportunity during the sitting of the Legislative Assembly in February 2001.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion on extended adjournment today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Braden, you may proceed.

Motion 15-14(3): Extended Adjournment to February 14, 2001

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, to extended adjournment to February 2001:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, notwithstanding rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Thursday, November 16, 2000, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, February 14, 2001;

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to February 14, 2001, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker shall give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 6.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Krutko. You may return to item 6, oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 301-14(3): Aurora College Board Appointments

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education. It is in regard to the Arctic College board. As we all know, there is a board in place to look at issues involving Arctic College and education and the development of the residents of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I believe the college board has been meeting, but not with a full quorum. I, for one, feel that we have to seriously ensure that all people of the North are represented on this board because this matter does have an effect on the ability of our colleges to ensure that their issues

are being raised and that the residents of the North are being ensured that their voices are being heard. I would like to ask the Minister, when will he ensure that they have a full compliance by having all the seats of this board filled?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 301-14(3): Aurora College Board Appointments

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working on this as we speak. There were a number of nominations that had come in and there were, as Members know, a lot of matters to take care of for the past two and a half weeks, but we are working on it at the moment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 301-14(3): Aurora College Board Appointments

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, the board has been conducting meetings without a full quorum. I have been getting complaints from my riding, especially concerning the Arctic College program in Inuvik where we are looking at the possibility of doing a bunch of work on that college. I would like to ask the Minister again if he has a date for when we will have the full board?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 301-14(3): Aurora College Board Appointments

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, some further work has to be done on this and I cannot commit whether it will be tomorrow or early next week, but I am working on it and we will work on it very expeditiously. It has been on my desk to address. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 301-14(3): Aurora College Board Appointments

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I feel that we have to ensure that all residents are being heard on this board. Will the Minister meet with the board to ensure that the communities or the regions who are not represented, that they do have the opportunity to have their issues dealt with and raised? I do not feel it is fair that this board is meeting and making decisions that will affect all the different colleges in the North. Will he do that?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 301-14(3): Aurora College Board Appointments

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what the exact date of the next board meeting is, but I will ensure that we address this issue as quickly as possible and that the board is made aware of the concern that representation needs to be there and so it should be. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 301-14(3): Aurora College Board Appointments

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister commit to make sure that there is movement on this area and also keep the Beaufort Arctic College Board informed, along with myself and the other Members who are affected, so that we are made aware that these appointments are being filled and exactly who is filling those positions, so that we can know who to go to with our concerns regarding who will be on those boards?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 301-14(3): Aurora College Board Appointments

HON. JAKE OOTES: Yes, I will do that, Mr. Speaker. I will undertake to ensure everyone is kept up-to-date on it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 302-14(3): Aboriginal Language Funding

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. I would like to thank the Minister for answering an oral question I asked on November 7th. He answered it a couple of days ago, regarding funding for aboriginal languages and cultural programs in the South Slave Education Council.

In his answer, he pointed out that \$1,016,000 for aboriginal language and cultural programs goes to the South Slave Educational Council. Of that portion, what percentage, or what is the dollar figure that goes to the communities of Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 302-14(3): Aboriginal Language Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the total amount that we pass on to the South Slave District Education Council is slightly over \$15 million. It is the responsibility of the council to allocate the funding that is provided to the communities and, of course, the council has a representative on the board from each community.

I do not know what the breakdown of that figure is, Mr. Speaker, and that is something I would have to obtain from the council to pass on to Mr. Nitah.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 302-14(3): Aboriginal Language Funding

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would sure appreciate that information from the Minister. Of that \$15 million, I imagine that is for the whole education system in the South Slave area. Of that \$15 million, how much of it goes to the communities of Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution? Is it based on population? Number of students? What is the case, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 302-14(3): Aboriginal Language Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has a policy of allocation by formula. It is a funding formula. The council would take that formula to allocate the funding for each of the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 302-14(3): Aboriginal Language Funding

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of recent developments of communities wishing to break away from the South Slave Education Council, I feel it is important to know exactly what the budget is and the formula. Can the Minister provide me with that formula also? Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 302-14(3): Aboriginal Language Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Yes, we can provide the Member with that. Just in general terms, it is based according to student enrolments, minimum administration requirements. There is an adjustment for the cost differentials for each region.

For example, it may be more expensive in communities off-road versus road. Those are the types of criteria, Mr. Speaker. We will get the formula for the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 302-14(3): Aboriginal Language Funding

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$15 million budget, is that just for curriculum use or can part of that budget be used for renovations and upgrades to the facilities used by the students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 302-14(3): Aboriginal Language Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding is used for the delivery of education programs in each of the schools. Structural changes and so forth, renovations, are all done through the capital projects, so that money would not be included in that \$15 million.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 303-14(3): Exemptions For Political Activity

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. It is in regard to restricted employees under section 34(2) of the Public Service Act. Has the Minister received any requests from people for an exemption to the section regarding serving in any political activity? Has he received any requests from the people within the government of the Northwest Territories workforce to get an exemption to allow them to take part in an election?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 303-14(3): Exemptions For Political Activity

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, no, I have not received any requests. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 303-14(3): Exemptions For Political Activity

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister received any complaints from anyone that the people in the public workforce are embarking in illegal activity or breach of the Public Service Act by participating in an election?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 303-14(3): Exemptions For Political Activity

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, no, I have not received any complaints from anyone in my capacity as Minister responsible for the Public Service Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 303-14(3): Exemptions For Political Activity

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me if notices have been given to employees in the public service under the Public Service Act, that there are

certain restrictions that apply to them? Has that notice been given and when was that notice given?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Two questions there, Minister Handley.

Further Return to Question 303-14(3): Exemptions For Political Activity

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is normal practice to send out a notice. I do not know the exact date of when it would have been given. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 303-14(3): Exemptions For Political Activity

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there have been employees warned that they are not to take part in this, so that is why I asked the question. I would like to reiterate to the Minister, are you going to do a thorough review to ensure that the policy is adhered to and is equitable to all employees regardless of whether they are in the Executive Council or not?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 303-14(3): Exemptions For Political Activity

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes. We are going to do a review of the Public Service Act and if it is necessary to do amendments to clarify any ambiguities, then we will make those amendments.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 304-14(3): Payment of Medical Services

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, it has to deal with an area of payment for medical services for individuals. In the Northwest Territories, people who work for government or other companies usually get covered under their benefits plan for the payment of services provided to them by medical professionals in the Northwest Territories. Who pays for the medical services provided by doctors to treat people who are not employed by the government, or a company outside of the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 304-14(3): Payment of Medical Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of services provided within health insurance coverage which are paid for by this government. If Mr. Nitah is referring to physician services, those are an insured coverage that is paid for northern residents who have Northwest Territories health care insurance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 304-14(3): Payment of Medical Services

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For treaty members of the Northwest Territories who are not working for government or a private company, if they go see a doctor, under which plan is their bill paid for on behalf of the patient? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 304-14(3): Payment of Medical Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have an agreement with the federal government, called the Non-Insured Health Benefit Program. It is funded by Health Canada and administered by the Government of the Northwest Territories and it does provide specified benefit coverage for status Indian and Inuit clients. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 304-14(3): Payment of Medical Services

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Am I to understand that Inuit and treaty Indians get coverage through a non-insured health benefits through an agreement with the federal government and the Northwest Territories Health Care Plan does not pay for this select group of peoples' medical expenses?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 304-14(3): Payment of Medical Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a reimbursement which we receive from the federal government for these constituents. It is specifically for physician and hospital services. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 304-14(3): Payment of Medical Services

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the Minister could elaborate a little bit more on that. The question I have now, is there are two payment plans, one for Inuit and one for treaty Indians and one for the rest of the people of the Northwest Territories. The one for the Inuit is under non-insured health benefits through the agreement with the federal government, and the rest is through the Northwest Territories health care plan?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Health, Ms. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 304-14(3): Payment of Medical Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Minister, I believe I made a mistake about what the non-insured health benefit coverage actually entails. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the money received from the federal government for physician and hospital services is not under the non-insured health benefits, but this in fact covers other things. I am sorry. It is kind of complex, all the different coverage that is available through the various insurance programs. I would like to get detailed information about that for the Member, so I can be absolutely certain it is correct. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 12 and Bill 18. By the authority given the Speaker by Motion 4-14(3), the House is resolved into committee of the whole to sit beyond the time of adjournment until the committee is prepared to report, with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I would like to call the committee to order. When we concluded the day yesterday, we were on page 16, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures; Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001. Does the Minister want to bring in some witnesses?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, I would, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses in, please? Thank you. Minister Handley, could you introduce your witnesses for the record please?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, with me on my left is Debbie Delancey, director of budgeting and evaluation for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, and Lew Voytilla on my right, secretary to the Financial Management Board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I may. Yesterday when we ended the day, we had made a commitment to provide a corrected page dealing with Transportations' operations expenditures and particularly on the item of the Colville winter road. I have the corrected pages here to be circulated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. You can have those distributed. We will go back to detail for Bill 12 on page 16. Public Works and Services, capital, investment expenditures, systems and communications, special warrants, \$480,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have tabled earlier today a response that I received from the Minister to some questions that I had asked yesterday. I would like to refer specifically to that response now. Under question 3, is the contract exclusive? The first bullet says the contract with

NorthwesTel for the provision of fibre-optics is for connection of specified buildings and does not give exclusive rights to supply fibre for any future requirements.

Under the RFP, was not every building in which there is a government office specified? Each building has been specified, so would that not therefore mean that this was de facto, an exclusive contract for NorthwesTel?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman. No, there was no exclusivity on this one. Practically, it may be that way, but there is no exclusivity.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I heard the Minister say that in practice, or practically, there probably is exclusivity, because all of the buildings were listed in the RFP. Could he confirm that please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will refer this to Mr. Voytilla. It is getting into detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our understanding is that all the major office buildings were linked up. The government has a wide range of buildings in the city. I do not believe all of them were listed, certainly all the major office buildings were part of this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you. I understand that the buildings were listed under priority, future, and optional, three different categories in the RFP, and that all of the government offices were pretty well covered under the priority. This does leave very little room for any competition here. I guess my concern here is that, as I said yesterday, I think we have a real potential to grow here. I know that one of the bidders in this process was a consortium of six businesses in town, plus NT Net Society, which provided significant depth for the understanding of how networks work, of how the hardware should be put together and managed. I think it may have been unfortunate that adequate weight was not given to that in the evaluation of their proposals.

Under bullet two, about the exclusive contract here, it says it is unlikely, this is from the information, Mr. Chairman, that I was provided with by the Minister and that I tabled earlier today, it is unlikely that a business case could be made for use of an alternative fibre-optic service provider. This is then attributed to additional costs for connection to the government data centre, and the additional complexity for the management.

I just wonder why this would be seen as difficult when, for instance, this building we are in right now has had a fibre connection since it was built, put in by the private sector and that is still the connection that is used. There has to be a contract worked out to hook this building up, first of all to the data centre, and then from there to Hansard, for instance,

which again is another privately supplied route. It is not one that is part of the NorthwesTel route.

How is it that this is a problem when we are already using the private sector for two of the sections in the city?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can reply to the extent that we have been given some explanation from Public Works and Services. Essentially, what they are saying is, because of considerations of security and also considerations of how this fibre-optic network is managed in concert with our wide area network which serves the entire Government of the Northwest Territories, they deemed at the time they were evaluating these RFPs that it was preferable and in the government's best interest to contract what they called a dark fibre option. This means they just contracted for the fibre-optic lines themselves, with the equipment on the ends of the lines being owned by the government and managed by Public Works and Services. They saw it as a better security option and they saw it as a better option for overall management of our wide area network.

Whether it would be possible to patch-in other providers who were managing sub-components of that overall system, technically, it would probably be possible, but not desirable from their standpoint with respect to the overall system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess if that is what Public Works is saying, just the fact that this building is hooked up to the network would call that assessment into question and I would question the advice you are getting from Public Works. Here we have the data travelling from Ministers' offices across the network. It is getting into the system through a private line and the security does not seem to be a problem there. I guess I have to say that it sounds to me like Public Works has made a mistake here, in the advice that they have provided.

Mr. Chairman, in the third bullet there, it says an alternative supplier would be required to supply the service in accordance with the government's preference for fibre only. I had asked the question whether or not another provider could compete, and I know that there is one other provider in town. As I had said, it is a society that has also joined together with six of the ISPs in town, to create a consortium that have fibre in place, so there would be no extra cost. For instance, they are already in the Stuart Hodgson Building, in the buildings downtown, and have a system that has been tested and proven.

Again, in terms of the response to question three, I am afraid I reject all three bullets. I recognize that this was likely provided to the Minister by Public Works, but I do not accept the arguments here. I think that it calls into question the whole assessment for how this contract was awarded.

Mr. Chairman, I also have some other questions. I was wondering if the Minister can tell me what deadline was set for this network to be finished in the RFP?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Member did give me notice of some questions he was going to be asking and this is one of them where we are waiting to get information. It should

be provided to us in a few minutes here. Right now, I do not have that specific detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If other Members do not have any questions on this page, could I ask if it would be possible to defer this item until the Minister has it? He has indicated it will only be a few minutes, so I would hope that we would be able to move on with some of the rest of the bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does anyone else have any questions on this page? I understand the only way we can defer is by motion. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move we defer consideration of Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, systems and communications, \$480,000 in special warrants and \$54,000 not previously authorized.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): The motion is in order. To the motion. All in favour? All those opposed? My apologies, Mr. Dent, we did not have a quorum for your motion. Okay. We now have a quorum in the House if you would like to reintroduce your motion, Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 38-14(3): To Defer Item "System and Communications" Under the Department of Public Works and Services, Capital Investment Expenditures, Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2000-2001

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that under Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, we defer consideration of systems and communications in the amount of \$480,000 in special warrants and \$54,000 not previously authorized.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. We will go on to page 17, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, primary and acute care programs, not previously authorized, \$300,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Mr. Chairman, my understanding is, in previous years there has been an allotment in the business plans identified for this project, for planning and the first phase of construction, so I am surprised that this amount would be identified in a supplementary appropriation. Can we get some explanation on that? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the reason that this \$300,000 is being requested at this time is that because this project was originally a P3, there was no money in the capital acquisition plan. So we do need the \$300,000 at this time to provide funding for various consulting contracts and site preparation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there was an announcement done earlier in the year that approximately \$1.3 million was to be identified for the first phase of this for planning and ordering of equipment, but this

falls far short of that. What is the situation here? Again, my understanding was, in previous documents it was identified in the capital plan. Is the Minister stating when it went from the old way we accounted for capital plans to the tangible capital assets, that they dropped this one?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, there may have been an estimate of \$1.3 million at one point, if we were on schedule with this and so on. At this time, the \$300,000 is what the department indicates that they require this fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Knowing this is for the end of this fiscal year, do you expect any further expenditures in this way, over and above the amount identified here, as they move forward with the project?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, no. To the best information the department has, the \$300,000 is what they will require. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are on page 17, primary acute care programs, not previously authorized, \$300,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$300,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 18, Transportation, capital, investment expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$970,000. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say that the federal government said they were putting some money in for aboriginal employment. I am just wondering, does this government have any money put aside for aboriginal employment? The funds that we are putting in there, are they earmarked for aboriginal employment? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, a lot of our programs include money for training and for support of aboriginal individuals and companies. If the question is, do we have any other free money out there to do this, the answer is no. It is pretty much tied into the programs that we have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just a little bit concerned. A colleague of mine already spoke up about this and I am just bringing up his concern. We are putting money into a specified fund and we are taking money from the Territories, northern money. We are not saying that the

Northerners will get a chance to do any work on this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, certainly, Northerners will get an opportunity to participate in this project and benefit from it. The most recent estimate we have is that out of the total amount of money, the benefits that will go to aboriginal companies and individuals were somewhere between \$2.3 million and \$2.9 million, so there is considerable benefit as a result of this project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you. I have a question regarding these dollars and I wanted to also point out that in the highway strategy, it refers to the Mackenzie Valley winter road and bridges. There is a statement in there that indicates that no dollars would be spent on this project until there is a commitment from federal dollars. However, we got this document a week ago and already in there we had budgeted the sum of \$970,000. I am just curious if it is worked out. I am not sure if the Minister had the foresight that we did not have and knew that it was coming, but I want to ask the Minister if he knew, how long has he known that the federal government had committed the \$3 million plus towards the bridges in that region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I probably knew roughly two months ago that there was interest in this by the federal government. A little over a month ago, the federal Minister gave me a verbal commitment that he would find a way to work this out, and we knew that the money was finally approved on, I think it was Monday when I was told.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are on page 18, highways, not previously authorized, \$970,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized \$970,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go back to page 12. Members should have a copy of the new page that was put out. We will go to Transportation, operation expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$101,000. Total department, \$480,190, not previously authorized. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just a question. On page 12, you have highways, but on page 19, you have two different line items in regard to \$15 million for highways. Then you have \$34 million over here, so I am just wondering exactly, for the whole department, is there \$50 million in the department's budget? There are two separate funds here? I thought there was only \$34 million in the whole pot.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, on page 12, we are dealing with the operations expenditures. On page 18, we are dealing with capital investment expenditures. That is why there is a difference.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. At this time I would like to recognize Earl Jacobson in the gallery. He is a board member for Aurora college, and also chairman of the leadership program in Fort Smith. Welcome to the Assembly. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, in regard to highways, is that contract going to be a sole-source contract or a negotiated contract? Do you have any idea as to how that money is going to be used?

You did mention that there is going to be other parties associated with funding this. Presumably, you have departments putting money into it. Now you are talking about the private sector putting money into it, so how is that going to be let? Is that going to be a public tender or a negotiated contract?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will refer that question to the Minister of Transportation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, that particular question is under consideration at this time by the department. We have not made a decision whether we are going to go sole-source, negotiated, or public tender.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The problem that I have is that there is now a third party who is involved in this. We have the departments and a private oil company. Are they going to have a say in regard to how this is going to be contracted? Through the agreements between the oil company and a community, this may be one of the things that is requested, so it will be part of their socio-economic agreement or compensation agreement they may ask for. Will they have a say in regard to how this money is going to be spent?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that we have the ability to allow anyone else to have a say in how we spend our money. At this present time, I do know that there are negotiations going on between the department and an interested oil firm in how they would contribute towards this project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you talk about contribution to the thing, are we talking strictly contribution in cash or contribution in kind, or are they going to be putting equipment into this activity?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, that is part of the negotiations. We have not settled and they have not decided themselves what exactly they are going to be contributing there. We have not reached any decisions on this at all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you. Has the department been approached to have this as a negotiated contract, say from the community or an aboriginal organization, from Fort Good Hope, for instance, or Colville Lake?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we did receive a request, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister reveal which interested party has approached us for a negotiated contract?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe I can reveal that at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Is there more than one community involved in that request?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, we are getting into an area which I am not very comfortable discussing, and I prefer not to answer the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I for one, support negotiated contracts, but I know for a fact that it has been a bit of a controversial item in this House. I think that it is important that we do come forth with which communities are going to benefit through a negotiated contract, and are we going to meet the requirements that are under those contracts. Again, I ask the Minister, is there any idea of a timeframe when that decision will be made?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I think the decision has to be made very soon in order for this road to go ahead, including whether or not we get our appropriations approved here. Whether or not there is going to be a decision in the next month or so for negotiating a contract, I cannot say. The request would have to go to Cabinet before it can be put into any decisions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: That is a concern I have. If this contract is not going to be let until say February or March, are you going to make a decision or is Cabinet not going to make a decision on this thing until after New Year's to access these funds?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I think the department is prepared to move in a normal process here in order to have all the arrangements made, the contractor to have his equipment in place, in order to have the project go ahead. Obviously, there is not only our timelines to be concerned about, but if the oil and gas industry is taking part in this in any way, they would have concerns that the project goes ahead on time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Could the Minister tell us the actual amount of dollars that are going to be put in this from other third parties? You mentioned the \$95,000 from the different parties yesterday. How much are the oil companies willing to put forth into the maintenance of this road?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Steen has said, the negotiations are underway right now. So we really cannot confirm how much they are putting in until we complete those negotiations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Could the Minister of Finance or Minister of Transportation tell us how much is this government going to be putting into this initiative over and above what is here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, that depends on our success in negotiating with the company, but at this point, we are prepared to put up to \$94,000 in addition to the request here for \$101,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Are we talking \$195,000? The \$100,000 here plus the \$95,000 from the other groups. Are we talking \$195,000 by the departments in this budget item?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. The total amount for building the winter road is \$195,000. This \$101,000 plus the \$94,000 we mentioned yesterday that is coming from other sources. How much we actually have to put in, that is the maximum. The amount we actually have to put in is going to be dependent on our success in negotiating with the oil and gas company. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear the Minister is negotiating. When you try to build something, you try to build it the cheapest way you can. When you negotiate, you try to pay as little amount of money. Now you have identified \$101,000 already and you have already committed yourself. Where is the negotiation in this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we want to have as much contribution from the private sector, the oil and gas company involved, in this one as possible. We have got to have as much as possible. We need to have this amount of money approved at this time in order to prepare for building the winter road. We cannot assume any particular amount as a result of the negotiations. I assure you that we continue to negotiate as thoroughly as we can to save ourselves, as a government, money, and have as much private sector contribution as possible. We are not going to stop because the money is identified here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one final question, if the negotiations fail, will you still build the road? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, yes, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: What is the point of negotiating if you are going to build it anyway?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the objective of negotiating is to reduce the amount of government contribution as much as possible, if we were able. For example, for the company to pay \$50,000, then it would reduce this amount by that and we would lapse some money in this category. If we are not successful in negotiating a contribution up front, but the company wants to use the road, then we might have to look at other ways of negotiating a fee, for example, a toll. However, we do not stop negotiating just because the money is identified here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. I see Mr. Steen was waving. Did you want to pass it on to Mr. Steen?

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Just to help the Members understand the situation a little better, we should keep in mind that there is only one road and right now, it would be kind of a problem if both the oil and gas companies and the Department of Transportation applied for the land use permit. We would have to figure out how we were going to both use that particular route under one land use permit. This is all involved in the negotiations. It is very similar to the situation on the North Slave winter road, the Lupin winter road.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier in the session, I asked the Minister why there was no winter road built into my communities. He said they need justification and it depends on activities. If negotiations failed, the oil company is going to go in. Where are the justification and the activities?

How can you justify a winter road there if there are no activities at all?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the oil companies are already committed to the work. They have already bought into the activities with the federal government. They have to complete the work, so they are intending to do the work. That is not part of the negotiations. The negotiations involve, how do we share a land use permit for that road. The department does have interest in upgrading the route into a winter road. That would involve stream crossings as well as cutting curves down on the winter road to increase visibility. It would be sort of advanced from a cat-train route up to a winter road.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to thank the Minister for making the corrections that we requested. However, this page and this issue still makes me a little bit nervous. Initially when we talked to the Minister, the Minister said it cost roughly \$74,000 a year for a cat-train to go in. We are looking at upping that to \$91,000, roughly a \$20,000 additional cost. Yesterday we found out that we are not talking about \$91,000, or not even \$94,000, we are talking about \$195,000. That is quite a big difference.

I have the same concerns some of my colleagues have raised. In fact, what we are doing here is we are committing now to an annual budget line. It is something that we will be looking at on an annual basis. I know the Minister indicated prior to this that if it does not work, we will go back to the cat-train system and save the \$18,000 to \$20,000. Those numbers are not what we are dealing with anymore. We are dealing with \$195,000. How many years are we committing ourselves to here for putting a road in?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me say I apologize if I confused people with these numbers. That was not done intentionally. In terms of where the money is coming from, just to be clear, the fuel resupply money from Public Works and Services is \$50,000; the transportation assistance program is \$24,000; the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation are putting in \$20,000 to move in housing units; and that makes up \$94,000. Then, on top of that, it is estimated we need \$101,000 more. That is what is asked for in this supplementary, so the total amount is \$195,000, but we are only making a commitment for one year.

The other factor we have to take into consideration, and timing is important in here, is we are negotiating with a company that is committed to doing oil and gas exploration work in that area. Looking at how we handle this thing this year, it makes sense for us to ensure that there is a winter road going in there this year to cover our needs, plus to also continue negotiating with the company, either to pay a share upfront or through some other arrangement, to pay a toll, or whatever it would be, but have some arrangement where we would jointly, as Mr. Steen says, we jointly have one road.

It just would not make a lot of sense for us to have a cat-train go in there and then have the oil and gas company come along

later and make another road. This seems to suit everybody's needs best. If next year there is no exploration activity in that area, then we have to look at a different scenario again and probably look at something to what we had. However, we have to deal with this year by year.

This year is a bit of a unique one, because we do have the company that is doing work in there, and we anticipate being successful in our negotiations, but we cannot count on that yet. If we are successful, and to whatever amount that is, that is what would lapse here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Throughout this session and last session, there has been a number of questions raised to the Minister of Transportation regarding the methodology that is used to determine what winter roads would be built, what improvements would be done to the highway system.

Throughout it, he has maintained that there is only one factor that he takes into consideration, safety. To compound the issue, he has indicated to the Member for North Slave that the winter road in the North Slave is not being paid for by the government. The Department of Transportation is not in the business of developing roads to resources, but this is not a safety issue. In actual fact, we are developing this road to assist a company to access the resources. Where is the standard? We say one thing in the House and then we have another issue that totally goes against the grain.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if it would help the Members, I could give a breakdown here of the \$195,000. The information I have says it is \$80,000 for engineering studies, mechanical brushing, and preliminary grade work to permit public traffic to use the road, and \$115,000 for construction and maintenance. The Member is questioning whether we are building a road for the sake of industry.

The department and the government have an obligation to build roads into communities, as well as to serve the general public. Once we build this road and it is declared a winter road and it becomes part of the highway system, you really cannot limit anybody on that road other than for the purpose of weight or environmental reasons. It is a public road. What we are trying to do here is to negotiate with these users so they contribute to the wear and tear on the road. I am sure the Members know that an ordinary winter road used by light traffic would require way less maintenance than it would if there are heavy trucks in there. We would then have to increase the maintenance.

These are things that we are trying to address here. The raw question of whether we are building roads for the purpose of resources, the answer is yes. We do build roads for the purpose of resource development. That is our mandate, as well as to serve the general public. I have no problem understanding that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it by the Minister's comments that now we do build roads to access resources. However, he has used the explanation that we are obligated. The Department of Transportation is obligated to build roads to communities. If that is the case, is his planning so short-sighted that he has to come to us mid-season, halfway through the year, to put in for the money? Why did he not go through the normal planning route? Why did he not use the normal process?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the department uses certain criteria to justify expenditures of the road. We have no problem as soon as someone can justify an expenditure into a route, we would then be obligated to build it. That is part of our mandate, but you just do not build a road because people ask. There has to be some way of justifying the expenditures. That is what we are doing here. We are justifying the expenditures.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Then I would take it, by the Minister's comments, that we will be building roads to resources. We have an open door policy for all companies that are out there that are interested in extracting resources within the Northwest Territories. It seems, to me, that it is not being done. I would have to ask the Minister how many companies are we dealing with in that same nature? Is it only this company and this instance that we are using for the road to Colville Lake, or are there other negotiations going on for routes in other areas, because we have a lot of activity going on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am only aware of my department negotiating access to Colville Lake winter road.

I am not aware of my department negotiating with anyone else for access to winter roads or for the input to winter roads. I do know that the federal government did tie certain conditions to the millions, the \$3.7 million we will receive from them, in that there has to be partnership sharing. There is a suggestion there that we have to find \$200,000 of input from industry for us to put into that bridge project. That is the only other negotiations that I know of that may take place.

There is talk between my department and the oil and gas industry, for instance in the Beaufort, as to how and who controls winter roads on the river. Things like that we have to talk out with them all the time and whether or not it is going to be cost sharing, we have not decided on that yet. We are always talking with the oil and gas industry, the mining industry, as to how we could cost share if possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I will allow someone who has not asked a question yet to go ahead, and then we can come back.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would sure like to see a copy of this criteria that will justify a winter road or a road be cut into a resource area. From Mr. Handley's comments

yesterday, I think he raised the bar pretty high for that justification to occur. I think he mentioned something about millions or billions of dollars of resources required, or something. That is a request I am making. The question I have is has the route of the winter road been determined already? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe the road into Colville is exactly the same route they were using in the past for the cat-train.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you. There was a Dene/Metis Land Claims settled not too long ago. Who owns the land that the route is on and who owns the lands that the company wants to explore? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I am told by the department that there are three land owners involved. On the Colville Lake side, it is the band on that end. On the Fort Good Hope side, it is the band on that end and in between is Indian Affairs land. There is also Department of Municipal and Community Affairs involved because some of this land is in the municipal boundaries. So whether or not the oil and gas company and whose land they are exploring on, I do not know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I to understand that the monies that we are going to be spending here is for those lands that are within municipal boundaries or is it the whole route that we are paying for? That whole route is going to cost \$194,000, is it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: The \$194,000 would cover the cost of construction and maintenance of the whole route.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Is it the maintenance for the whole season? Part of the \$194,000 I understand is for maintenance also. Does that cover the whole season?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, as far as I know it is the whole season.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have the land owners contributed anything to this process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of the land owners making any contributions, but through the application process we have to apply to, I believe it is the

Mackenzie Valley Water Board Management Board, and through that process the land owners get involved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just looking at our main estimates, in the budget that we approved this spring, there is \$963,000 allocated for the winter road improvements for the Mackenzie Highway. Are we now talking that with this amount here and the \$970,000, that budget is now \$2,129,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure. If the Member will go to page 18, or if he is still dealing on page 12.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Krutko, we are on page 12. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Yes. Under the area of highways, there is \$34 million in the budget. The budget is allocated to all different activities within the budget. We have allocated \$963,000 to the Mackenzie Highway winter road improvements. That is the road in the valley. With these expenditures that are now in front of us for the supplementary, this \$101,000, or is it \$195,000 plus the \$907,000, that means that the budget has increased for the winter road improvement of the Mackenzie Highway, which is now \$2,129,000. Is that what that item is going to read when it comes forth to be approved through the main estimates?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman. The \$963,000 the Member is referring to is the winter road improvements for the Mackenzie Highway. The \$101,000 we are requesting here is not part of that Mackenzie Highway amount. So that would be in addition to that \$963,000 that is in the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, the point I am trying to make is that now with these increases in this supplementary, the budget allocation for one riding has doubled because of these supplementary approvals, and then now we hear that there is going to be engineering costs and what not. As soon as I hear engineering costs, I associate that with a permanent road. I would like to ask again from the Minister of Finance, where will those additional funds come from? Will they be coming out of cuts to other areas, other roads which are presently in the budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to assure the Member first, that it is not coming out of cuts from other budgets. I will let the Minister of Transportation explain what he is doing here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley, Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the question the Member is asking is really not related to this particular road. The \$963,000 the Member is referring to is in fact money to upgrade the Mackenzie Highway route. Some of that is bridge money. Some of it is just improvements on stream crossings, things like that. It is not tied in at all with any activity on the Colville Lake route. The references to the engineering, we are not going to do major engineering work here. We might take the corner off of a bend, or we might straighten out part of the right-of-way so that people could drive it in some degree of safety. That is all the engineering we are planning here at this point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, when you talk of a public winter road system, to me that means that the road has to be recognized under the Highways Act. The Highways Act recognizes all road systems. It recognized the winter road from Inuvik to Aklavik to Tuktoyaktuk to wherever. We pay for that. That is recognized under the Northwest Territories Act. Since this is classified as a public road system, does that fall under the Northwest Territories Act, that winter road systems that we maintain as a government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, we are in the process of applying for a right-of-way for our winter road. We do not have a winter road. We are just using the cat-train trail right now. The applications are before the Mackenzie Valley Water Board at this point and, like I said earlier, it is going to involve three different landlords, so at that point, once we have a right-of-way, we would then declare part of the public winter road system. At this point, it is just a cat train trail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just for the record, the water board that they are dealing with is the Sahtu Land and Water Board. I would like to ask a question of the Minister. Is this road recognized under the Northwest Territories Highways Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I tried to explain to the Member that it is not recognized yet because it is not a road.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I think that is something the department should maybe check into because if we are spending public funds to maintain either a cat-train or a winter road to anywhere, that those roads are usually classified in the Highway Act as winter roads. I know for a fact, since I was involved in the land claims for the Sahtu, that this route was withdrawn, preserved, and protected as a highway route for the Government of the Northwest Territories. On one hand you are telling me it is not, on the other hand, there is an actual route where access was given to this government for a road.

In regard to these engineering studies that you have mentioned, what is the reason for having engineers as part of

this cost effort? Are you going to survey this route? Is that the game plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the question is getting quite technical now and I do not know exactly what engineering the department is considering. In the information they have given me, it is \$80,000 for engineering studies, mechanical brushing, and preliminary grade work to permit public traffic to use the road.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Steen, your microphone was off there. If you want to rephrase that last part.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the information I have as to the type of engineering work that is going to be undertaken is for engineering studies. I do not know exactly what that includes, but it is the mechanical brushing and there is preliminary grade work to permit public traffic to use the road. That is the information I have. Exactly how much of what type of engineering is involved here, I would not know, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you. From what the Minister is saying, it sounds to me that we are in it for the long term, doing these engineering studies and what not. Does the Minister of Finance know what the long-term costs associated with this road are going to be, in regard to the budget of the whole government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I do not know if that is going beyond the scope of this bill or not, asking for long-term figures, but I will give Mr. Handley a chance to comment on that.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, if we were going to stay in this road over the long haul, then the total cost this year of course is the \$195,000. The following year it is estimated at \$301,000. The following year after that, \$191,000, and the following year after that it would revert back to roughly \$90,000 once all the initial work had been done. That is as close an estimate we have, if we were to continue this over the long haul. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Listening to Minister Steen, the Minister did mention that you cannot charge a toll or you cannot tell anyone they cannot travel on a public road. Now, if you build this road, how do you expect to get your costs back from the industry once it is declared a public road? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, my department is negotiating, as I said earlier, with industry as to how they may wish to contribute to the cost of the project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I asked the Minister was, how can you charge a toll after it is built? I know on a couple of occasions that the Minister said he is not aware of what his department is doing, and on another occasion he does know. I wonder, who is running this department? I am not sure we are talking to the right person.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I did not see anybody else answering questions in this House about Transportation for the last six months, so I must be running the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$80,000 is quite a big amount of money for engineering costs. I am just wondering if the department is planning to put an all-weather road in here. The Minister sort of blurted it out a little while ago. I am wondering if their plan is to put an all-weather road in? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, at this point in time we have no plans to put an all-weather road in Colville Lake, and \$80,000 would not go very far on an all-weather road.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, \$80,000 will go a long ways in building a winter road to Snare Lake.

-- Applause

I would just like to ask the Minister, since they are putting a lot of money into Colville Lake because there is industry and activity, can they look at the same thing in other areas because this is a lot of money going into one area? When we became a government, we said that we would be fair to everyone across the North. Looking at this budget, looking at the supplementary, everything that we have been doing in the last few months, there is no fairness. I just want to make that comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Just a comment, so there was no question there. We are on page 12, Transportation, operational expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$101,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$480,190. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to what is going on here, I think this should have been done in the main estimates. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, because the way it looks to me that this will be an ongoing cost, will these amounts be put into the business plan process that is coming up in February? Where will we be dealing with this in the House in the 2001-2002 budget?

I, for one, feel that we have to, from looking at the budget allocations that are there now. We have figures which are way

over and above what was allocated in previous years. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, exactly what assurances we have that we are not going to be back here next year trying to find a system to reinvent the allocation of money, by coming forth by supplementary without using the business plan process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the advice and certainly we can take that back to the Financial Management Board for consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Maybe the Minister could inform the Department of Transportation that they also use the process that is in place and not come forth with a supplementary for these items. I, for one, feel that it is not fair to the other communities that have to depend on the budgets that are in place.

We have seen some cuts in this department for the last number of years. To see this large influx of money now into one particular area is not fair to those other communities that have been asking for winter roads or have been asking for improvement for maintaining the existing system. If we can do it here, what is the use of having a planning process?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Certainly, we will ensure that all departments work through the Financial Management Board processes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Page 12, highways, operations expenditure, total department, \$480,190.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go back to page 16, Public Works & Services, capital, investment expenditures, systems and communications, \$480,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am hoping that the Minister has some answers for some of the questions I have now. I was wondering if you could advise me what was the deadline set out in the RFP for the fibre-optic network to be completed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: I will refer the question to Mr. Voytilla.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information we have been provided indicates that the RFP did not specify a completion date. The proposals all varied in the length of time required to complete the installation. Delays occurred in the awarding of the contract because of some issues with securing the funding source. Installation is currently underway. Some technical problems, which are not uncommon in these types of situations, have delayed installation by about six weeks, but

there were no dates specified in the RFP according to our information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: I know that the RFP mentioned that the network had to be tested and proven. I thought there was a date that this had to be done by in the RFP. Was that not the case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, our information is, of course, testing is required and testing is being done on a circuit by circuit basis as the work is completed. We are not aware of any deadline that was specified in the contract or RFP with respect to any drop-dead date on testing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that it is worth pointing out that there was a functioning fibre-optic network in operation that been tested and proven before the closure date of the RFP. That was by the proponent that was not selected. More than a year ago, there was one up and running to all the buildings, but we chose one that still had to be installed.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that the lowest bid for the supply of cabinets that makes up part of this \$480,000 was rejected because it was faxed. I thought that we allowed faxes on tenders. Is that not the case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA: We cannot confirm whether or not the lowest bid was faxed. We can confirm that in this particular RFP, faxed bids were not accepted. This is something that is at the option of the contract authority who is issuing the RFP and that was a provision of this particular RFP. Whether or not the bid that was attempted to be faxed was the lowest, we have no information in that regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: That is fine, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. On page 16, Public Works and Services, capital, investment expenditures, systems and communications, special warrants, \$480,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Not previously authorized, \$54,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, special warrants, \$480,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Not previously authorized, \$54,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): That concludes the detail. We will go to the bill itself. Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 2000-2001, page 1, clause one.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause two.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause three.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause four.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause five. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: A question on item four in regard to the Financial Administration Act supplementary appropriation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the Committee agree that we go back to clause four?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Go ahead, Mr. Krutko, clause four.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the concern I have is that by using supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, we have to realize that through the Financial Administration Act, we do have some contingencies in place for ensuring we do not see misuse of this for finding a new way to have capital investment put in through a supplementary, and not going through the planning process.

Could the Minister tell me exactly, in the Financial Administration Act, is there a process in place for informing Members and what not, if these capital items are being put forth, or that it could have an effect on other Members' capital issues? I would like to ask the Minister, have you looked at the possibility of tightening up the Financial Administration Act so there is no misuse of supplementaries for capital investments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is not a provision in the Financial Administration Act in itself to ensure that, but there is a policy in place requiring consultation. That is done on a quarterly basis. As well, in the event that the expenditure is over a certain amount, then there is also a policy requiring consultation with the MLA. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. I would caution the Members to not make any allegations about the misuse of supplementaries. We do not know of that. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, there have been instances in the past where funds have been moved from individual ridings to another person's riding with no consultation. That is why they have made attempts to do that and because of that, there have been funds taken out of, say, a capital project, and moved to

another person's riding when that fund was originally allocated to a particular riding.

I would like to state again that there has to be a tightening up of the rules. We have to put some contingencies in place. I think we may not have much of a surplus to play with now. Looking at the possibility of a deficit, where we are looking at cutting \$50 million, there may have to be some contingencies made in this area to ensure that we do not use supplementaries to possibly put us back in debt again because of the way that it has come forth.

Again, I would like to ask the Minister, will he consider bringing forth amendments to the Financial Administration Act in regard to protecting ourselves in regard to a deficit situation by misuse of supplementaries for capital items, so we do not go into the old mode of how we were doing things in the past? We are already starting to see cuts in the system and I, for one, feel we have to ensure we follow policies and regulations that are in place to ensure that does not happen. Will he be considering bringing in or amending the Financial Administration Act or policy to ensure that does not happen?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, what I will do is I will give the Member a copy of the policy and I would be happy to receive any advice he wants to give me once he has had a look at the policy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 6

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$8,623,290.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Part 2, vote 2, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$3,732,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total supplementary appropriation, \$12,355,290. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: In regard to part 2, \$970,000 in transportation, capital investment. In the main estimates that were passed this spring for highways in regard to this item under transportation, winter road improvements, they are receiving \$963,000. Is that amount over and above the \$963,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, yes. The \$970,000 is above the \$963,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding in regard to the \$963,000 is that there is money also in there for the bridge project. Is there an actual amount of money that is going to be used for bridges, plus the \$963,000? There was money moved from the bridge project in regard to the Hay River riding, which was carried over into the Mackenzie winter road improvements, which was to build a bridge on one of the systems. Is that part in parcel, that 2000-2001 budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Member is referring to an amount that has already been approved in the main estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Yes, thank you, Mr. Handley. We are doing the supplementary here, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point I am trying to make is that we have already allocated funds within the main estimates for work on bridges, so we are asking for another \$970,000 additional monies. Are we going to be using those dollars on a project that has already been budgeted?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, as a result of receiving the money from the federal government, we are taking a five year capital plan and moving it forward into a two year plan, so we are spending money on the bridges, that is correct. We are spending \$963,000. Since we are accelerating this program with the federal money, we are doing more work than what we would have done with the \$963,000. Instead of spending \$963,000, we are now spending a total of \$963,000 and \$970,000 for \$1,933,000 on these bridges this year. The federal money has enabled us to accelerate this whole program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the capital acquisition plan for 2002-2003, there were \$2.5 million in the budget. My understanding from the review was that was supposed to be for the bridges, so will that amount now be taken out of the money that has been allocated for 2001-2002, which is something which was planned for 2002-2003?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we have to take the five-year plan and redo it into a two-year plan so all of those amounts in future years will change. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when will we see those amendments to those plans and when will they be coming forth to the House?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: In the main estimates in February. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Will the \$970,000 for the bridges be put out in a public tender or will that be a negotiated contract?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will refer that to the Minister of Transportation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, we have not received the \$970,000 yet, so we cannot make a decision about where we are going to put it and go for a contract or put it to public tender.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like we need to do some planning here. It seems like no one knows what we have a \$970,000 supplementary for, but somebody had to plan to get it into the supplementary. Again, I would like to ask, exactly what is the intention of these dollars expended? Is it to build these bridges, going forth to public tender or will there be a negotiated contract? We had to have planned to get it into the supplementary.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, it is a very hard question to put an answer to because our share of the money is going to be tied in with the federal share. There are certain conditions on the federal share that we have to abide by. How we come to meet all the conditions and still take into consideration the public tender process, we have not decided that yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we are now going to be using federal dollars in regard to the money that has been allocated, my understanding is that those dollars are from Indian Affairs, which clearly state they have to be used for aboriginal economic opportunities for businesses. From that, does that mean that the process will be negotiated contracts,

where aboriginal groups can negotiate a contract with this government for aboriginal employment, aboriginal contracts? Will that be one of the criteria used for this amount of money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the Member is right in referring to conditions to the federal dollar. What the conditions are to the \$970,000 depends on what part of the project the \$970,000 is used in. If there is opportunity for public tender, then we would do that. If we have opportunities for negotiated, if that is the preferred way to do it, then we will go that way as well. We have not decided.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Does the Minister have any idea when that decision will be made?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I am told we have until February to make a decision.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Did the Minister state that he is going to wait until February to make the decision?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: I did not get the question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Steen, I think he wanted clarification if you had mentioned that you can wait until February for a decision for the money. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I think that we would put it in our supplementary because we need it. I do not know how to respond to the Member other than to say that I do not believe the department would put in a request for a supplementary and I would not support it if we could wait. We do have some needs that we have to address immediately and included in that is our ability to meet contributions from the federal government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: How soon will we receive the contribution from the federal government to see if we can use these as matching funds from this government? Are we talking until after the election? Do we wait until the federal Cabinet is appointed? Is there going to be a budget coming forth? How much time are we talking here? Are we talking months here, days, years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we have already negotiated an agreement, so I would expect it is a matter of days or weeks before we receive the money. I do not have a fixed date yet, but it will certainly be within this fiscal year and well in time for us to make plans for the winter road. The

federal government is very much aware of the deadlines we work under. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Krutko touched on what I was already going to say, which is, if you are not going to have the money from the federal government, then you do not need the supplementary funding. Minister Steen said that you have until February to make a decision. If you have that long to make a decision, then I do not understand why they need the money so quickly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think the February deadline is the outside of when we have to get on with this, but we do not have another opportunity to come back here. We need either approval for the money or not. We need to know now, in order to do the planning. We cannot wait. This is a winter road. Winter will not wait. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary appropriation, page 3, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$12,355,290.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Back to page 1, to the preamble.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the Committee agree that Bill 12 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 12 is now ready for third reading. We will move to Bill 18. Is the Minister prepared for opening comments? Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, Supplementary Appropriation No. 5 requests authority for the additional appropriations of \$635,000 for operation and maintenance expenditures. This request is being made to comply with the authorization process for over expenditures of appropriations as stated in the Financial Administration Act. The authorization process required by the FAA is quite technical and complicated.

However, the office of the Auditor General has noted that regardless of whether the process is practical, the government should follow the letter of the law and obtain the necessary authority for over-expenditures. The over-expenditures are largely attributed to the processing of liabilities that were not recorded in the government's accounting records after the fiscal year ended.

At the conclusion of each fiscal year, there is a period of time when the Financial Management Board Secretariat reviews any unrecorded liabilities with departmental staff prior to finalizing the interim financial report and public accounts. The FAA, as

well as generally accepted accounting principles, requires that these liabilities be accrued and charged to the departments appropriation as an expenditure for that fiscal period.

The FAA further requires that if the accruing of a liability causes a department to exceed its appropriation, the amount by which the appropriation is exceeded is an interim appropriation that must be submitted in the form of a supplementary appropriation bill to the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. There is no committee report. Mr. Handley is still joined with Mr. Voytilla and Ms. Delancey. General Comments? Detail? Stand down the Bill? Turn to detail on page 5, Legislative Assembly, operations and maintenance, various, not previously authorized, \$207,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$207,000. T

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Tab 18, Justice, operations and maintenance, not previously authorized, various, \$428,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$428,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Let us go back to Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1999-2000. Bill 18 preamble, stand down preamble, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$635,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total supplementary appropriations, \$635,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): To the preamble?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree that Bill 18 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 18 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witnesses. Since there is no further business for committee of the whole, we will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 20, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001 and Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1999-2000 and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted. Bill 12 and 18 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Ootes seconds the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 2000-2001. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River south that...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Minister Handley, you do not have consent.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: I am sorry. I was in a hurry.

MR. SPEAKER: It is referred to in racing circuits as a false start. The Member is seeking consent to proceed to third reading of Bill 12. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Minister Handley, you may proceed.

Bill 12: Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 2000-2001

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that

Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1999-2000.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. The Minister is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 18. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have consent, Minister Handley, to proceed.

Bill 18: Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 5, 1999-2000

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1999-2000, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 18 has had third reading. The chair recognizes the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland, on a point of order.

Point of Order

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order on the fact that earlier this afternoon during question period, Question 293-14(3), I was questioning the Premier regarding the contract. I quote, Mr. Speaker, from unedited Hansard, and his answer to my response was: "The contract says that she is chief of staff and that she is an executive assistant to the Premier and that is the function." It says that "...where there is a reference to the deputy minister, it should read chief of staff instead of DM." Mr. Speaker, my point of order is he was referring to a document that is not before the House, and as I know the rules, that is not permitted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. At this point, from where I sit, he may or may not have a point of order. I am permitted, as the Speaker, to allow a certain amount of debate on this issue. Does any Member want to speak to this point of order? The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for the Sahtu, Premier Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, during oral questions I believe I had indicated that I was quoting the remarks made by the secretary to Cabinet, Liz Snider, in the remarks she had made earlier to Members of the Legislature in a meeting. I was reading from notes I had made myself on remarks she had made. I was not quoting from a document or from a contract because I have neither in front of me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any further comments on this? The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. Clearly, in the unedited Hansard, the Premier is quoted as saying "the contract says", Mr. Speaker. He did not say,

quoting the principle senior staff/deputy minister to Cabinet sort of thing. He clearly states "the contract says" that she is chief of staff, executive assistant for them, Mr. Speaker, so clearly he is referring to a document that is not before the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Is there any further debate? The Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Just to emphasize if it was not clear then, it should be clear now that I was not quoting from a document. I was quoting from notes that I had made and I was quoting the deputy minister of the Executive or the secretary to Cabinet, Liz Snider, when she had made remarks, and I was quoting the remarks that she had made earlier during this session to Members of the Legislature. So if it is not clear, it should be clear now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this section where the Premier responds to my question, he does not say and I quote, "senior staff said." It is very clear here. It says "...the...". He responds "...the contract says...". He is referring to a specific document, Mr. Speaker, and I think that is very clear. Here in writing, I have raised this issue at the earliest point and, Mr. Speaker, it clearly says "...the contract says...".

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Okay, I guess at some point, we can go back and forth here. I have heard the debate. I will allow the honourable Member for Sahtu one more comment. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ordinarily Members are given transcripts of what is said in the Legislature and we usually take the following morning to add in our corrections and clarifications, so what the Member has, no other Member has in front of him. I am sure there will be a number of corrections made to it in the morning, so he will stand corrected because I know what I said. I had waved the handwritten notes which I was using, as the basis of my comments earlier during question period. So the Hansard will be corrected. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Members. I have heard sufficient debate on the item. I have not had the opportunity to review the Hansard myself and I do believe that I have made a very similar ruling earlier on in the session. However, I am going to reserve judgment on this ruling until I have had a chance to review the debate that has just taken place and what had previously been said in Hansard and I shall report to the House at the earliest convenience.

I understand that Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, could you please attend to and escort the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories into the Chamber?

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Glenna Hansen): You may be seated. As Commissioner

of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills: Bill 2, Write-off of Debts Act, 2000-2001; Bill 3, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2000-2001; Bill 7, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act 2000; Bill 8, Justice Statutes Amendment Act; Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act; Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Adoption Act; Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 3; Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001; Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Act and the Public Service Act; Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1999-2000. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Item 22, Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Wednesday, February 14, 2001:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns To Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn I would like to take the opportunity, as we will not be sitting tomorrow and this is the last opportunity that I will have before

the Christmas season, to wish you all a safe and speedy return to your homes and your families. As well, on behalf of all of the staff, I wish you all the merriest of the Christmas season and wish you a joyous festive season. Again, have a safe one and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Therefore, this House stands adjourned to Wednesday February 14, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

