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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker



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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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, Mr. Roland. Good afternoon, colleagues. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

### ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

#### Minister's Statement 34-14(3): Minister Absent From the House

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Jim Antoine will be absent from the House for the rest of the week to attend a Resource Development Council Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

#### Minister's Statement 35-14(3): Proposed Human Rights Legislation

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, later today, on behalf of the Minister responsible for Justice, I will table a proposed Human Rights Act for the Northwest Territories. Tabling of this draft bill is the latest stage in our consultation with the public. As you no doubt remember, earlier in the fall we released a discussion paper on the proposed act. I am pleased to report that response by concerned groups to this discussion paper has been positive so far.

We are taking a somewhat unusual step in tabling this draft instead of introducing it in the House for first reading, that is because we want the public to review this draft and give us their opinions. This draft will be included in the consultation package that we are preparing now.

The Department of Justice has two goals: to create legislation that meets the needs and expectations of northern people, and to meet national requirements such as rulings by the Supreme Court of Canada. During the rest of this month and into December, the Department of Justice will be preparing further consultation materials that deal with the various interests and concerns people have raised with us so far. The departments staff will also conduct further research into some of the issues associated with this type of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will replace the Fair Practices Act, which has been our human rights law since 1966. The Fair Practices Act is a good law, but over the years human rights legislation has advanced and we have not kept up. Our aim is to build on the best qualities of the Fair Practices Act to create

a law that satisfies people's wishes and meets national requirements.

Once the draft Human Rights Act is tabled, it becomes a public document. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues here and the public to consider this draft and take part in the consultation process, that way, we will create a law that meets our needs and stands the test of time. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

#### Minister's Statement 36-14(3): Older Worker Pilot Project

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you today the details of an exciting new program designed to reintegrate older workers back into the workforce. The Older Worker Pilot Project is a joint effort of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, divisional boards of education and district education authorities in the NWT and Human Resources Development Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the Older Worker Pilot Project was developed to help Canada address the issue of unemployment among workers between the ages of 55 and 64, by creating innovative ways for older workers to acquire new skills, while at the same time making a meaningful contribution to society through participation in the labour force.

In the Northwest Territories, the Older Worker Pilot Project will employ 19 workers between the ages of 55 and 64 in schools in the Deh Cho, Beaufort Delta and South Slave regions, as well as in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, these workers are elders with unique life experience and special language and cultural skills from which young people will benefit. Through interaction with elders employed in the schools, as elders in residence, special needs assistants, literacy mentors and program support assistant trainees, students will acquire knowledge of their traditional values and language. Self-esteem and self-worth in both groups will be enhanced.

Most of the workers hired under the Older Worker Pilot Project will learn on the job under the supervision of the school principal. Together they will decide on specific projects that will allow workers to use their skills effectively, while at the same time providing the greatest benefit to the school.

Mr. Speaker, this unique program will go a long way in addressing the issue of unemployment among older people in NWT communities. These people are untapped sources of knowledge and insight and this program is an opportunity to untap these resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Minister's Statement 37-14(3): Status of Women Council of the NWT**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak to you today about the Status of Women Council of the NWT. Mr. Speaker, the Status of Women Council of the NWT was established in 1990 with a mandate to work towards the political, social and economic equality of all women in the NWT. The council works to achieve its mandate through research, public education, advocacy on behalf of women and assistance to women's groups.

Since its establishment, the council has undertaken an impressive amount of work in the areas of human rights education, wellness, family violence, income and employment, justice, political representation, and child care.

Given the nature of the council's work, Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that many of the projects they have initiated have not achieved overnight success. More often than not, these projects and initiatives have required a number of years of hard work and dedication. Ongoing and consistent efforts by the council and its staff have resulted in many progressive initiatives. These include:

- continuing efforts to raise awareness about FAS/FAE;
- the Women and Children's Healing and Recovery Program, which resulted from the work of the Coalition for New Futures for Northern Women; and
- establishment of Family Violence Awareness Week, which we plan to make an annual event.

Mr. Speaker, there is a common strength that is reiterated throughout the work of the council. It is the strength of partnerships between non-government agencies and government, Mr. Speaker. The Status of Women Council has developed positive, productive working relationships with numerous agencies and they have shown that partnerships do work. We as a government, Mr. Speaker, have been part of this partnership and I am proud that we have been able to move forward with the council on a common agenda and a common purpose.

Mr. Speaker, later today at the appropriate time, I will be tabling the 1999-2000 Annual Report of the Status of Women Council of the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**Minister's Statement 38-14(3): Winter Road to Wekweti**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify the answer I gave during question period on Wednesday, November 8, 2000. The Member for North Slave had asked me, in my capacity as Minister responsible for Transportation, whether the

department intended to build a winter road to Wekweti.

My answer did not clearly separate the important difference between the seasonal public winter roads built and maintained by the Department of Transportation and the short-term resupply road the Department of Public Works and Services uses to deliver government cargo to Wekweti more cost effectively by truck than aircraft.

The Department of Transportation's winter roads are built every year and kept open through the season for use by the general public. The Department of Public Works and Service's resupply road to Wekweti is built strictly for the delivery of freight, with no public commitment that it will remain passable for general traffic or kept open any longer than necessary for the delivery of the shipments involved.

The Department of Transportation has never opened a public winter road for general traffic to Wekweti and, at least in the immediate future, has no plans or budget to build one. A public winter road to Wekweti would be 215 kilometres long and cost an estimated \$450,000 a year.

In the past, when there has been a winter road into the Colomac mine site, the Department of Public Works and Services found it cost-effective to build a temporary resupply road into Wekweti because it provides cheaper transportation for government cargo than an airlift. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Minister's Statement 39-14(3): Persons Award to Mrs. Elizabeth Mackenzie**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, October was Women's History Month and a time when the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case is presented. The Government of Canada established this award in 1979 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Person's Case decision, and to salute the contributions of contemporary women in the advancement of women's equality.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to tell you that Mrs. Elizabeth Mackenzie of Rae has been awarded this prestigious honour. Accompanied by her daughter Alice, Mrs. Mackenzie was presented with the award in Ottawa on October 18<sup>th</sup> by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada.

Mrs. Mackenzie was recognized for her efforts to combine the Dogrib culture and non-aboriginal cultures in the delivery of educational programs in Rae. Mr. Speaker, leaders in the Dogrib region, and indeed throughout the North, have sought and received advice from Mrs. Mackenzie. Her tireless work and her dedication to the mutually respectful merging of cultures has made her a positive role model for women and for all Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Minister's Statement 40-14(3): Restorative Justice Week**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister responsible for Justice, I would like to make a statement on Restorative Justice Week. Mr. Speaker, across Canada and around the world, people are observing Restorative Justice Week. This is an international movement to raise public awareness about the realities of crime, criminal justice and corrections. I would like to take a moment to discuss what that means in the NWT.

The philosophy of the restorative justice movement is to find a more holistic way of responding to the needs of people affected by crime and is inspired by aboriginal traditions. It focuses on having offenders take responsibility for their actions and on helping victims of crime recover.

Over the past few years in the NWT, we have been looking for different ways of responding to crime. For example, we have found that community justice committees are a more effective way of dealing with certain types of cases than the court system. I am pleased to note that the number of community justice committees is growing as more communities choose to get involved in this program.

We are working hard to bring the concepts of healing and restitution into our justice system, whether that means alternative measures for young offenders or bringing elders to our jails to work with inmates. Mr. Speaker, this year's theme for Restorative Justice Week is Harmony and Healing: Broken Wings Take New Flight. It is an opportunity for all of us to think about how to support everyone affected by crime and build stronger communities. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Member's Statement on Adherence to the Hay Job Evaluation System**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the Government of the Northwest Territories has implemented a Hay Job Evaluation System to rate the Government of the Northwest Territories' jobs and all positions in the territorial government with a point system. Mr. Speaker, this system that we have has to be fair and equitable to all our employees to ensure that they have ways of evaluating performance in the job evaluations of our employees. It has to make sure that everybody is treated fairly and is paid for the services they provide to this government as our employees. In order to do that, we have to ensure that we continue to improve the pay scheduling system that we have in place.

I, for one, feel we do have to continue to improve it, but we have to be fair to all our employees. We cannot classify or declassify individuals for sake of promotion. I feel that we have to do an evaluation, especially when we have senior staff in this government whom we move from one position to another by simply giving them a new heading. I think it is important that the Hay Job Evaluation System is there for all employees and it has to be carried out by all employees. It has to be evaluated to ensure that they are being paid fairly, but also for the underpaid

employees that we are not overlooking them in the area of benefits, services, and wage differences.

We have to clearly see if there is a job evaluation system in place for the new positions that have been announced by this government with regard to the chief of staff. I feel it is important that we look at that in conjunction with the position that was previously the executive assistant position. If this position is the same or this person took on more responsibility, how do you classify that position?

We have a system in place to evaluate the individuals and we also have a system to ensure that the job is also evaluated so that other people doing the same work are treated the same, and have the same opportunities to be treated fairly and equitably. All employees of this government have to realize that for the work they do, their performance on behalf of this government, they are paid fairly and equitably and it is distributed up and down the ranks. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Premier questions on this matter later on. Thank you.

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

**Member's Statement on National Addictions Awareness Week**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this being National Addictions Awareness Week, I wanted to lend my support and acknowledge some groups and individuals who are working hard to spread the word and educate people across the Northwest Territories on all the problems associated with addictions. I want to commend the National Women's Association, the Native Women's Association, the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Health and Social Services for their effort to develop the material being issued in the FAS/FAE awareness campaign.

Mr. Speaker, we must do everything we possibly can to help raise the awareness around this very important and harmful issue. Mr. Speaker, I have been very blessed with being one of 13 kids brought up in a family whose mother did not drink or smoke. As a result of that, all 12 of us now are very healthy, the oldest being 78, the youngest being 50.

I have been very blessed with two grandkids from one of my daughters who refused to drink or smoke during her pregnancy. I am enjoying two grandsons who are very strong and healthy for that reason now. My oldest daughter, Michelle, seven-and-a-half months ago found out she was pregnant. Michelle is a very ordinary girl who likes to have a good time. She was a smoker and enjoyed a sociable drink, but since she found out she was pregnant has refused to drink or smoke.

I hope that she and her husband, Brent, are rewarded with a very strong and healthy baby. I want to thank them for doing their part in keeping the family strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

### Member's Statement on Income Support Program

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw attention to an ongoing issue in my region that has not been adequately addressed. This issue is the conflict between the government interpretation of their income support policies and the Dogrib people's definition of what makes up net monthly income.

It is the position of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council that any payment made to individuals or families under the IBA funding is a direct result of the land claims process. As such, according to the Social Assistance Act, this money is exempt from the department's calculations of a person's net monthly income.

The problem that has occurred is that the 1999 treaty payments by the band to income support recipients were clawed back by the GNWT. Therefore, the payment went indirectly from the band to the territorial government. The people who these payments were intended for and through whose land claims have a right to these monies were penalized on the amount of their monthly support. This has been a long outstanding issue and has never been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties involved.

As a result, the Dogrib board and the leaders of the Treaty 11 Council would like to have more input into the design of the Income Support Program. They would like to develop policies that would impact the North Slave region. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister responsible for Education relating to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

### Member's Statement on Benefits of Organized Youth Sporting Events

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend, over 950 kids representing over half of the Northwest Territories communities participated in territorial schools' Spike It volleyball tournament in Yellowknife. Over 12 teams from Fort Smith alone attended. I am especially pleased to recognize this because I believe not enough has been discussed in this House about preventative measures for community wellness.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that individual wellness must go hand-in-hand with economic wellness, otherwise all the economic prosperities we may gain from oil and gas and diamond development will be without any meaning or value.

Mr. Speaker, this week we talked about addictions and we have had government strategies and proposals discussed in this House throughout our past three sessions, but what we do not seem to have is an overall approach, a common thread or focus for preventive efforts. I would like to call on the government to focus more on this important connection.

The point is, Mr. Speaker, there is a strong evidence that boys and girls involved in organized team sports keep healthy and stay out of trouble. This includes eating healthy and laying off cigarettes, drugs and alcohol. Further, it has been found that boys and girls involved in sports have increased self-esteem,

lower drop-out rates, get better grades and are more likely than non-athletes to go on to a four-year college or university.

Mr. Speaker, organized sports such as Spike It, Arctic Winter Games, Aboriginal Games and Super Soccer events clearly demonstrate ways the GNWT can successfully become more involved in promoting health and social wellness. Since there is already the interest and infrastructure, additional support for organized sports is a common sense approach for this government to take, that which will give us value for our money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

### Member's Statement on Chief of Staff Employment Contract

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak on the issue of the contract that I questioned the Premier about yesterday. Mr. Speaker, in my questioning to the Premier he made a number of references to previous work in committees and in this House during the interim budget. Mr. Speaker, there were many questions raised about the position that was being created by this government. In fact, at that time, there was no concern that they would have possibly written a contract that does not fall within the Public Service Act. You went back further to saying it was done previously for a number of Assemblies prior. That just goes to show, Mr. Speaker, that we as the Government of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly have not changed anything. We are continuing to do it the old way.

Mr. Speaker, I have, on the advice of the Premier, made the call to the legal staff to request a viewing of this document. As of this time, I have not been able to have a chance to review that and I am going to wait before I continue with this. I still say that the Premier has the opportunity here to save face and table this document or present it to Members so we can deal with it once and for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

### Member's Statement on Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize the Yellowknife Association for Concerned Citizens for Seniors and the fine work they are doing providing services and support for our elders in Yellowknife. The association, known by its short name of YACCS, leases the land where the old Stanton Hospital used to be. It has three facilities for seniors there and is within my constituency, Mr. Speaker.

Aven Manor is a 29-bed long-term care facility. Aven Court is made up of 24 one-bedroom housing units for seniors who can still live independently. The Baker Community Centre is used for social and recreational activities by seniors and the community of Yellowknife.

YACCS recently released its strategic plan for the next three years. They hope Yellowknifers, including seniors and care providers, will share their thoughts and ideas about the plan. The goal is to build a supportive community for the health of seniors. While they were doing their strategic planning, the YACCS board and staff wanted to build on the past successes and set new goals. YACCS intends to maintain the programs and services they currently provide. They will monitor and assess their performance of the board and operators of their facilities. They will develop and maintain a data base on seniors' demographics and needs to use when planning services for seniors. YACCS will determine the most appropriate way for them to participate in addressing the need for seniors' housing and care for seniors with cognitive impairments.

Mr. Speaker, I am very impressed with the work YACCS is doing and with the results of this strategic planning exercise they have just completed. I would like to congratulate them on this work and to wish them luck in the future. I urge all interested Yellowknifers and others to contact the association to see how they can help with the good work that YACCS is doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

#### **Member's Statement on Fort Smith Society for Disabled Persons**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, as well, would like to speak briefly on the good work that the society for the disabled is doing in Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, the small communities outside of Yellowknife have an even harder task, I believe, of trying to bring resources to bear to improve the quality of life for disabled people. In Fort Smith, this has been a conscious effort for many years and they have won national awards for what they have done in terms of accessibility in public buildings and such for the disabled. Mr. Speaker, the concern is how do we support the people in the small communities? How do we support those societies that often labour in obscurity, unable to get the resources that they need? This is a difficult task. It is a request that requires funding from already scarce resources, but I know in every community there are committed, dedicated people who have devoted their lives to helping the disabled and to making the quality of life better for them.

So I am very happy to hear concerns raised in this House about this issue. We did have a briefing from the Northwest Territories Society for the Disabled. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the very many people in Fort Smith. Sister Sutherland is the most prominent spokesperson in our community who has laboured tirelessly for the disabled and done much work on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, there is not enough money to go around. I do recognize and want to acknowledge the fact that Education, Culture and Employment has given them about \$29,000 for a project under the Community Skills for Work Program, which I think is a good start. That support is much appreciated, but I think we should never forget how hard these folks work for our citizens, for our constituents, for our family and our friends in often relative obscurity with insufficient resources. They

deserve, I believe, all the recognition and support that we can give them as a Legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Merci, Monsieur Miltenberger. Déclarations de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement on Definition of Métis Persons**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to take the opportunity to make some comments on an issue that was raised in this House the other day. My honourable colleague for Thebacha asked a series of questions on November 3, 2000 to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on the need for a standardized definition of Metis. I respect my colleague's right to represent the wishes of his constituents and press the government on this issue.

However, Mr. Speaker, my constituents are concerned that the standardized definition of Metis would jeopardize the emerging relationships between the Metis and the federal and territorial governments in regions other than the South Slave. This is not appropriate.

As aboriginal people, the Metis' main relationship and outstanding issues rest with the federal government. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the definition of a Metis cannot be made without the participation of Metis organizations and the federal government. Indeed some Metis governments are still wrestling with the definition of Metis.

However, this government should not be put in a position to predetermine or prejudice the outcome. I urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to carefully consider their actions in establishing a definition of who is a Metis. A definition that suits the purposes of one claimant group cannot be used to define all of the other Metis claims in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Merci, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

#### **Member's Statement on NWT Highway Strategy: Investing in Roads for People and the Economy**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to talk a bit about the department's new transportation strategy, Investing in Roads for People and the Economy. I have had a chance, since it has been tabled, to go through the document and have a look at the various different sections there. There are things, Mr. Speaker, that I agree with and there are certainly some things that I do not agree with. I would like to point out one of the things that really irks me with this document, Mr. Speaker.

When we get to the action plan, number 6, one of the things we are suggesting is that we pursue additional federal funding for the Mackenzie Highway extension under the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy. It sounds fine, but when we get into the meat of this issue, it is suggested that the development of new roads in the Northwest Territories is an acknowledged federal responsibility. The federal government

also reaps the majority of royalty and tax benefits from developments in the Northwest Territories.

I see where we are going with this, Mr. Speaker, and I agree we want somebody else to pay for the roads, but I think this is backwards logic, and I think that it is important that we argue that we need provincial-like authority in this area. We do not want to say to the feds, "You people want to drag the diamonds out of here, they are your diamonds, you go and build the roads." I worry that is in effect what we are saying, Mr. Speaker. I really think that we have got to say to these people, "You know, we will handle this. We will build the roads when you give us control of these resources. We need the royalties and the tax benefits from these resources for our people here." Both the public government and the aboriginal governments should be the ones controlling these resources. It troubles me when the department has a strategy that suggests, well, that is somebody else's problem, they own the resources anyway.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for Minister Steen about the highway strategy, but I just wanted to raise this point to let him know that I certainly do not accept or appreciate this approach. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Member's Statement on Client Travel to Clearwater Treatment Centre**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement is in line with the Addictions Awareness Week. It is specific to the community of Lutselk'e but, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the issue is relevant in all of our aboriginal communities, in fact all of our culture. Mr. Speaker, some community members in Lutselk'e say they have been denied travel funding to attend treatment facilities in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, they want to attend the Clearwater Treatment Centre, which uses the Dene program and the Denesuline language. For those of you who do not know Denesuline, it is Chipewyan. Many of our people are more fluent in Chipewyan than in English. It seems the policy for medical travel to a treatment facility does not support people who want to attend a healing program promoting their own culture and lifestyle, Mr. Speaker.

With this talk about community wellness, this might be a good starting point. Many community members do not like leaving the community to enter these treatment programs, never mind one that is not culturally relevant, Mr. Speaker. Since most programs are not offered in their community, it would seem that the treatment should at least reflect the cultural values and beliefs of the home community. Sometimes policies do not allow the flexibility to lead and to try to assist people.

These people who want to change their lifestyle habits, and it may have taken them a long time Mr. Speaker, to come to this point in their recovery, I do not think that roadblocks should be put in their way. In the long run, they may save the health care system money if they are getting help now, Mr. Speaker. In the healing journey, people have difficulty expressing themselves. This is compounded by the language barrier. If people can benefit from having a program offered in their language such as the Clearwater program, I do not see how this government can deny that to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member from Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

#### **Member's Statement on Federal Investment in the Winter Road System**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few weeks ago, the Premier went on record as saying that he was very hopeful and I think a bit anxious that he was going to be able to bring back some good news for this Assembly and for the people of the North, on an investment that we are so deserving of and so anxious to get here in the Northwest Territories to help our economy along and to improve our social situation.

We heard a statement yesterday of an investment that Ottawa is going to make in winter road systems up here. So Mr. Speaker, just in the nick of time, the Premier was able to hang onto his job, because that was what he went on record for a few weeks ago, saying that he felt that might be in jeopardy if he was not able to deliver. The announcement from Ottawa is a welcome one. We are going to see from this \$3.7 million about \$6 million in investment in a winter road system, and it is going into the right place and into the right project I believe, Mr. Speaker.

It is indeed modest, as the Premier pointed out in his statement yesterday. There is a frustration I think that we all feel compared with the half-billion dollars that the federal government received from leases that were arranged this past summer. It is also very modest compared to the \$230 million that we would like to see invested in an overall comprehensive strategy to assist us with our growing economy and our very complex social system.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we are in the midst of a federal election and that things are complex, but I do indeed hope that our government will continue its pressure and its action and its lobbying on our colleagues in Ottawa and in the provinces, and I do hope that the candidates that are successful in this federal election are going to stand up and listen up to what is going on in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Déclaration de députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

#### **Member's Statement on Student Financial Assistance Program**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to speak about fairness, in particular the Student Financial Assistance Program, because I believe that the new Student Financial Assistance Program is not fair in its treatment of some people. The program has increased benefits for most students. However, some who were in the system got lost in the shuffle, I believe. When the program changes were announced by the Minister last spring, it was pointed out to the government that the new rules were not fair to Metis students, and, to this government's credit, they found \$500,000 to make the program fair to Metis students.

However, when it is now pointed out that the changes are not fair to some who were promised remissible loans, a promise made in good faith by government employees, the Minister does not choose to act to fix the situation. Mr. Speaker, a fix

here would cost far less than the \$500,000 it cost to fix the program for Metis students. Mr. Speaker, when asked, in fact, how this can be justified, all the Minister had to say, and I quote from page 1706 of unedited Hansard was, "We have not cut anyone off, Mr. Speaker. There is still availability for all students to access repayable loans."

Mr. Speaker, that is shameful, that is the switch that we are talking about that is not fair. Some people were promised that they would have remissible loans, only to have them taken away part way through their programs. Mr. Speaker, just as what they did for Metis people, this government should bring fairness to those who lost benefits with the introduction of the new system. It would cost very little to stand behind the promises made in good faith by employees of this government. I encourage the Minister to take a serious look at this issue and bring some fairness into play. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Return to Question 200-14(3): Ambulance Service on NWT Highways

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to an Oral Question asked by Mr. Delorey on November 3, 2000 regarding ambulance services on Northwest Territories highways. Although there is no lead GNWT department with responsibility for organizing or setting up emergency ambulance services to respond to highway accidents, there are a number of departments that are involved. The Department of Transportation is responsible for establishing the rules of the road, for example, speed limits, and ensuring that the highways are safe to travel on. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has, through its legislation, enabled municipalities to establish ambulance services. The Cities, Towns and Villages Act allows municipalities to pass by-laws concerning ambulance services.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, by agreement with the Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories, have the primary responsibility for responding to emergencies on the public highway system. Depending on the nature of the emergency, the RCMP receive assistance as required from a number of federal, territorial or municipal agencies. Ambulance services are not an insured service under the Medical Care Act. The department does, however, have policies concerning payment of or reimbursement for ambulance services. The Department of Health and Social Services will work with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Transportation to clarify the mandate and responsibility for ambulance services, establish parameters for development of ambulance services, protocols for receiving and dispatching calls and the provision of services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

##### Return to Question 236-14(3): Review of GNWT Summer Student Program

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Bell on November 8,

2000 regarding the review of the Government of the Northwest Territories summer student program. During the summer 2000, corporate human resources coordinated the student working group on student and graduate employment. The students involved with the working group came from a cross-section of government departments and regions. The working group produced a report which included recommendations to improve the student summer employment program. I will be tabling this report later today. The report has been circulated to all departments and it will form the basis for additional discussion on what can be done to improve the government's support for student and graduate hiring. Immediate action has been taken on the recommendations dealing with the development of a web-based student employment site. This work is being undertaken in cooperation with Northward Infonet or NorthWIN. The intention is to enable students to apply for government summer jobs on-line as well as through a more traditional forum. Departments and agencies will then be able to access a complete list of potential student employment through the same web site. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize the grade six and seven class from Weledeh School and their teacher, Jennifer Voytilla. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Colleagues, at this time, I would like to take this opportunity of introducing and welcoming to the gallery the Languages Commissioner for the Northwest Territories, Ms. Fibbie Tatti.

-- Applause

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mot de bienvenue aux visiteurs. Item 6, oral questions. Questions orales. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 278-14(3): Accountability in the Child Welfare System

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services. They relate to the report, It Takes a Community, a report which was prepared by child welfare services in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, this report points out that Northwest Territories child welfare services are functioning precariously close to the edge in the Territories, but that there are no serious impediments for change beyond the one of financial resources. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, the report notes the weak accountability systems in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister advise what has been done to specifically address the accountability issues in the child welfare system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 278-14(3): Accountability in the Child Welfare System**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of initiatives which have been undertaken within the department to respond to the recommendations contained in the report that the Member refers to. Specifically in relation to accountability, there have been a number of things done but one thing I know specifically is there has been a new information system that has been set up. Training is being provided to social workers at this time in order to participate in using this system for keeping a record of the child welfare cases which they are responsible for. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary to Question 278-14(3): Accountability in the Child Welfare System**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe there were about 11 recommendations on training in the report. One in particular had to do with the recommendation developing the comprehensive human resources strategy. Has work begun on such a strategy?

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

**Further Return to Question 278-14(3): Accountability in the Child Welfare System**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

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

**Supplementary to Question 278-14(3): Accountability in the Child Welfare System**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the report also recommended that there be another 22 social workers added in the Northwest Territories. I know that Yellowknife and the Deh Cho region were singled out as especially in need of workers. The Minister has said that she is going to have a review done of the Yellowknife office by the end of November. Since we will not be in session, will she table that report as soon as it is done with the Standing Committee on Social Programs?

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

**Further Return to Question 278-14(3): Accountability in the Child Welfare System**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the people who sat on this panel, who came here and undertook the work of this review for us, has been invited to come back and specifically look at the situation here in Yellowknife to determine where there may be some changes that could be made to help alleviate some of the pressures on the social workers. When that report is available, yes, I would be prepared to share it with the Social Programs committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 278-14(3): Accountability in the Child Welfare System**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has now been six months since the report was provided to the Minister. Can the Minister provide us a date when she will have a comprehensive response to the report ready for provision to either this House or the Standing Committee on Social Programs?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 278-14(3): Accountability in the Child Welfare System**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if I would call it a comprehensive response, but I know there is a response that has been developed within the department to the recommendations contained in this report. If the Standing Committee on Social Programs has not received a copy of that yet, I will undertake to make sure it is made available to them. Thank you.

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

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

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Premier. I was encouraged by his response to my previous oral questions about the review of the summer student program. The Premier indicates that immediate action has been taken. One of the things that I am aware of, and I am sure other Members are now getting calls, is that it is the Christmas season. Students will be on Christmas break and many of them intend to come back to the North and work over the break, some of them hopefully for this government. I wonder if, when we talk about immediate action, this report on the recommendations will be implemented and things will be up and running so that students can apply for Christmas work immediately.

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

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

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was responding to a question about the summer program for students. If he is talking about employing students over the Christmas holidays, I am at a bit of a loss to respond to him. I will have to take the question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**Question 280-14(3): Oil and Gas Office in Inuvik**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, there has been much activity in my end of the Territory. In the Beaufort Delta there is a promise of approximately \$1 billion to be spent over the next five years. We have a lot of companies setting up shop in Inuvik and in the region. I would like to know from the Minister responsible for RWED when his department will set up the oil and gas section in Inuvik? Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 280-14(3): Oil and Gas Office in Inuvik**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to say that we have established an oil and gas position in Inuvik already. As oil and gas activity gets underway, then I expect that there will be more demand on our department. As demand increases, we will increase our staff in that field. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary to Question 280-14(3): Oil and Gas Office in Inuvik**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What he set up is basically the transfer of a position that was existing already in the community, so he has not done anything new. He seems to want to dress this up a little bit. In fact, there will be a lot of work done. Large companies are setting up shop and opening up offices. When is this government going to move forward on a plan to see some increase in that sector instead of having all the oil companies making an extra stop here to visit their staff? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 280-14(3): Oil and Gas Office in Inuvik**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I too, am very pleased that the position was filled by a local person. I think we would all like to fill all of our positions that way if we could. It is true the position was filled by a man who was already working in our department. I am pleased with that.

As I said, we will seriously consider increasing our staff as the work increases. I think we are beginning to see the start of it now. I anticipate there will be a lot more over the next while. As the need develops, then we will keep reviewing and making sure that we are meeting the demand. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary to Question 280-14(3): Oil and Gas Office in Inuvik**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is growing in Yellowknife and there does not seem to be much oil and gas activity in Yellowknife. So why is it that it is growing here and not in the regions it is happening in? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 280-14(3): Oil and Gas Office in Inuvik**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I just wish to clarify that we are not increasing any positions in Yellowknife in the oil and gas area. There will not be an increase. Any increase in positions will be out in the regions. We have three positions this year in the current budget and all three of those are out in the regions. I intend to continue that way unless there is oil and gas found somewhere around Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 280-14(3): Oil and Gas Office in Inuvik**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware there has been some other shifting happening in headquarters to try to cover off this area. Just for the record though, I must agree with the Minister that the individual who filled the position in Inuvik has done great work. In fact, the Minister used his information to give to the committee almost word for word, so I think that is pretty good work.

Mr. Speaker, can he commit to a timeline when this will be reviewed? Will it be reviewed quarterly or annually? Can he commit to something here? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 280-14(3): Oil and Gas Office in Inuvik**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I do not have a specific timeline for reviewing it quarterly or annually or anything like that, but we will certainly be watching what is happening in the Beaufort Delta and all the other areas. We will be monitoring this, I suppose almost continually, in many cases on a weekly basis as work speeds up.

I think most of the work is probably going to happen as long as we have freeze up and we see companies getting in and doing seismic work and other exploration activity. For this year, we will need initially to provide a focus on training and our department is working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to make sure we meet that goal. We need to work more on business development and support the businesses, so we are watching that all the time. With the resources available to us, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to monitor it. We will add resources where we can, but there is no fixed schedule. We will do it as the demand is there and as our resources permit. Thank you.

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

**Question 281-14(3): Human Resource Development Programs for Women**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today goes to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. I would like to pursue the question I could not ask earlier because it was on the order paper for committee of the whole. It has to do with the Human Resource Strategy attached to the non-renewable resource development.

Mr. Speaker, I have already stated this and I will state again that I do believe that it is a good strategy in terms of giving us a picture of what the employment needs are and the amount of jobs that could be created as a result of oil and gas development. It lays out where the unemployed people are and possible trainable people. What was lacking in that strategy is the inclusion of a specific program for women in terms of how to employ women into these positions. I would like to point out to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, that roughly 50 percent of unemployed people are women. They can certainly be trained for those positions, so I wonder if he could advise us as to whether he has any plans for women in these jobs? Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 281-14(3): Human Resource Development Programs for Women**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The programs providing training opportunities, all our programs, are meant for men and women, male and female. One of the core principles of the strategy is, of course, to provide equal opportunities to all individuals. That pertains, as I said, to all territorial government programs. We do have some programs, one in particular, that is specific to women and it is called the Women in Trades and Technology Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 281-14(3): Human Resource Development Programs for Women**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the point I want to make is that the one-size fits-all training program does not work all the time for women. The specific program the Minister mentioned, the Northwest Territories Women in Trades and Technology, tried to have a welding training program just for women and there were no less than 27 inquiries, but the program was halted when they found out that a women-only trade program was somehow problematic.

I want to know, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister would make a commitment to designing a program specifically for women so women could participate in this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 281-14(3): Human Resource Development Programs for Women**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is currently working with the Status of Women

Council on a trades program called Women in Welding. It is a program we are trying to look at again. As well, we distribute material to school students and have promotional materials featuring women. We certainly will always be attempting to ensure that we try to be representative of the population of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 281-14(3): Human Resource Development Programs for Women**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the Minister could commit to not just providing equal opportunities, but to following the government policy? There is a policy, 11.18, that is called Equality of Men and Women in the Northwest Territories. It requires the government to do gender analysis in everything they do, so I wonder if the Minister could commit to being more proactive and more interventionist?

**Further Return to Question 281-14(3): Human Resource Development Programs for Women**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department will undertake to provide a quality service to all of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member from Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Question 282-14(3): Hay Job Evaluation Rating**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. It is in regard to my Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has implemented the Hay Job Evaluation System for rating Government of the Northwest Territories jobs in all positions within the territorial government civil service which is given a point system. So I would like to ask the Premier, could the Premier please advise the House as to the number of points given in the Hay Job Evaluation System for the position of chief of staff?

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

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to refer the question to Minister Handley. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 282-14(3): Hay Job Evaluation Rating**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hay Job Evaluation System was instituted in 1997, I believe. It is a system of providing evaluations of all positions where there is a standard job description. Unfortunately or fortunately, whichever way you look at it, the executive assistant positions in the government and the chief of staff position are positions without standard job descriptions, so there is no way of evaluating them against other positions. Neither of these positions fall within the standard job evaluation process. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 282-14(3): Hay Job Evaluation Rating**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to fairness and equity in other jobs within the government where people are doing similar work in other areas, has the Government of the Northwest Territories looked at these jobs and rated them fairly in regard to the pay, according to their responsibilities, to bring them in line with the Hay Job Evaluation System?

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

**Further Return to Question 282-14(3): Hay Job Evaluation Rating**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are continually looking at all jobs within the government to ensure that all employees have positions that are rated fairly and equitably in terms of what they do and what everyone else is doing. We can look at these jobs but there are a number of jobs, you know, the principal secretary, EAs, chief of staff, a lot of them are unique and depend on the portfolio and the assignments that are given, so they are very difficult to evaluate. It is something that we can look at, particularly as we do any reviews to the Public Service Act and how these jobs are to be classified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 282-14(3): Hay Job Evaluation Rating**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I find it hard to believe that the executive assistant position is not classified in the Hay Job Evaluation System because that is one of the positions that is recognized in the handbook. So I am going to ask the Minister again, why is it that the point system in the Hay Job Evaluation System is not in place for the position of executive assistant? These positions have been there for several years.

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

**Return to Question 282-14(3): Hay Job Evaluation Rating**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, we can only do standard job evaluations where there is a job description that can be compared to other ones. Executive assistants to Ministers' jobs vary greatly depending on the portfolios, depending on the assignments that the Ministers give these individuals, so there is no standard way of being able to evaluate the executive assistants to Ministers. As I said, as we review the Public Service Act, we are certainly open to looking at this. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 282-14(3): Hay Job Evaluation Rating**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I find it awfully hard that the handbook clearly states job evaluation, performance valuation, job evaluation. Those are the criteria that you use to evaluate these people. Again, I would like to ask, has the position of the chief of staff or the executive assistant position been submitted to the Hay Job Evaluation System for evaluation on the job responsibilities, in order that they can be rated on a point system like every other job in this government?

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

**Further Return to Question 282-14(3): Hay Job Evaluation Rating**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, no, the executive assistant to Ministers' positions, the chief of staff position, as I said do not have a standard job description. They are not evaluated through the Hay Job evaluation method. There is nothing to compare their job to. As I mentioned it is unique, depending on which Minister they work for and what their assignments are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 283-14(3): GNWT Income Support Policies**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Education, the Honourable Jake Ootes. In April I wrote the Minister a letter about IBA recipients being penalized in their income support payments. I was told that it is the department's position that the IBA payments made to the people in the Dogrib region are the result of a private contractual arrangement between the Dogrib Treaty 11 and BHP. As such, they are considered as land claim dollars but considered also as an income, so it is deducted from the income payments and the people that were employed benefited from these payments. The people that were unemployed, on income support, were the ones that were losing out on what was rightfully theirs.

To that, I would like to ask the Minister, was the department's position as a result of legal opinion or was it simply the department's interpretation of impact benefit agreements?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

**Return to Question 283-14(3): GNWT Income Support Policies**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government exempts the value of benefits received under the 1927 federal treaty for the purposes of the social assistance program. However, the department's position is that the impact benefit agreements and payments referred to are the result of private contractual arrangements between the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and BHP Diamonds and, as such, they are not considered payments under the 1927 federal

treaty, not exempt under our legislation, Mr. Speaker, so I am informed. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 283-14(3): GNWT Income Support Policies**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not recall any treaty being signed in 1927, so I think the Minister needs to get that straight. In an impact benefit agreement, companies provide monies to aboriginal groups in recognition of the company's impact on a group's traditional homeland. I have no doubt that a group would not receive such money unless they were federally recognized as being the original inhabitants of the land. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the relationship between land claims and why is the relationship between land claims and IBA's recognized by the department's policies?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 283-14(3): GNWT Income Support Policies**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated I have to go with the fact that I am informed under legislation. This is considered income outside of treaty payments and therefore it has to be deducted accordingly. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 283-14(3): GNWT Income Support Policies**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When reviewing the Social Assistance Act, I noted that it was initially written in 1990. At this time, exploration for diamonds was in its initial stages and few land claims were settled. Impact benefit agreements were certainly not a subject of common concern. It is time for the legislation to be updated. As I stated earlier, the Dogrib Treaty 11 and the leaders would like to have more input in how the policies are put in place.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister for Education, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 283-14(3): GNWT Income Support Policies**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have self-government negotiations and issues being discussed between the Dogrib people and the federal government and our government. This could certainly be one of the areas and I understand it may be the subject of some discussions with regard to self-government negotiations.

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

**Supplementary to Question 283-14(3): GNWT Income Support Policies**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if the department is looking at changing the Social Assistance Act, since even the name of it has been changed and it has been ten years since the act has been put in place. Can I ask the Minister when or how soon will they be looking at making amendments to it? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 283-14(3): GNWT Income Support Policies**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That has not been scheduled as of yet, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 284-14(3): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know as politicians and as leaders in our communities that being dependent on a substance is devastating, especially a substance such as alcohol that has far-reaching effects on individuals and families through the generations. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services what her department's policy is on supporting people who want to partake in treatment centres in the Northwest Territories and outside the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 284-14(3): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have some residential treatment facilities in the Northwest Territories, as I have stated in this House before, the Nats'ejee K'eh treatment centre in Hay River. The Hay River reserve has 30 beds and there is also the availability of six beds here in Yellowknife through the program offered at the Salvation Army.

As far as southern placements go, we do also have allocations for communities for southern treatment funding, and as well, there is some money under a federal program for the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program and some of that is allocated to augment southern placement services for First Nations people. There is quite a broad range of services that are available for people who do have alcohol addictions, and I just briefly referred to the specifics of residential treatment, but there certainly are other supports out there as well. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 284-14(3): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister pointed out a couple of areas. What I would like to know is if the department has a specific policy for placement outside of the Northwest Territories? If so, is cultural relevance considered in those policies? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 284-14(3): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department devolves money to community and regional boards specifically for treatment for addictions and it would then be up to those specific communities or regional boards to apply the policy that they would see fit in terms of appropriate placements for constituents who may be applying to partake in treatment. As to whether the department has a specific policy with respect to cultural-specific treatment, we do not have an overlying policy, but we certainly encourage the boards to use their money as effectively as possible. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 284-14(3): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahs, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that answer. It was a good answer, but governments, this government anyway, have supplementary budgets. Do we give enough money, big enough budgets to the regional or community health boards to pay for what is needed in the community, and if not, is there a supplementary budget that these health boards could go after for badly needed dollars to comply with the wishes of the community members? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. I sense that there are two parts to the question. The Minister can choose to answer the one she chooses. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 284-14(3): Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the first part of Mr. Nitah's question is, do we give enough to boards to address these particular needs that he refers to. Probably the answer to that question is, not as much as we would like and probably not as much as needed, but as much as, I suppose, within the restraints of our financial realities here in the North.

Are there funds that boards could access on a supplementary basis if there was a greater need in the community or there was a board that recognized that there was a greater need in the community? Each board is tasked with coming up with a budget and identifying where they need financial resources in terms of health and social services in their communities. That is done on an annual basis. I would suggest that if communities or regions are turning away an unusual amount of people who

are seeking help, that may be a process where that could be identified. Thank you.

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

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be a letter on the Minister's desk first thing Monday morning. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That was a comment more than a question. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 285-14(3): NWT Fur Garment Manufacturers**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in my Member's statement, I made reference to the problems facing the fur garment manufacturing industry, and it was my understanding, up to last year we had three companies operating in the North producing fur garments. As of March of this year, they were all forced to close down. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, why did these companies have to close their doors?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The question is directed to the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 285-14(3): NWT Fur Garment Manufacturers**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure to which companies the Member is referring. I can think of two that have closed their doors. The one in Fort Providence has closed because one of the main partners has decided that she no longer wants to be part of the organization and is selling back her shares. I understand that the Community Betterment Corporation is now working with the department and with the Northwest Territories Development Corporation to try to restructure it and have that one going again. The other one in the Delta is temporarily closed and I am not really familiar with the reasons why that one has closed at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 285-14(3): NWT Fur Garment Manufacturers**

**MR. MCLEOD:** I would like to ask the Minister, as a result of all of these businesses closing at least in the past eight months, how many jobs have we lost between the three companies? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 285-14(3): NWT Fur Garment Manufacturers**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to quickly do an assessment of exactly how many jobs have been lost. I

would suspect that between the three of them, and again not knowing exactly which three he is referring to, we have probably lost somewhere between 10 and 20 direct jobs. In addition to that, we have also lost the indirect employment that these manufacturing plants create. Again, that is very difficult to measure, but I want to assure the House that we do support the fur manufacturing industry and we are doing everything we can in Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and through the Northwest Territories Development Corporation to have a viable fur manufacturing, a value-added industry in the North. There are challenges in doing that, but we are working with the communities that are interested to try and maintain a good quality fur product manufacturing industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary to Question 285-14(3): NWT Fur Garment Manufacturers**

**MR. MCLEOD:** I apologize to the Minister for not being specific. I thought that I had mentioned the communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik and Fort Providence. I would like to ask the Minister then, if he cannot tell me how many jobs were lost. I know, for example, in the community of Fort Providence \$750,000 was spent in that community, training for new machinery, building a whole new facility, a nice building, and then the carpet was pulled from underneath them. Could the Minister tell me, how much money was spent by this government on those three companies prior to shutting them down?

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

**Further Return to Question 285-14(3): NWT Fur Garment Manufacturers**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure over the years how much money has been spent in total supporting these industries and trying to get them going, but I can tell you about the case of Dene Fur Clouds in Fort Providence, as one example. That is the one situation where one of the major supporters decided that she does not want to be part of it anymore so she is selling back her shares. At the same time, we have spent money having a business consultant work with the community to come up with a new plan. There is also a conversion from basically a lot of hand work to doing more machine manufacturing. That is being done jointly with the community. The Northwest Territories Development Corporation is very aware of this and are including this in their considerations as they put together their corporate plan for the upcoming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 285-14(3): NWT Fur Garment Manufacturers**

**MR. MCLEOD:** I believe in this industry, as in others, there is a need for a plan. With some of these companies closing down, it has affected the trappers, and it was an area that we were hoping to tap into. I would like to ask the Minister if he is

planning to develop a long-term strategy for the fur industry over the next couple of years. Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 285-14(3): NWT Fur Garment Manufacturers**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have been working on an overall fur value-added strategy for several years now. We continue to work with it as we look at restructuring the Dene Fur Clouds plant in Fort Providence. We are working closely with the agency that is marketing our fur out of Montreal. We are also working with a Montreal fur designer who has had experience internationally. As I say, we have challenges because there are other countries that manufacture fur products at much lower wage levels and are experienced. They have been doing it for years, they have their own designs, they have their own market. We have to build up that market as well. Yes, we are working on an overall strategy for a value-added fur industry for the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Question 286-14(3): Needs Assessment for Disabled Persons**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services and they are in regard to the issue of the disabled. Could the Minister indicate, now that the needs assessment for the disabled has been done and given to her, what plans the department has in terms of trying to assist the Northwest Territories Society for the Disabled and all the communities with disabled people, to better meet the needs of their constituents? Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 286-14(3): Needs Assessment for Disabled Persons**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is the intent of the department, along with Education, Culture and Employment, to take the Northwest Territories Needs Assessment of Persons with Disabilities survey and to use it as a tool for planning to provide the best services we can, along with all of the various NGOs who are also involved in providing support and services to persons with disabilities. It will be helpful information to us as we try to determine what some of the emerging trends are, the ages of the people, the kinds of disability that we are dealing with throughout the Northwest Territories. We are developing a response to that survey at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you Mrs. Groenewegen. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Question 286-14(3): Needs Assessment for Disabled Persons**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is good to hear that Education will be working with Health. My question to the Minister is, will it also involve the Minister for Seniors for example, who has a large number of his constituents I would venture to say, that possibly have disabilities or needs in that area, so that there is truly an effective coordination between departments as well as housing, which is another issue for the disabled. Could the Minister indicate whether it is going to be a comprehensive, integrated approach with all departments and not just education? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 286-14(3): Needs Assessment for Disabled Persons**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Member raises a very good point. There are a number of departments within the government that deal with persons with disabilities. I mentioned Education, because certainly the schools are one area in which support and assistance is offered, but it does cover a broad spectrum of people and the integrated approach between departments is the most effective way to address these issues, and yes, the social envelope Ministers will be working together as we look at the results of the survey. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Question 286-14(3): Needs Assessment for Disabled Persons**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate as well then, as they are looking at this very complex but critical issue, will they also be looking at the issue of resources, existing resources, and will they be trying to anticipate and budget possibly for new resources? The disabled, at least in Fort Smith, and I think across the Northwest Territories, have been living on fairly fixed budgets as organizations for a long time and they have demands on them like any other organization. Will they be looking at possible resource issues as well? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister for Health and Social services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 286-14(3): Needs Assessment for Disabled Persons**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. The answer to that question is yes, we will. I do not have information in front of me right now to indicate what kind of financial support we do provide to organizations who work with people in the communities who have disabilities, but I will say, that we certainly do appreciate the work of the NGOs. We consider them to be extremely significant partners in the work that needs to be done. The government alone cannot be everywhere, and although we have a lot of front-line workers who are employed by our department, the contribution of the volunteers and the NGOs in the community is extremely important. Yes, that would be part of what we are looking at.

I also want to mention that, in follow up to the needs survey, the Northwest Territories Council for Disabled Persons will also hold a follow up disabilities conference in January 2001. This will bring together people with disabilities, family members, front-line workers and the deliberations at this conference will also assist us, along with the results of the survey, in addressing the need for an action plan and next steps. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. This will be the final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Question 286-14(3): Needs Assessment for Disabled Persons**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary to the Minister then would be the all important question, when it comes to government and strategies in planning and responses, when does the Minister anticipate that there will be a document ready that the public can see, that the Regular Members could see, the social programs that we could see, so that we could put our efforts behind the government working with them to try to meet the needs of the disabled? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 286-14(3): Needs Assessment for Disabled Persons**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department will certainly be looking forward to the input of the Standing Committee on Social Programs and, as to when we will have a plan laid out, Mr. Speaker, I do not know but I will consult with the department on that and get back to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**Question 287-14(3): Conditions on Federal Highways Funding**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. It is referring to a statement he made yesterday in his good news story about the \$3.7 million that the federal government was putting towards infrastructure and our goals laid out in our Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy. It has to do with the stipulations that were put on by the federal government where it states that \$2.3 million of DIAND's contribution be spent on employment of aboriginal workers and contractors. I was wondering, Mr. Speaker, if in saying that, are we saying that we have a lot of business in the Territory that have helped build the Territory to what it is today? Are we saying that if you are not an aboriginal worker that there is no work in this new strategy?

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

**Return to Question 287-14(3): Conditions on Federal Highways Funding**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the money that was approved by the federal government yesterday, as I indicated in my statement, comes from a special program dedicated by Parliament to encourage aboriginal economic development. Part of the requirement for being able to access that particular program money is to ensure that certain criteria are met to ensure that the money that is provided is used in the way that it is expected to do so. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary to Question 287-14(3): Conditions on Federal Highways Funding**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the same address, the Premier mentioned that the territorial government will be putting some \$2 million towards the same efforts. Could the Premier tell me if there are any stipulations put on that \$2 million that the territorial government will be putting into that strategy?

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

**Further Return to Question 287-14(3): Conditions on Federal Highways Funding**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, there are not. It is money that we have allocated to ensure that our winter road are of a certain quality and type maintained as public roads by the Government of the Northwest Territories and there are no requirements for this particular allocation of federal dollars announced yesterday. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary to Question 287-14(3): Conditions on Federal Highways Funding**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, another part of the conditions that were put on there was that \$200,000 would have to be contributed from industry. Do we know what industries are being targeted for that \$200,000?

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

**Further Return to Question 287-14(3): Conditions on Federal Highways Funding**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have communicated that industry, primarily in the oil and gas sector, have a need to see improvements to the winter road system. We have indicated that we think it is probable that they will see some merit in advancing some resources themselves to this objective or this goal. We expect that some of the oil and gas companies operating in the Mackenzie Valley will be providing some assistance. The \$200,000 that was indicated by the federal government is a minimal target. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Final supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary to Question 287-14(3): Conditions on Federal Highways Funding**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every time we turn around these days, we seem to be looking at a shortage of funds in different departments, different programs. When we announced that we are going to spend \$2 million on a strategy for economic development, what insurances can we give that we have \$2 million out of this government to put forward without any reduction in programs and services to our people? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 287-14(3): Conditions on Federal Highways Funding**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought you were being besieged there from the side.

-- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the money that this government has indicated it is committing to this project is money that has already been committed previously. It was part of a five-year commitment that has now been condensed to a two-year commitment. There are no new monies being committed at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. I was not being besieged. That was a normal process. I am showing you that the Speaker is approachable. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**Question 288-14(3): Student Financial Assistance Program Fairness**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment following up on my statement earlier today. Students were promised benefits based on the social assistance program rules at the time it was introduced and many made life choices, some going back to school after more than 20 years away raising families. When the government found out the changes were not fair for Metis, they found the money to make it fair. Will this Minister now find a way to ensure the government lives up to its word to be fair and grandfather students who had their benefits reduced?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

**Return to Question 288-14(3): Student Financial Assistance Program Fairness**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the program that we have designed has been implemented and decisions have been made in regard to the program. We had to make some hard choices and we did that in light of the availability of funds in this particular program, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 288-14(3): Student Financial Assistance Program Fairness**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the government agreed to add the \$500,000 for the Metis and Inuvialuit students, the Minister in the House gave the standing committee credit for having made the recommendation. Since he responded favourably to the committee recommendation at that time and since the committee has recommended grandfathering, will he reconsider his decision now?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 288-14(3): Student Financial Assistance Program Fairness**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** As I stated, Mr. Speaker, we have implemented the redesign and decisions have been made in that regard. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary to Question 288-14(3): Student Financial Assistance Program Fairness**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess that could be shortened down to just saying, no. That would be my estimate. We know that this program would not cost very much. Since it has been raised in this House and has gotten lots of publicity, I have only heard from a couple of students who were affected. Why will this Minister not reconsider and do the right thing when it will not cost this government very much money?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return to Question 288-14(3): Student Financial Assistance Program Fairness**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we are looking at the program in terms of a model developed, and that model is looking fairly accurate as to what we decided. We have to maintain that particular program in the process. Thank you.

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

**Question 289-14(3): Responsibility for New Road Construction**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for Minister Steen and it is about the new highway strategy. I am wondering why we have chosen to take this certain slant on building roads that I discussed in my Member's statement, this approach that the feds own the resources, let us make them be responsible for new roads. Why, Mr. Speaker, is that the approach we are taking? Why are we not saying these are our resources, we are going to build the roads, but the feds better recognize that they are our resources? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**Return to Question 289-14(3): Responsibility for New Road Construction**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has really been following all along an accepted situation where the federal government is responsible for all new road construction. What we are trying to do is encourage them to build some of these all-weather roads in cooperation with the GNWT. We are arguing that since they are the major beneficiaries from the oil and gas activity and the mining activity, that it is to their benefit to construct these all-weather roads. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary to Question 289-14(3): Responsibility for New Road Construction**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have discussed the \$500 million that the federal government took out of the Northwest Territories in oil and gas lease money for exploration this year. Half of that would solve our Non-Renewable Resource Strategy problems. I am wondering if this Minister has ever approached the federal government and said, "Instead of you building the roads, give us the money from the oil and gas leases", Mr. Speaker? Has he ever tried that tactic?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return to Question 289-14(3): Responsibility for New Road Construction**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Speaker, my department has not been the main negotiating department with the federal government on the transfer of resources to the Territories. I believe the Premier and RWED have been more involved in this. However, I believe that these type of arguments have been put forward to the federal government. We do not really have any positive responses to this, neither denials nor responses. In fact, they are in favour of transferring responsibility of resources to this government. It would include then, of course, the benefits. However, they keep telling us, if I understand correctly, that it has to be in cooperation with the aboriginal groups that this is going to be done, the sharing of resources. I do not know if I am responding to the Member's question as you would like, but that is my understanding.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary to Question 289-14(3): Responsibility for New Road Construction**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would argue that he has a key role to play, being the Transportation Minister. He is very involved in the Non-Renewable Resource Strategy. A lot of the keys to that strategy involve transportation. I am wondering if he has lobbied his Cabinet counterparts on that side of the House to take this approach to the federal government and say these are our resources. Give us the money. We will build the roads. We will look after ourselves, but you have got to give us

the money. Has he taken this argument to our Cabinet? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return to Question 289-14(3): Responsibility for New Road Construction**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that if we could go to the federal government and say these are our resources, we would not have to ask them for money. If they are our resources, we would spend the benefits from these resources as we see fit.

At the present time, the federal government is not letting go of the resources and of course they are the ones enjoying the benefits, the royalties and the taxes. Yes, we have tried the argument as such. However, the federal government at this point in time is tying resource sharing with the aboriginals along with us into the same discussion, if you like. In some way, I suppose you could say they are holding up the transfer of resources in that manner.

The fact of the matter is we would be happy to go to the government and say, "These are our resources and therefore just give us the money to build the roads and whatever", but we would already have that money if we had the resources. We would be in the same situation as the Yukon Government, where they have control over their resources so therefore they get to spend the royalties and taxes. We do not have that option right now, but that is what we are working on through the transfer of resources to this government.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. Final Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary to Question 289-14(3): Responsibility for New Road Construction**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. I know we are working on it. We have taken an approach that I would characterize as offering up the carrot. I am wondering when the stick comes out. When do we say enough is enough? We are getting nothing done here. We are getting nothing, Mr. Speaker. It is just beyond me that we can accept this argument. I do not see an incentive for the federal government to just hand over control of these resources without us making a good case and making it politically ugly for them to not do so.

I am wondering when this Minister will take it to our Cabinet to start making it politically ugly for them to not respond to us? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return to Question 289-14(3): Responsibility for New Road Construction**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a Cabinet, we have discussed these types of issues on an ongoing basis. They are raised through many different issues that always surface, that we need control of our resources in order to have the funding necessary to build all-weather roads and that way encourage further development and exploration in our Territory. That is an ongoing thing.

I am sure the other Ministers present are well aware of the Member's question and the avenue that he is suggesting we use to approach the federal government. However, I think this is an approach that has been well used and the road is well paved all the way to the federal government in the ways of options to take over the responsibility, but that is the only paved road that I have seen so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. The time for question period has expired. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? We have a nay. Item 7, written questions. We have a point of order by Mr. Krutko.

**Point of Order**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my point of order is in regard to information in that a question I asked to the Minister responsible for Finance, was there any information available in regard to excluded employees? He mentioned no, there is not. I have information here that says yes, there is. I believe the Minister may have misled us in regard to believing that there is no actual pay range for the executive assistant position. I have that information. That is my point of order.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member has raised a point of order. I shall take this under advisement.

The Chair is unclear at the moment as to what the point of order is. Would the honourable Member please state what the point of order is?

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my point of order is I believe the Minister misled the House when he stated there is no pay range for the classification for the position of the executive assistant. I have that information. Also, in regard to the Executive Excluded Employees Handbook, it is in there. There is also the excluded group pay schedules, it is also in here. That is my point of order, stating that the Minister responsible for Finance misled the House by stating there was no such pay range for the position of the Ministerial executive assistants position.

**MR. SPEAKER:** This is a difficult situation here. I am at a loss as to whether the Member has a point of order.

My ruling is that he does not have a point of order because there was no violation of the rules of the House. There may have been a statement that was made that he does not agree with, but no violation of the rules. I would venture to say that it may be a bit premature to have made a statement such as that, that the Minister is misleading the House. My ruling is that there is no point of order, Mr. Krutko. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS****Written Question 16-14(3): PeopleSoft Project**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question about the PeopleSoft Project. The government may recognize the question, as I have asked it before.

The PeopleSoft Project is consuming significant GNWT resources but does not seem to be meeting the original objectives for a new human resource system. The Minister is asked to provide the following information:

1. Chronology of the history of the PeopleSoft Project from the initial decision to replace GHRS to now.
2. A list of GNWT staff who have been involved with the project from its inception including the length of time they have been working on the project.
3. A list of all contracts and consultants hired for this project from its inception, including the place of origin and the total cost for each one.
4. A detailed list of all costs over \$10,000 associated with the project from its inception.
5. A comparison of the original project cost estimates and schedule to the actual cost and schedule to date.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Merci, Monsieur Bell. Questionnes ecrites. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to the opening address. 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 honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS****Tabled Document 77-14(3): Proposed Human Rights Act**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two items for tabling today. First I would like to table the following document entitled "Proposed Human Rights Act."

**Tabled Document 78-14(3): Report of the Student Working Group on Student and Graduate Employment**

The second item, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following document entitled Report of the Student Working Group on Student and Graduate Employment. This report was prepared by northern students during the summer of 2000 and will be used as part of the effort of this government to better support student and graduate hiring. Thank you. This is further to my Return to Oral Question 236-14(3). Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. I would just like to ask the Members to abide by the rules when it comes to tabling of documents. All we need is the title of the document and not too much detail. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Tabled Document 79-14(3): Status of Women Council of the NWT Annual Report 1999-2000**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Status of Women Council of the NWT Annual Report, 1999-2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Groenewegen. Item 13, tabling of documents.

**Tabled Document 80-14(3): Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act Actuarial Report as of April 1, 2000**

In accordance with section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act, I wish to table the actuarial report for the fund as of April 1, 2000.

**Tabled Document 81-14(3): Legislative Assembly Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act Actuarial Report as of April 1, 2000**

Also in accordance with the provisions of the Legislative Assembly Supplementary Retiring Allowance Act, I wish to table the actuarial report for the fund as of April 1, 2000.

**Tabled Document 82-14(3): Pension Administration Report as of March 31, 2000**

I would also like to table in accordance with section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowance Act, the Pension Administration Report as of March 31, 2000.

**Tabled Document 83-14(3): Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act: Financial Statements, Year Ended March 31, 2000**

In accordance with section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act, I wish to table the financial statements in English and in French for the Retiring Allowance Fund for the fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2000.

**Tabled Document 84-14(3): Amended Board of Management Policies 1.14 and 2.05**

In accordance with section 42 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table amended Board of Management policies 1.14 and 2.05 as amended.

Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I have three items I would like to table.

**Tabled Document 85-14(3): Excluded Employees' Handbook, Government of the NWT, July 1999**

First, the Excluded Employees' Handbook, Government of the Northwest Territories, July 1999.

The Ministerial Administrative Procedures, section 10, titled Ministerial executive assistants, appendix A, 1999-2000, excluded employees, pay range 18, step 1: \$60,546, step 2: \$62,107, step 3: \$63,706, step 4: \$65,325, step 5: \$67,000...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Krutko, you just have to give the title of the document you are tabling. Thank you. Just the title, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I wanted to make sure the Minister did not miss the information.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am sure the Minister will be aware of it. Just the title, Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Okay. I will do it again so the Minister responsible for Finance is in the record.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Just the title, please. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Tabled Document 86-14(3): Ministerial Administrative Procedures, Section 10: Ministerial Executive Assistants**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the second document is Ministerial Administrative Procedures, Section 10, Minister's executive assistants, appendix A.

**Tabled Document 87-14(3): UNW Excluded Employees Pay Schedule, 1999-2000**

The third document is excluded employees' pay schedule 1999-2000.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 12-14(2). The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**ITEM 16: MOTIONS**

**Motion 12-14(3): Establishment of a Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this motion deals with the establishment of a special committee to review the Official Languages Act. It reads:

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly enacted the Official Languages Act in 1984 and amended it in 1986 and 1990;

AND WHEREAS the official languages of equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Section 29 of the Official Languages Act requires that the Legislative Assembly or a committee established by it shall review the provisions and operation of the act at the session next following December 31, 2000;

AND WHEREAS a mandatory ten-year review shall include an examination of the administration and implementation of the act, the effectiveness of its provisions, the achievement of the objectives stated in its preamble and may include recommendations for changes to the act;

AND WHEREAS the Languages Commissioner shall provide all reasonable assistance to the Legislative Assembly or a committee established to review the act;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly wishes to begin the review of the Official Languages Act;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Legislative Assembly hereby establish a special committee to be named the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act;

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

- The Honourable Mr. Allen, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes;
- Mr. Bell, the Member for Yellowknife South;
- Mr. Krutko, the Member for Mackenzie Delta;
- Mr. McLeod, the Member for Deh Cho; and
- Mr. Nitah, the Member for Tu Nedhe;

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

- The Honourable Mr. Jim Antoine, the Member for Nahendeh;
- Ms. Lee, the Member for Range Lake;
- Mr. Miltenberger, the Member for Thebacha;

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Nitah, before I rule on the motion, the seconder is not present. Therefore, do you have another seconder for this motion?

**MR. NITAH:** Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Mr. Braden has agreed to second the motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Great Slave is the seconder, Mr. Braden. The motion is now in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to support the motion to establish a special committee to review the Official Languages Act of the Northwest Territories. As we know, the Northwest Territories has eight official languages, Mr. Speaker, and the government places high priority on all of these languages. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has direct responsibility for official languages and has done so since 1992 when the amalgamation of various departments, including Culture and Communications, were brought into one department and brought the Language Bureau within the department.

More recently in 1997, following the dissolution of the official languages unit of the Department of Executive, responsibilities for the official languages policy and guidelines were delegated to the Minister of Culture and Employment.

Currently, within Education, Culture and Employment, we have a broad range of programs and services in support of the North's languages. We support the schools to develop and

deliver aboriginal and French language programs. We negotiate and administer funding agreements with the federal government to support the use of all official languages in the schools and in many other situations. We have developed a GNWT-wide strategy to support the aboriginal languages here in the Territories and we are coordinating the development of the GNWT-wide implementation plans to ensure that the obligations of the official languages policies and guidelines are being met.

From this broad perspective, Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there are many issues confronting languages in the Northwest Territories that are contributing to the decline of those languages. We are no longer in an era when we, as government, feel that we must call all the shots. Many of our programs and services have been reconfigured in recent years from being directive to being supportive of community-based initiatives and establishing a special committee to review the Official Languages Act of the Northwest Territories will provide a forum for the voices of the communities, as well as government departments, to be heard. I have spoken to representatives of some of the language communities and I have previously given a commitment that my department will support this process to the fullest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. To the motion. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand we do not have a Chipewyan interpreter in the House today, but I would like to say a few words in my language just to acknowledge this new endeavour we have undertaken. If I could have the House's indulgence, I will continue.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, colleagues. (Translation not available) In short, Mr. Speaker, I just pointed out that we were undertaking a review of the Official Languages Act and I pointed out the Members who will be sitting on that. I encourage people from the French, Aboriginal, and English language communities to approach this committee and suggest ways of how we can review this act. With that, I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Motion 13-14(3), Establishment of a Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government on the Sunset Clause, Mr. Krutko. The mover of the motion is not in the House, so the motion will be dropped from the order paper and can be reintroduced at a later date. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 12: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** 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 first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

##### 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 first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 18 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 12: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** 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 second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Is the House ready for question?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

##### 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 second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Accordingly, Bill 18 has had second

reading and the bill is referred to committee of the whole. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**Bill 14: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Student Financial Assistance Act to provide that an applicant may request a review of a decision respecting a loan or a grant. The Student Financial Assistance Appeal Board is established and applicants may appeal decisions that have been reviewed to the board. The regulation making powers respecting the amount of student financial assistance is broadened and the regulation making power expressly contemplating the provision of an affirmative action program for persons with disabilities is added. References to the office of secretary are removed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 14 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a standing committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters; Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001, and Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1999-2000, with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I will call the committee to order. We have two issues to discuss today; Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1 and Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5. I suggest that we start with Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1. What is the wish of the committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We will take a short break and come back and review Bill 12.

-- Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I would like to call the committee to order. We are reviewing Bill 12. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he has any opening comments?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation, No. 1 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$8,623,290 for operations expenditures and \$3,732,000 for capital investment expenditures.

These requirements are within the estimated supplementary reserves established in the budget.

The operations supplementary appropriation requirements include the following major items:

1. \$3.7 million for the Department of Health and Social Services to provide funding for the one-time start-up costs and pro-rated annual operating costs of moving to a primary care health services delivery model in Yellowknife, including: assuming the leases for four medical clinics; purchasing the assets of these clinics; implementing new physician contracts; and funding for additional support and administrative staff at the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board and the four clinics. This expenditure will be financed this year by a draw down from the Canada Health and Social Transfer Trust.
2. \$552,000 to fund a portion of the Stanton Regional Hospital Board's 1999-2000 operating deficit. The Department of Health and Social Services is still working with the Stanton board and three other health and social services boards to review the reasons for the operating deficits and to develop mutually acceptable deficit recovery plans.
3. \$1.1 million for the Department of Justice to fund the budget shortfall in corrections resulting from lower than anticipated revenue recovery from the Government of the Nunavut for the housing of Nunavut offenders in Northwest Territories correctional facilities. The number of Nunavut inmates continues to be substantially lower than originally forecast.
4. \$500,000 in contributing funding to assist the Aboriginal Pipeline Group to develop a business plan and begin work on negotiating proposals and documents. This item was identified as a priority for strategic investment in the government's Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy. The Government of Canada agreed to provide an additional \$379,000 to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group.

The authorization for capital investments include:

1. \$300,000 for site preparation and other preparatory work for the Inuvik hospital project; and,
2. \$1 million for the Department of Transportation to accelerate the bridge-building program on the Mackenzie Valley winter road. This item was also identified as an investment priority in the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy and we have received a commitment from the federal government to provide \$3.7 million over the next two years. In the meantime, funding is needed to ensure the design work, environmental permits and contract procurement is in place prior to construction during the upcoming winter season.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. There is no committee report on this supplementary appropriation. Would the Minister like to call any witnesses?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would.

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

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments? Detail? We will stand down the bill and go to detail. Under tab 12, page 5, finance operation expenditures, treasury, not previously authorized, \$28,000 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total department, negative \$20,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 6, Municipal and Community Affairs, operations, expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$60,000 negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Emergency services, not previously authorized, \$152,600.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Regional operations, special warrants, \$962,000. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. I have a question about the detail here with regard to the debt recovery plan for the Hamlet of Rae-Edzo. I am wondering if the Minister can again give me information as to how much of this \$405,000 is to support recovery of the debt and how much is being spent to ensure that it does not happen again?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, \$320,000 is to go towards the debt, \$85,000 is to go towards the debt recovery plan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. And the total accumulated debt at this time for the hamlet?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, it is \$454,000 as of April 1, 2000.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. Would the Minister describe for us exactly how the \$454,000 debt came to be? What is the cause of this debt?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I do not have that kind of detail of exactly how they accumulated the debt. My understanding is that there were some internal problems with some of their officials and the responsible parties were not getting all of the information that they needed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. We had some internal staffing problems and I am wondering how this slips through MACA's accountability framework. I assume they have something set up to ensure that municipalities toe-the-line and are accountable and responsible. I am wondering how you could end up \$450,000 in debt before anyone seemed to notice what was going on.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, this debt developed over a period of time and as of March 31, 1998, they had a \$214,000 debt. It recovered a bit and at March 31, 1999, it was down to \$52,000 and then between March 1999 and March 2000, it jumped back up to \$383,000. The mayor and council, it appears, did not grasp the severity of their financial situation until December of 1999 as a result of getting misleading information, as I mentioned, from some of their senior people working in the hamlet office. I assume that MACA as well was not receiving any better information than were the mayor and council. Both MACA and the mayor and council have to depend on the information the officials in the hamlet office are providing. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Well then, I think this speaks for the need for frequent auditing, if this can go on for a few years with internal officials, as the Minister suggests, not providing adequate or correct information to the departmental staff and to the council. I am amazed that no auditing takes place to ensure that this information is accurate. As the Minister explains it, it would seem that one person not paying attention to the rules can go for years at a time before their leadership or their management abilities are even questioned. Is this the case? Can we go years without auditing?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, MACA are provided with audited financial statements annually, so while they had a debt over a period of years, it was not felt to be an unmanageable situation until the 1999-2000 year where it jumped up to \$338,000. There are other situations where hamlets may run deficits, but while MACA will be monitoring that mainly through the audited statements they receive, they do not step in until it gets to the point where it simply is not manageable. They are continually monitoring it and watching what is happening. In this case, unfortunately, you had a senior officer employed by the hamlet who just was not providing accurate information. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. How many other municipalities currently are in debt? Could the Minister please give us those municipalities and the amounts?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the following communities have reported accumulated deficits for the year ending March 31, 2000. Those communities are Fort Good Hope with \$190,000 deficit at that point; Fort Simpson, \$642,817; and Fort McPherson, \$55,382. Those three communities all reported accumulated deficits for the year ending March 31, 2000. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. In our government's opinion, how many of those are considered deemed to be unmanageable situations?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, that is a question that I would like to refer to the Minister of MACA because I do not know which ones are manageable and to what extent MACA would determine to be unmanageable.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you Mr. Handley. Mr. Handley has referred that to the Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is difficult to analyze each one, as each community is a little different and we feel that we are on the right track to eradicating some of the financial problems of those specific communities. We now have action plans put in place to try to resolve the debt problems of each municipality and I feel that within the time restraints applied to the deficit problems that we will be able to, at least, address those fairly quickly. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** When we speak of action plans in place, would it be appropriate to assume that the action plans would be similar to the action plan for Rae-Edzo, which is to come back to the House for money? Is that an action plan to deal with the debt that we can expect to see?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley. Okay, the Minister is referring it to Mr. Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, our action plan really should address several key areas. One is that we are preparing a debt recovery plan. First of all, that is the number one objective. Secondly, I believe that we are looking at implementing expense reduction plans. We are also looking at developing some internal financial workings, so that we can deal with our financial situations. We have a number of developments going on as it applies from community to community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. I hope the Minister will forgive me for being nervous when I hear the government talk about debt

recovery plans. Clearly, the debt recovery plan for Rae-Edzo involves dealing with a \$454,000 debt and we are doing that by spending \$405,000 in the supplementary appropriation. I do not know if that is a debt recovery plan. I think that is a bail out, and I am nervous about what kind of message that this sends to our municipalities. If the message is, we will bail you out, they are all listening. I would assume that if they are paying any attention to what is going on in this House, Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson, and Fort McPherson, will be coming forward for requests to have these debts written off, and if we are going to bail out Rae-Edzo, certainly we are going to bail out everybody else.

I am wondering if Mr. Handley can speak to this. How do we make the decision that one situation is manageable and another is unmanageable? Are we talking about internal personnel and whether or not they were qualified? This is a judgement call I guess, but I am certainly concerned about the message it sends. We have also spent some money in helping the hamlet hire a new SAO, I understand, and recruit a new SAO. Is this typical standard procedure? Do we do this as SAOs leave other communities? Do we come outside their block-funding to provide additional funding, to hire and recruit staff? I do not know, but I would like to hear the Minister speak to it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, just to give you an example of how Municipal and Community Affairs handles these situations. In Fort Simpson, as of the end of March, Fort Simpson reported an accumulated deficit of over \$600,000. Municipal and Community Affairs' response to that was in June, Municipal and Community Affairs prepared a detailed review of financial concerns for the council and offered assistance in developing a revised budget and operating plan.

In August, Municipal and Community Affairs requested a revised budget and operating plan that reflected the deficit recovery. In September, the village requested Municipal and Community Affairs' assistance to develop the revised budget and so on. Work is scheduled to commence on October 25 and 26 and so on, so I am not sure what has happened since. Municipal and Community Affairs does follow through in any of these situations where they find they are in trouble.

In the case of Fort McPherson, when the accumulated deficit of \$55,382 was reported on March 31<sup>st</sup>, there was an initial meeting between Municipal and Community Affairs and the council. I think that happened in early October. Council has since asked to review the matter with their administrator prior to responding to Municipal and Community Affairs' offer of assistance to develop a revised budget and operating plan. In each of these cases, it is not just a matter of picking up the deficit and bringing it back to the government. Municipal and Community Affairs does work closely with them to revise their budgets and develop an operating plan that is going to help them recover from the debt situation that they find themselves in.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I too have concerns and, no offence to Rae-Edzo, I wish them all the best, I think that we have to assist communities wherever. I think that one of the

problems that we are running into is that the budgets that are being given to the communities have been underestimated and the costs associated with operating is different facilities in our communities and maintaining the infrastructure they have, and the dollars we are giving them is not sufficient. I think that is one of the reasons that we are starting to see municipalities coming forth, and I think it is important that this government plays a more active role in regard to responding and assisting communities, and ensuring that we also are accountable as a government to ensure that they are having the resources and having the resource people in place to carry out those responsibilities.

I know that the Minister mentioned Fort McPherson, but he had also mentioned that this is March 31<sup>st</sup>. I spoke to the SAO in McPherson yesterday and a number I got was \$120,000 as of yesterday, and we still have six months left in this year to go through. I am just wondering from the Minister, you mentioned that there are initiatives in place, but I believe that a lot of those problems that we are seeing in these communities are because of not having adequate resources needed to carry out these activities. I would like to ask the Minister, exactly what is the process to ensure that communities do have the ability to find ways of receiving funds for debt recovery and also ways of writing off some of that debt if it does not balance out with the actual dollars that they are getting for the actual costs associated with carrying out those responsibilities, it is more than what we are giving them.

As a government we have a responsibility to ensure that the money we are giving them is adequate. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance, exactly what is his department doing to ensure that we are ensuring communities have adequate resources to carry out their responsibilities?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, yes, I think there are two sides to this and one, of course, is Municipal and Community Affairs responsibility with the sanction of the Financial Management Board to work with these communities to ensure that they are managing their revenues from our government responsibly. Municipal and Community Affairs does that. As they find communities are getting themselves into accumulated deficit situations, they work with them on revising the budget, they do recovery plans with them and revised operating plans and so on. They work with them on that side.

One of the first issues that we ran into as a new government, almost a year ago now, was the question of whether or not the financing to municipalities was adequate. We have been looking at that one and I can assure the Member that we take that situation seriously and we will continue to look at how we can improve that side as well. If the money is not adequate, then we have to do something there. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister stated the question about monies are not adequate. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the process to ensure communities can receive the resources that they need to make sure that the dollars are adequate? Do they come forth through a supplementary appropriation to do that?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, Municipal and Community Affairs are working on a new municipal financing arrangement and hopefully we can see some developments on that side.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Could the Minister tell us if Municipal and Community Affairs is going to be coming forth to assist those other communities he mentioned through this process, to ensure that they have a way of receiving supplementaries where they are able to have that debt recovery, and also that they are able to write-off some of their debt through a supplementary appropriation? Does the Minister know if the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs is going to be doing that?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, Municipal and Community Affairs is working with the other three communities to help them to manage their way out of their accumulated deficit situation. They are working with them on revised budgets. They are working with them on revised operating plans. I assume that if those efforts are successful, then there is no need to bring the circumstance back to the government for additional money to bail them out. Our first effort is to help the municipality to work their way out of this situation. Most municipalities, if not all of them, want to do it that way. We would only step in if everything else fails. There is not much choice. If the choice is either we step in and help as we did in Rae-Edzo or else we send in an administrator, this is a last resort that we ever want.

In terms of the financing arrangement that Municipal and Community Affairs is working on, that is an arrangement that will look at financing and make sure that it is adequate from here on. It is not a financing formula to help get them out of their deficit. It is to make sure that they have enough money from here on. Hopefully Municipal and Community Affairs is successful in their efforts in working with the communities and they do not have to bring it back here. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fort Simpson, I know for a fact, has been receiving infrastructure funding for the last number of years. That was the excuse that we heard in this House that the reason they were getting it was because they were having a deficit situation. This goes back four or five years. I would like to ask the Minister, if you are saying that this is to help get them back on their feet, why is it that we are saying these communities are still in debt knowing that they had a debt problem to begin with?

Something must not be right here if they continue to be in debt to the range of almost \$650,000. We have given them millions of dollars through infrastructure funding to assist them with capital projects and what not. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance, exactly what is your department doing to review these situations so they do not go on for five or six

years? We continue to see these communities getting deeper and deeper in debt and the government is not responding to them when they are calling for help. McPherson is calling for help and I do not see much help coming at this time.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Municipal and Community Affairs are working on a new municipal financing arrangement and I think that is the relief for any communities who are not getting a fair arrangement up to now. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** I asked a question to the Minister. I do not believe that I got an answer. I asked if he is aware of the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs coming forth requesting any more supplementary dollars to assist communities getting out of their debt? Is he aware, or has he received any requests from the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs to assist communities with their debt problems?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any. I am sure that the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs is here. It depends on the analysis of each of these situations, and how severe they are, whether the efforts by Municipal and Community Affairs are working, so I do not think that he is going to jump quickly to come here. He will, through his department, work it through the normal channels of helping the community to work their way out of their deficit situation. If that is impossible, then, as I say, there is not a lot of alternative. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you. A final question. We talk about fairness in this government and being fair to all people, communities and what not, so I just want to ask the Minister responsible for Finance, is that taken into the picture in regard to when you review what is acceptable and what is not for a supplementary?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Certainly, Mr. Chairman. We always try to be fair to all communities. There is no effort to do anything else. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thanks, Mr. Chairman. My colleagues have covered off a lot of the bases that I was concerned with on this issue as well. There is the aspect that I would like to underline on accountability. We are in an age, politically and economically, where the demands from constituents and the systems that are around the Auditor General. We are living in multitudes of fishbowls and everybody wants to make sure that they can see everything that is being done and that there are

checks and balances that will make sure that if and when problems do occur, and let us recognize that they will. That the issue is not so much why did this happen, but it is how are we managing our way through it.

The particular case that we have here where \$405,000 is being requested against the total debt of \$450,000 approximately is quite a stretch for me, Mr. Chairman. We are going to use public money that is in pretty short supply around here to satisfy arguably 85 or 90 percent of a community's debt problem. That, to me, does not really indicate that the department is looking hard enough internally to find other existing resources, or that the community has been worked with to find out what kind of resources it might bring into play. We are really going a very long, long way to restore the things in the hamlet and I think that it is just pushing it a bit too much to take that much of the public purse to satisfy this problem.

With three other communities also having difficulty along with Rae, that is about \$1.2 million in debt problems the communities are having, and Mr. Bell pointed out very clearly what's going to be the consequence if one person gets it or another and another is in the wings.

Mr. Handley and Mr. Allen have tried to demonstrate that there is a new regime in place, that there are new and effective mechanisms to turn this around and make sure it does not happen. I am optimistic that these will work, but I think the proof is going to be in reports that we get six months or a year from now on how these communities are doing and whether they are turning a corner.

If I have a further question to add to the discussion, Mr. Chairman, it would be, can the Minister tell us if a \$400,000 recovery plan of public funds is really realistic given that the total debt is \$450,000? Are we not going too far? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the amount that goes toward the debt is \$320,000, not \$400,000. We are helping them with \$320,000. They still have \$130,000 deficit that they have to work their way out of, roughly \$130,000. In addition to that, there is as I mentioned before, \$85,000 that goes toward the expertise and so on to have a debt recovery plan. In our view, this is a reasonable amount of debt for the community to be able to handle without driving them back under again. Again, if we leave it beyond their means, it is not going to resolve the problem. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Okay, Mr. Chairman, that helps clarify things a bit more. The community is shouldering \$130,000 and this is part of the overall plan. Across the other communities in the Northwest Territories, I guess I would like to find out to what extent say, the Association of Municipalities or other civic input has gone into a monitoring system. Have you got something that has been built, along with the other municipalities, to see if it is indeed something everyone else in the Northwest Territories can work with and that we can have confidence in? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any additional support besides what the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provides through the municipalities' association, but I will refer this one again to the Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, if he has any other comment on this. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only add that we have since developed an interim reporting tool that community government administrators can use to report their financial status to both the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the council on a frequent basis to try to prevent the municipalities from getting into financial trouble. Also, in support of what the Minister has said, we have staffed a community financial services division in headquarters to lend strong financial skills to the recovery plans such as budgeting. We have also developed a financial performance indicator that will assist to identify community governments that are heading towards financial problems, and we have developed better procedures to assist community government that have been identified as having financial problems. I believe since this became a problem, we have developed some guidelines and policies to address the problems for those communities that have experienced financial problems. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask one more question of Minister Allen. He indicated that performance measurement indicators have been drawn up to help monitor this. Will these indicators and subsequent results be something that he could share with the committee? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would prepare something and present it back to the Member. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my question deals with the \$3.7 million for the Department of Health and Social Services to provide funding for one-time start-up costs and prorated annual operating cost of moving a primary care health services delivery model in Yellowknife.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Nitah, we are going page by page. We are on Municipal and Community Affairs right now on page 6. If you could hold your questions until we come to the Department of Health and Social Services. Do you have any questions on page 6, Mr. Nitah?

**MR. NITAH:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering about the new revised funding arrangement with the municipalities. I know there are some municipalities that are going to get more funding based on the prorated review and there is going to be some municipalities that are going to lose funding from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. I am wondering if the community of Fort Rae is a community that is expecting to see an increase in their funding level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the question is outside of this bill. I really do not know the answer. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. I will remind Members that we stick within the context of this bill. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the question is quite relevant to the context of this bill. It deals with the question, is there a big enough budget that these communities have to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories? When we see in the supplementary budget, \$400,000 to bail out communities that are in financial difficulties, then there is a question of, is there enough money going to the communities? I think in that sense it is quite relevant, Mr. Chairman. I repeat my question, is the community of Fort Rae one of the communities that can expect to see an increase or a decrease in the level of funding they are getting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** That would probably be better addressed in the business plans for next year. We are dealing strictly with the supplementary appropriation for a short period of time. I would allow the Minister to make any comments if he wishes.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier, early in the life of this government we heard that the financing of municipalities may be creating some problems, and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has been working on revising municipal financing arrangements. Specifically how much in each community, I do not know right now. That is information I just do not have. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Those changes I guess are proposed for next year. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask the question that Mr. Nitah touched on. My question to the Finance Minister is as a result of the deficit here. Why was the deficit there in the first place? Was it because of the funding formula, because of the uniqueness of the two communities, or were they being under-funded and this accumulated over the years? Was this one of the results? Thank you.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, our assessment is that most, if not all, of the financial difficulties Rae-Edzo got into were a result of the management problems I referred to before. The mayor, council and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs were not getting the information they needed that was accurate and timely. That is what created the problem for them.

The issue with regard to Rae-Edzo's unique situation, I am sure, are being addressed in the financing arrangement that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is looking at. Thank you.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. Just looking at the funding formula and how Rae-Edzo will be getting a little bit more money than they did in the past. It seems to me they have been under-funded in the past. Since 1971, when they first got incorporated, that is many years that they have been under-funded and this could have been the result. I understand that they did get special funding of small amounts of money, but their deficit just accumulated and with the mismanagement, the new formula ...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We are dealing with the supplementary appropriation. Please stick within the bill.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. What I was saying is, because of the funding formula this has happened. Are all other communities that are in a deficit going to be looked at in the future? Thank you.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we will continue through Municipal and Community Affairs to monitor all of the financial situations for all communities. Each one of them has some uniqueness about it. The actions to correct any deficits would have to be based on the factors unique to that community. But definitely, every community will continue to be monitored carefully. If there is a need for assistance in revising their budgets or in developing new operating plans, we will help them with that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not belabour this point, but I just picked up on a couple of things that the Finance Minister said. We were discussing Fort Simpson in particular, and he indicated that there is a debt recovery plan in place, an operation reduction plan in place, that Municipal and Community Affairs has been meeting with the municipality through July and August. He indicated that this shows that Municipal and Community Affairs follows through. I am wondering if he is aware as to how many years of the last five years Fort Simpson has run a deficit? Because I think that this speaks to how well Municipal and Community Affairs follows through.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I do not have information on how many years they have run deficits in the past five years. I do not know if the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs has that with him here. I do not know.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. Can I ask the Municipal and Community Affairs Minister if this is a unique occurrence and in fact if he is aware if this is the first time that Simpson has run a deficit in the last five years?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Chairman, I understand that they have been in a deficit for the last several years; but again, since I am relatively new to this portfolio, I have been trying to help them to work out a recovery plan. We continue to proceed in that area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** The Minister also indicated that he hopes in situations like this, that there will be relief in the new formula. Maybe the Municipal and Community Affairs Minister can indicate if he thinks the new formula will provide relief for Fort Simpson in the area of this deficit?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I do not think that we can get into discussing budgets for specific communities next year. As I said, through Municipal and Community Affairs, we are working on a new financing formula. To start giving information on things that are being projected for next year's budget I think is really reaching into the next fiscal year.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. I would like to remind Members you should be sticking to the context of the bill, supplementary appropriation. Do you agree with these figures, Mr. Bell?

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. We are trying to stick to this particular issue, but I think that you can see with the questions that Mr. Nitah and Mr. Lafferty have asked, they are simply asking the questions because the Minister indicated that the new financing arrangement, the new formula, will provide relief to some of these municipalities in trouble.

I am not asking for specific details. I am just asking if he believes that the formula is going to provide relief to Simpson.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley, I do not know if you would have that information to allow you to comment on it.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, like I said, this is one of the problems that we ran into early in the life of this new government. We have been working on this one. The Member may not be asking for specific information, but I am not sure how he defines that because he is asking for information on Fort Simpson. I think asking about how much money is going to go toward helping Fort Simpson with their situation is getting pretty specific.

I think that is getting into our budget when we get to that kind of detail. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. I am sorry for asking that question. It is clearly not something that we are going to deal with here today.

Can the Minister tell me what he meant when he said, we hope that there will be relief for some of these communities that are in trouble in the new formula? I was wondering if he could explain what he means by relief in the new formula for these communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I hope that we have a formula that is not going to cause communities to be getting into deficit. If they are getting into deficit for other reasons then we have ways of managing that as well. We need to look at our financing for municipalities. We recognized that early in the life of this government and we will continue to work on that. I

expect that the new formula will be successful and that it will help communities. It will be a fair way of financing communities and also to realize that we have to live within our capability. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. I will not continue this point except to say that I think it is one thing to say that the new formula we hope will be fair, to treat communities equally, help communities not run deficits, and another thing entirely to say, that we hope this new formula is going provide relief.

I think provide relief would indicate that it would help them deal with past deficits and past problems. Again, I am nervous when we see a debt recovery plan when it looks like a bail-out and know that there are other communities that may or may not be coming forward but I would assume probably will come forward at some point.

That is the only point I wanted to make. If we are talking about providing relief, I am wondering what kind of message we are sending. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. That was more of a comment than a question. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the hamlet debt recovery that is mentioned in the budget under the \$405,000, the Minister mentioned in his earlier comments that the new formula is going to be in place to make it a lot better.

I looked at that and I have some concerns on that. It limits you to a certain percentage. I believe that it is 35 percent over and above the actual amount of your expenditures. So because the system for one is new, the ideal is on paper and there is limitations on how much you would actually cover. You have to be consistent here. Using that ratio, will you also consider dollars over and above the actual 35 percent allocation that is in the new formula?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the question really does not relate to the supp here. I do not have the answer to that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I think we have gotten sidetracked a little bit and I do not know where it started. I do not know if it was you, Mr. Handley, that first mentioned the debt recovery and the formula and that sort of thing, but obviously you are not in a position, or you do not want to answer a lot of questions on debt financing formula or recovery plan.

I would remind Members that we are on detail in this supplementary appropriation so we might all be better off to stick to the figures in the book and try to keep our comments as they apply to the supplementary appropriation. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister gave us a breakdown on the \$405,000 and said that \$320,000 was toward the debt and \$85,000 was for debt recovery. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance, do other communities have the opportunity or ability to receive dollars through a supplementary for debt recovery?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, Municipal and Community Affairs monitors these situations and they work with the community during the period that they have a deficit. The decision on whether or not to move toward having a debt recovery plan in place is a decision that Municipal and Community Affairs would make based on their assessment of the severity of the situation.

Yes, hypothetically every community would have that opportunity if their situation was serious enough. Hopefully it does not get there. Hopefully Municipal and Community Affairs is able to work with the mayor and council and get it sorted out before it hits that point.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe for Rae-Edzo, that problem has come forth to this House before. They have made reference to the concerns in the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly in regard to the formula that was being used and how funds were being allocated.

This problem has been around. I think that it is important to realize that there are other communities out there who may not be in as serious a position as they are in Rae-Edzo in regard to their debt, but the communities are accumulating that debt. The concern that I have, especially with the communities in my riding who have had to get debt relief, is that they had to have the government or Municipal and Community Affairs come in and assist them financially to ensure that their audits were done and to ensure that they had resources to get them through.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance, is there actually a procedure that is being followed here which is consistent with all communities to ensure that they do have the ability for debt relief?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, Municipal and Community Affairs monitors all of these situations where there are accumulated deficits that are getting large. Municipal and Community Affairs will continue to monitor that. They will help to develop revised budgets and they will help with operating plans.

As I said, if it gets to the point where they just cannot manage anymore then yes, hypothetically, theoretically, they could be eligible. All communities are treated equally. This is not just a special deal for Rae-Edzo.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, I want to make one final point in this area and then leave it alone. I do not expect a response, but I think it is a strange message we send when we tell Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Fort Simpson that they are going to take a five percent cut across the board this year. They are going to have to somehow maintain the level of service with less money, and if they have problems, they have to eat them by dealing with them internally. Find the money. On

one hand we are saying that and on the other hand we are providing a bail out package if there was mismanagement or if we had a rogue SAO not report properly to town council for years and to the department.

I do not know what kind of message it sends to governments who manage responsibly. To me, the message is loud and clear, if you are irresponsible with the money we will give you more. We are awarding SAOs who mismanage. This clearly speaks to some sort of need for a tighter accountability framework. Clearly, it is not one community and who knows where these things could be building.

I do not know why we are not aware of these problems until they are \$400,000 problems. I think that we have to deal with some of these situations and deal with them earlier.

If it is a matter of not enough money to a municipality, then we have to deal with that up front. Given that we know that Simpson took a five percent cut this year with the other tax-based municipalities and they have a \$642,000 deficit, I would be amazed to see how this formula could possibly provide them any relief. I know that we are not speaking to that here, but that is just the final point I wanted to make.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. We are on page 6, Municipal and Community Affairs, operating expenditures, regional operations, special warrants, \$962,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Agreed. Not previously authorized, \$178,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Agreed. Page 7, Municipal and Community Affairs continued, operational expenditures, community development, not previously authorized, \$28,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Agreed. Community financial services. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** In regard to community development with regards to contributions in-kind, do we have an idea of how many of these arrangements are in place and what the cost is to this government?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, all of those situations are reported on. We do not have the accumulated information here today, but they are reported. Every situation like this is reported. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get a list from the Minister so that we can see exactly how many of these type of grants or contributions in-kind arrangements there are, and what is the cost to this government?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are on page 7, community development, \$28,000, not previously authorized. Agreed.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Agreed. Community financial services, not previously authorized, \$25,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total department, special warrants, \$962,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Agreed. Not previously authorized, \$323,600.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Agreed. Page 8, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$1,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Asset management, not previously authorized, \$147,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$100,000 for the energy effective initiative. I know for a fact from the presentation from the department that the Arctic Energy Alliance is part and parcel of this funding. I would like to ask the Minister, how much money has been spent to date on this type of initiative with the Arctic Alliance?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know how much has been spent over the years on the Arctic Energy Alliance. It has been in existence for a number of years. Each year it has a budget. I do not have that information with me.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister explain to us what the role of the Arctic Energy Alliance is in this? Is it a private organization?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** The Arctic Energy Alliance is a cooperative venture by a number of government departments who have energy responsibilities or whose departments consume a lot of energy. There is membership from the

Housing Corporation and Power Corporation. The Arctic Energy Alliance's role is to provide broad strategic direction and coordinated efforts by government and non-government organizations, so they provide broad direction. In addition to that, the Arctic Energy Alliance also delivers on behalf of RWED some energy conservation initiatives. Some staff who use to do that with RWED are now seconded or employed by the Energy Alliance to promote energy conservation and energy efficiency. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** To get this clear, are you saying a former employee of this government is heading up this organization?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, some positions that were in RWED several years ago, were transferred or seconded to the Arctic Energy Alliance. They are the staff of the Alliance. They are not heading up the organization. They are providing energy conservation, energy efficiency, and promotion on behalf of the Energy Alliance, on behalf of its collective membership.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Is that a non-profit organization?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** I am not sure if it is incorporated or a non-profit organization. It certainly does not make a profit. It is a consortium or a collective effort by a number of government departments and other non-government agencies. It is incorporated as a society, Mr. Braden tells me. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** In regard to the work that they do on behalf of the government, has that work been publicly tendered, so that they can apply for it? Or any society or organization out there that may be in the same field will have the opportunity to bid on public dollars that are being spent in this government, so that we do get a better return on our investment?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, they do not have a budget to go out and put projects to tender or anything like that. They have a few staff, three or four staff, who deliver energy conservation messages on behalf of government and non-government, on behalf of all Northerners, with their own staff.

In fact, the Energy Alliance is probably more of a planning, coordinating effort than it is meant to deliver services, except for the energy conservation side which is part of their mandate.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a society and its biggest client is the Government of the Northwest Territories. Does that put it in simple terms?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** I do not think that the government is its client, Mr. Chairman. It is a collective effort by a number of departments with energy responsibilities.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister know or have the information available to him exactly how much of the income of this organization comes from this government?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, again we are really getting outside of the purpose of this supplementary bill.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe my question is outside this bill. The Minister stated that that organization does do work and part of their work does include this department. He answered the question earlier, so I do not see why he is now reluctant to continue to answer the questions that he earlier admitted he had knowledge of.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** If the questions are in relation to the items that are in this supplementary bill, then I certainly want to answer the Member's questions. If they are getting outside of it and talking about the mandate of some other organization that is not included in this supplementary bill, then I have no interest in answering it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We are on the \$147,000 under asset management, just for clarification, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, these are public funds that are being spent on behalf of this government. This is the only avenue that we have to question the Minister responsible for Finance on expenditures by this government. These are public funds. In several areas we see funds going for the same initiative in the questions I asked him. I personally believe we are here representing the public interest. Other people within the public do not have the same advantage as this organization to have use of public funds.

We talk about negotiated contracts and about sole-source contracting. We talk about the whole thing about contracting initiatives in this government and to be open to the public. Now you are telling me on one hand you have a society out there that is going to be spending these dollars on behalf of this organization, and you are saying you do not want to answer the question.

I, for one, would like to ask the Minister, will he answer these questions? If not, what are we doing here?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Krutko, I want to remind Members to address your questions through the Chair. If we could please stick to the items in specific detail. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the Energy Alliance has no responsibility at this time for delivery of any of these energy efficiency initiatives. Up to now, these are all being managed through the departments. At some point they may have a role, but I think that the departments have to get together and decide that. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the investments we are making, is there a way we can track them? It says these investments will yield future savings. Will there be a report coming out showing us exactly where these savings are within this government?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, when we get into the contributions by Public Works and Services then you will notice that one of the initiatives they are undertaking, as I mentioned yesterday, is the development of a database on utilities consumption and cost information. That will provide us with a database and a way to measure whether or not we are getting savings or any payback.

The Financial Management Board as well directed the departments involved in these 13 initiatives to return in two years to report on progress. As the deputies group put this together, they worked on an indication that the investments would be paid back in three years.

We will continue the development of a database and the collection of baseline information is essential to that. That is part of the responsibility of the three departments cost sharing this. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was anticipating page 9, so I will hold my comments until then.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We are on page 8, asset management, not previously authorized, \$147,000. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister have actual figures on how much the savings are? You mentioned we were going to do the savings over three years. Do you have an estimate of how much we are going to save next year or the following year? Are we going to save \$25,000 this year and \$25,000 the next and \$50,000 the last year? Do you actually have those figures, as in your statement it says they will yield a future savings? Do you have the actual amount of those savings?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no, we do not have exact figures of what the savings will be. We have other considerations to keep in mind including fuel prices, utility prices, rate increase we may face, so there are a lot of factors. We do not have specific information as to how many dollars will be saved.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this initiative has been ongoing for the last couple of years with this committee of deputy ministers to look at these types of initiatives. Is the Minister stating that they are now going to have to do an in-depth study to see how we are going to make these savings, or do we have to do a report to calculate how these savings are going to be accrued over the next couple of years?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A big part of this exercise is to collect the database and have a system in place so we can measure. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have been going through the business plans, so I would like to ask the Minister, these types of initiatives and strategies should be developed and put into business plans so we can have a better idea of these expenditures, so why is this item coming forward through a supplementary? Could it not be done through the business planning process?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, I agree that these should be built into business plans. We are bringing this one forward because there is a need to get on with this one. The deputy ministers have worked and brought forward these initiatives and we need to get on with it. It is a way of cutting our costs. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will these initiatives be better planned for in the business plans? Will the Minister commit that we will not see any more supplementaries for these particular items and that we will do it through the business plans?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, they will be handled through the business plans.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are on page 8, Public Works and Services, operating expenditures.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total department, \$146,000, not previously authorized.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 9, Health and Social Services, operation expenditures, health insurance programs, not previously authorized, \$3,409,000. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I would like to move that we extend hours to conclude consideration of Bill 12.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** There is a motion on the floor to extend sitting hours to conclude this item. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. We will extend our sitting hours to conclude this bill. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions about the transfer of program responsibility for indigent seniors and persons with disabilities to the Income Assistance Program under Education. As income support, as I understand it, is for productive choices. What kind of criteria will these folks be under? Is there going to be an expectation for indigent seniors that they have to make productive choices of some kind, such as seeking employment? Are they looking at payrolling these folks? Doing it just for the convenience of doing that? What benefit will there be to these particular concerned individuals? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no. The program criteria does not change at all, so it does not affect them in that way. The purpose here is to deliver all of these programs through one window, but the criteria does not change.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding was this service is currently provided by Health and Social Services and I believe through social workers. When you reach the age of indigent seniors or if you are a person with disabilities, you are in a different area of concern in regard to your needs. The relationship between your situation in life and income, as opposed to other folks who would qualify for income support and making the productive choices that Education, Culture and Employment can provide.

I am concerned you will see income support workers that are geared to deal with people capable of making productive choices. If there are other related issues, are they going to have to run back to see the social worker and go back and forth, as opposed to having a social worker be able to deal with the issues now and write the cheque for assistance if needed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will refer that to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Member could repeat his question. I believe it was, will the individual be required to go back to the social worker for approval? Perhaps I can get him to restate the question for me.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Miltenberger, could you clarify your question please?

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concern is, this move says it is going to make things more convenient with a one-window approach. My concern is, indigent seniors and disabled people have different needs and requirements than those who normally go through Education, Culture and Employment for productive choices and career issues, in addition to looking for possible income support.

You may be providing them with one window in terms of cutting the cheque, but there are usually other needs tied into the issue of income when you are looking at indigent seniors and persons with disabilities. There could be housing issues, there could be abuse issues, or other related issues. Are we in effect going to be forcing them, instead of being able to go to a social worker now and get that whole issue dealt with, have to go back and run over to Education to income support to see an income support worker, and somehow make their way across town to wherever the social worker is to deal with the other issues?

Then you get to the issue of coordination and the communication. How is that going to be, so that the indigent seniors and disabled people are not inconvenienced?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way it is done with the disabled at the moment is the way it will be done with indigent seniors, for example, because they are long-term care. The disabled, for example, we handle on an annual basis whereby there is no need to go back to the department on an ongoing basis.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. Just a final clarification. There will be the capacity to payroll indigent seniors and persons with disabilities? The career development people will be briefed or trained as necessary to deal with this new client base that will come into their office? There is also the issue of somehow trying to decide on productive choices being an issue for indigent seniors or disabled, it will not be an issue? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are dealing with individuals who are in long-term care and in indigent situations. There is a long-term approach to this when ECE takes responsibility for the payment of their care. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, not all disabled people are in long-term care. There are many, many mobile disabled people that have different living circumstances and they will come in and out of offices for different needs depending on what their disability may be.

It still seems a little unclear that this is actually going to be a benefit. Is this to make it easier for the government, or is this to provide a better service to the indigent seniors and disabled, when you are actually splitting apart the social work side and the support side that social workers provide to indigent seniors and the related problems and disabled people? I am not clear. Is this to be administratively convenient to the government or is this somehow anticipated to be a better service for the indigent seniors and persons with disabilities? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it may be both, Mr. Chairman. There is certainly the aspect of income support being in the position to be able to provide this service on a very streamlined basis.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given that this is, at least in the community where I live, would be a significant shift in the services provided, can the Minister indicate if there has been any consultation with the Society for the Disabled or the Seniors Society to indicate the intent to make this shift in service provision? If there was, are they supportive of this kind of service change? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the answer to that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** As this was transferred from Health, maybe the Minister responsible for Health can answer that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I cannot speak to the consultation that may have taken place, but we are talking about \$325,000 here. We are not talking about the people out there, we are talking about indigent seniors or people with disabilities who are living in long-term and extended care facilities. That is it.

The way it is right now is that income support is responsible for benefits such as food and some things like that, but they are being looked after in facilities that are run by Health and Social Services. When we say that these folks are unable to pay, there is a fee for staying in extended and long term care facilities, which, if people have the means, they do pay. I think that it is \$712 a month. This is to address the issue.

It is not a large enough amount of money to be talking about the population at large. It is specifically referring to indigent seniors and persons with disabilities currently living in long term care and extended care.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that clarification because the little bit of information that we have does not say anything to that effect about long-term care and these folks already being in facilities. If that is the case it does cast something of a different light.

However, we do not have that information that would indicate that there is more to this. While the amount of money may seem small in the overall scheme of things, the concern is the service to these constituents of ours so that there is no leasing in service.

Mr. Chairman, I do not really have a question. It is unfortunate we do not have enough information. We gleaned it from the questions, so the Minister is confirming that this is just going to impact on indigent seniors and persons in long term care facilities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I did not really hear a question there. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I want to be absolutely clear here that she said very clearly that this only applies to indigent seniors and persons with disabilities living in long term care facilities. Is she then saying that those people that are indigent or disabled but not in long-term care facilities are going to continue to get their service where they currently do from Health and Social Services workers and social workers? Is that what she is saying? It seems to me to be really confusing people. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Actually, Mr. Chairman it is intended to reduce the confusion and improve client service.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, it is still not clear to me. Maybe the Minister responsible for Education may be able to help me here. We are going to segment seniors and disabled into two categories, one will get service from income support, and one will get service from Health and Social Services. Is that what I understand the Minister responsible for Health to say? Now it is causing me greater concern.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** I think that Mr. Ootes wanted to respond to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Handley, maybe you want to clarify that or do you want to refer it to one of your Ministers?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** I will refer it to Mr. Ootes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can provide some clarity to this. Since 1996, the two departments have been sharing on an ad hoc basis the cost of maintaining indigent seniors and persons with disabilities in long-term care and extended care facilities. This typically meant that under the Income Assistance Program, ECE provided the basic food and extend benefits and Health and Social Services provided funding for room and board allowances. What is happening is we are transferring the room and board allowances to ECE under the Income Support Program.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My only comment would be another question. There is a significant lack of information here I guess. I know that this is a money bill but there is some service changes that have implications, that if you do not know this information it causes concern. I thank the Minister for that information and I will hold any questions that I have for in the budget process or business plans. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The area I would like to cover is the \$3.7 million from the Department of Health and Social Services to provide funding for a one-time start-up cost.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We are dealing with Health and Social Services programs, the **\$3.490** million. Are we concluded on this one? Are there no further questions on that line item health and social insurance programs, \$3.49 million? Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question deals with the \$3.7 million that the Department of Health and Social Services are providing for a one-time start up cost and prorated annual operating cost, which I understand is to be \$2.9 million per year for moving to a primary care health service delivery model in Yellowknife. This includes assuming the leases for four medical clinics, purchase of the assets of these clinics, implementing new physicians' contracts, and funding for additional support administrative staff at the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board and the four clinics.

I would like to congratulate the government on negotiating the \$4 million from the federal government as part of the Canada Health and Social Transfer Agreement.

My question is, I understand that some of these physicians will be going to the communities to provide health care to members of those communities outside of Yellowknife. My question is, I sure would like to know which community the government is going to start negotiating on behalf with the federal government to provide health, and a list of those communities in order of when they will start negotiating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. I will let Mr. Handley answer that, although there is no reference in here about outside communities. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the \$4 million that was negotiated and received from the government is a generic sum of money. It was not earmarked for individual communities. There will not be any need to negotiate the expenditure of that \$4 million with specific communities. It is money that is meant for the North and when there was a need for the \$3.7 million that money was there as a trust fund and it was used for this purpose.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is confusing to me as the Minister referred in his opening remarks on the Canada Health and Social Transfer Agreement and the formula that was associated with that agreement, to this \$3.7 million expenditure in Yellowknife. Maybe it is a problem with the wording, I am not sure, but my understanding was that it has always been that if we agree with any financial agreements with the federal government to transfer money to the Northwest Territories Government, it falls under general revenues and from those general revenues, it gets disbursed. However, in his opening comments, he referred to a \$3.7 million for the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board and that \$3.7 million is coming from that recent agreement with the federal government with the Canada Health and Social Transfer Agreement.

On top of that, it is a \$2.9 million incremental cost to this government to operate those clinics, while we have health boards and social services boards at the regional and community level throughout the Northwest Territories. I do not think they receive those kinds of funding or special agreements with the federal government to provide community health boards. I am just wondering is that a typo? Is it a mistake in the wording, or is that the future direction of this government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the total budget for the Department of Health and Social Services is \$175 million, roughly. The department faces forced growth of somewhere between \$10 and \$15 million a year. This amount of money was money that was received from the federal government to be spent on health. It is money that was sitting there. It is not earmarked for anything specific. It is a generic pot of money.

When there was a need to spend \$3.7 million to provide better health services through this regional hospital, that money was tapped into; but it is not as if that is the only pot of money or that Yellowknife is the only community that is going to benefit from the Health and Social Services spending, everybody does. The amount that we spend increases each year by an amount that is much greater than the \$3.7 million we are dedicating this purpose or the \$4 million that is in the trust fund. The amount we are spending in the communities is far greater than this \$4 million pot.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess you can understand my concern when I am reading the Minister's opening statement and he is referring to a \$3.7 million donation or money that the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board needs and the Government of the Northwest Territories provides \$3.7 million to that said board, and at the same time refer to the recent agreement of \$4 million transferred from the

federal government. It is just too close to accept that. If it was coming from the general revenue fund then that is not a problem. Yellowknife does need its services and the leasing of old buildings and what not, those are other areas of questions.

As long as it is not coming directly from this agreement, I do not have problem with it; but the way it is worded, Mr. Chairman, I have a problem with that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** The only thing that I can say, Mr. Chairman, is that the \$3.7 million is the amount that was needed in order to move to this primary care health service model, and included all the pieces that Mr. Nitah referred to. It has no relationship to the amount of money in the trust fund. We did not look at the trust fund and decide we were going to draw it all out there or anything, or only take a portion of it; but it is the amount of money, the \$3.7 million which reflects the amount of money that was necessary for the one-time costs, plus the prorated part of the ongoing cost for this fiscal year.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The prorated ongoing cost of this agreement, is that covered under the \$3.7 million or is that outside of the \$3.7 million? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, it is about \$1.9 million out of the \$3.7 million.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** \$1.9 million per year, Mr. Chairman, or that total cost of this agreement?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the ongoing incremental costs, the annual cost is roughly \$2.9 million. That is the incremental cost. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Health Insurance Program we see that they are going to assume leases of four medical clinics in Yellowknife and a purchase of assets. What is the term of those leases that we are going to assume? Is it a 15-year term or is it a 5-year term? Are we liable for the breach if we decide to shut the clinics down before we use up those leases?

Could the Minister tell us how long and what are the terms of those leases?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we will look up the details of those leases, but because the Department of Health is planning to consolidate the four clinics down to two clinics within a three year period, then at least two of them would have leases that would likely expire. If you want to come back to this

in a minute, we will find the term of the lease for the Member. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** In regard to purchasing of the assets of the four medical clinics, what are some of the assets that we are purchasing?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, it would be typical things that go into a clinic, desks, chairs, beds, blood pressure meters, x-ray machines, all of the standard equipment one would find in a medical clinic.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister have the actual price tag of these assets that we purchased? How much money did we spend on purchasing these assets?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the total amount for the purchase of clinics, including the equipment that is in them, was \$1.345 million.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, another question. Seeing as we are going to be taking over salaries and contracts of employees and that we are going to be taking over additional support to administer the staff, how much more staff are we taking on to take over these clinics? Are we taking over the receptionists' positions, or taking over the people that do the bookkeeping, or take the blood pressure, or take the blood samples? How many people are we talking about here? How many positions are we taking over here?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, 19.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the presentation to Committee, the Minister stated that one of the initiatives that they are looking at for saving money in future costs is by implementing this, and the possibility of converting over to two clinics in the future. By converting over to these two clinics, how much money are we looking at saving by doing that?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, \$500,000.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Converting over to just two clinics in Yellowknife would that not depreciate the service to the people of Yellowknife? What we are trying to do is improve the service. By going from four clinics to two, would this not affect the service that is going to be provided to the residents of Yellowknife?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no. We are consolidating our efforts, we are not reducing the number of doctors. I think we are providing a more efficient service than existed with four clinics.

Mr. Chairman, if I can just mention if I may, the pages have been here since 1:30 p.m. today. They have not had a supper break or anything. I do not know your intention, but if we are going to continue on for a long time may we take their needs into consideration?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** What is the wish of the committee, take a short recess and come back? Thank you.

-- Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I will call the committee back to order. We are on health insurance programs, \$3,409,000. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of the health insurance programs, my understanding of this initiative is it is one that was planned for a while. I understand it was supposed to save dollars. What I have been hearing so far is in fact it is going to cost almost \$3 million more per year. Is that correct?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, Mr. Chairman, but it will provide better services such as a fuller complement of doctors. Thank you.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister inform us how it will improve services?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The question was, how will it improve services? Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it will, first of all, provide 26 full-time positions who are spending their time doing what they are trained for rather than managing clinics. There is as well more assurance of us maintaining the full complement of doctors here.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How can we do that better than the existing system today?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will turn that one over to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services since she is here now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** I am sorry, I missed the first question so I am not sure what we were talking about. Could Mr. Roland just repeat the question in the context of what we are talking about?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding of this process was this move was to save money and improve efficiency of the delivery system. I understand that under the existing system through payments to the doctors and clinics we already pay for everything that occurs in those facilities. My understanding of taking them over would be, in fact, to save dollars in health delivery. In fact, as the Finance Minister stated, we are going to spend almost \$3 million more per year.

Further to that, he also stated that by doing this we will be able to ensure we have more doctors. I am saying, how will we improve on that? How can we improve on the system now? Are there guarantees in place for this?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the problems was in Yellowknife specifically, where this is mostly being invested, which is, we need between 22 and 24 physicians here in Yellowknife. Yellowknife Stanton Hospital is not just, as I heard someone say, a regional hospital, it is a territorial hospital.

Our system does not work without physicians. We were down to 14 physicians. We need between 22 and 24. Part of the recruitment problem with getting physicians to come here is we could not tell them what they would get when they arrived, on a fee-for-service basis.

Also, the recruitment effort to try and get physicians was complicated by the fact that there is now an extreme shortage nationally. This is a trend in Canada right now to put together compensation packages which are comprehensive, not fee-for-service, salaries with clearly defined pay, benefits and remuneration considerations.

The primary care model that will go into effect here in Yellowknife, which is the first stage to buy the clinics and get the doctors to move from fee-for-service to salary, may cost more right now, but as Minister Handley already said, we do have a lot of forced growth and increased costs in health anyway.

We had to stabilize the Yellowknife situation because this is where a lot of people in the Northwest Territories receive services. For example, 75 percent of the babies born in the Northwest Territories are delivered by Yellowknife physicians. People come here for a surgery. This is a territorial hospital.

If we cannot have a stable pool of physicians here, we cannot cover emergencies. GPs provide anesthetic services in the emergency room here, there are GPs with a special designation for providing anesthetics, all of these things. We were down to 14 physicians and we needed to implement a system that would stabilize things. We now hope to build on that and improve the way in which we deliver the service.

Anyway, it is a long answer to your question, but it is all interrelated. It is all part and parcel of improving the system territorial-wide.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not dispute the fact that Stanton Hospital treats territorial patients. I have visited many patients from Inuvik in that facility. That is not my concern here. My concern is the fact that this is going to be, for a number of years at least, going to be costing more to deliver the same level of service.

You are saying the doctor level at this date is down to 14. Is that what you are stating? You used that figure a couple of times. Has this in fact already occurred? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** No, Mr. Chairman. What I said was, Yellowknife was down to 14 physicians. With 14 physicians carrying a community this size, plus all of the out of community work they do, the situation was going to be deteriorating very, very quickly. We are back up to 22 physicians in Yellowknife. Part of the recruitment that was successful was the change in compensation package that the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board was able to come up with and recruit doctors. We are up to 22 doctors in Yellowknife at the present time.

Those Yellowknife doctors do not just serve Yellowknife. They also serve the communities. They do community visits in Lutsel'ê, Wha Ti, Wekweti and Fort Resolution. They are also providing support services to the nurses in the Deh Cho when there are no resident doctors available, and they designate time to provide support and services to the Deh Cho region as well.

The boards are not charged for this, either. This is done out of Yellowknife and there is no charge for the community visits and the work that is done from here. If it seems like it is a little bit rich for Yellowknife here, think of it in the context of it being a territorial facility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is still trying to convince me. She is already preaching to the converted, as people would say. I am not disputing the fact that this is a territorial hospital. I said I agree with that. My understanding is that this was supposed to be a move to improve efficiencies. For example, under the old system every time a doctor grabbed a tray off of the shelf there was a billing fee for that. In those fees were included the insurance for their buildings, for providing care, to put staff at the front desk.

Just a little bit further, the Finance Minister stated that there is an increase in staff to take over some of these responsibilities. When I look at this, there was already staff. There was already a full complement of staff in place dealing with the administration. In fact, there was probably more because each clinic was on its own fighting for its own survival. They probably had their own finance people and so on. Now that we have them under the same roof, would you not think the staff at Stanton Hospital would take over that administration portion?

As well, does every clinic now need its own separate system, so to speak? I initially believed this was to save some dollars, improve the service, and save some dollars. I agree, it is a territorial facility and we need a certain level of doctors in place. You do not have to convince me on that portion. It is just the move and the extra expense we are going to go through in the next few years, as the Finance Minister stated, \$3.9 million, or \$2.9 million, I think it is.

That is the concern. I agree we need a certain level of hospital expertise to provide to residents of the Territory. How long will it go before we actually start seeing a savings? The concern I have is there is a certain level of service already committed to through the billing that happened in the old system. The fact is, I agree. There is a shortage across Canada for nurses and doctors, but do we expect that to turn around rather quickly? That is where I am coming from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if in the near future we are going to see a savings in the area of health care because it is not a static thing. I will say that as we move along with this primary care model, I think we will begin to see some efficiencies. When we negotiated with the physicians to purchase their clinics and take over their staff, this required a considerable upfront investment. With some things, there are hidden costs that you do not think about such as bringing in locum physicians and when you have to pay people different rates to manage the emergency room. I think once we get a more integrated system, the primary care model is a good model and it is efficient. I cannot say that we are going to see a tremendous savings. We may see efficiencies, but we will continue to see a very good quality and standard of care.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, before we took a break, I asked a few questions on acquiring the leases for the four medical clinics in Yellowknife. The Minister mentioned they are looking at going down to two clinics. Which two clinics are you considering keeping open after the downsizing?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, to answer the question, three of the clinics' leases are up in 2004, one is up in 2005. I do not know, I do not believe it has been decided yet, which two would stay open.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, why is it we are acquiring four medical clinics now, knowing that in a couple of years we are going to be converting to two?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We acquired four, Mr. Chairman, because that is how many there were in existence. We will consolidate down to two. We are not providing less service, we are simply consolidating down to two clinics.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we are going to be consolidating down to two clinics, are we still going to require the 19 physicians we have in place to run those two clinics?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we do not know at this point, but I am sure as we consolidate down to two that there will be some change, probably some decrease in the number of people in various areas of responsibilities in a clinic. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, this program the Minister mentioned is a unique program with regard to the federal government. In some of our nursing stations and clinics, we have tried to get, I will use Aklavik as an example. They were supposed to have a replacement of their health centre, but they have tried to get a few things in their clinic, such as an eye clinic or a dental unit in the hospital facility itself. Can these dollars be used for such an endeavour, looking at new initiatives within the structure of a building? If this money was used to purchase facilities, what are the criteria for these funds to be used? Can it be used to construct new facilities?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will refer that to the Minister responsible for Health.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Chairman, if Mr. Krutko is referring to the CHST federal funding, the trust money is different than the ongoing five-year agreement that was recently reached with the federal government. The question is, can we use that, the CHST funding that we will get? I am not exactly sure what it is available to be spent on. It is definitely primary care, health qualifies.

As far as equipment goes, there is also some money that has been agreed to by the federal government that will be available

shortly for the replacement of equipment as well. There are some funds coming in from the federal government over and above the CHST, which are specially earmarked and targeted for certain things.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me if there have been any requests from other agencies? We talk about the Yellowknife health board here. Has the Inuvik Regional Health Board or any of the other health boards requested funds from this trust to be used for that type of arrangement?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Money comes to the department, Mr. Chairman, and the department, which funds the boards that fund the facilities in their regions and communities, expends the money. The CHST trust, from which the Yellowknife primary health care model reform is funded, is not really available on a proposal basis, if that is what you are asking, no.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me if there are other service providers in the medical field, dentists or what not, who may have clinics in other communities, that demand a similar arrangement as we are doing for the clinics in Yellowknife?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we have already done it in most other places, including Inuvik. It is done.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister have a breakdown of exactly where it has been done and which clinics we have taken over with regard to this program?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will refer that to the Minister responsible for Health.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The GNWT or the boards currently own all of the medical clinics in the Northwest Territories. The one in Inuvik was purchased, also Hay River. In Fort Smith, the clinic operates out of the main building that is the hospital. In Fort Simpson, the doctors operate the clinic out of the health care centre there. Where we did not already have infrastructure in place, we have purchased all of the private clinics in the Northwest Territories. Yellowknife was the last community to be purchased.

Going back to your question about the dental clinics, dental clinics are run in a different fashion and no, there have not been any requests to buy dental clinics and there probably will not be unless we face a similar situation where the dentists start leaving en masse.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. We are on page 9, Health and Social Services, health insurance programs, not previously authorized, \$3,409,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Primary and acute care programs, not previously authorized, \$1,035,000. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions relate to the \$552,000 in here to provide funding for a portion of the Stanton Regional Hospital Board's 1999-2000 deficit that resulted from volume increases within patient care programs. I believe this is about half of the deficit that was accrued to the year 1999-2000. Could I find out if that is the case?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, yes, it is approximately half.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services has said that in dealing with deficit elimination programs at the hospital, the hospital is not going to be allowed to reduce services. If this \$552,000 is a result of volume increases, is this government then saying that the balance that is owing is a result of poor management or inefficiencies at the hospital?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, that is why we are doing a review. I think the board is already involved in that and doing a recovery plan. We do not know whether it is poor management or there are other reasons and so on.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is not found that there is a problem with the administration, in other words the administration is competent, then can we expect to see a supplementary for a similar amount to fully fund the deficit for a previous year?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we are currently doing an operational audit. I suppose the answer to that question depends on the findings of the operational audit. Thank you.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, it leads me to be a bit concerned. I know that if the hospital had a deficit of over one million dollars last year that this is half of it. I know that they proposed to the Minister in July a number of steps that they could take in terms of a deficit reduction program. If they still have not been allowed to take a program or to take

any steps in that deficit program, are we still looking at another million dollar deficit this year?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I believe the department has allowed them to take some steps. Maybe if the Member wants, I will ask the Minister responsible for Health to elaborate on that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** I am sorry, what was the question?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Dent, would you like to clarify your question?

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am concerned because this government is only covering half of the deficit from last year, knowing that the board had submitted their plan to the Minister in July, but no decision has been made to allow them to proceed with anything to deal with the deficit. Since they had a deficit of one million dollars or better last year, obviously that has continued until they get to make some changes. Are we going to let them run up another million dollar deficit and then next year only fund half of it again?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We recognize that unless some of the recovery efficiencies can be put in place that yes, we continue to operate at the same level that caused the deficit last year. We recognize that. We want to be very cautious and proceed carefully on how we are going to address this, and we recognize the fact that until some of those things are put in place we continue to be faced with the same things.

As Mr. Handley said, we are hoping that the information we gather from the operational review will give us a better base from which to make the kinds of decisions that need to be made.

It was determined that for the amount of money that has been approved already, that these were unaddressed forced growth issues. There is also a budget planning exercise that goes on to address the needs for the following year which would build in those sorts of things because every board will have issues of forced growth.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this setting the standard? I know there were four boards in the Territories that ran deficits through to March 31, 2000. Is the intention to fund all of them just for the volume increases?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** I am not really sure, Mr. Chairman, what the Member means by volume increases, but on all of the boards that ran deficits, operational reviews are

being undertaken to differentiate between those things that were forced growth, unavoidable, unanticipated, those kinds of things go in one category. Other things which might be one-time costs due to certain circumstances, decisions that were made by the board, something that could have been, there could have been an efficiency and there was not, those kinds of things will be separated out. That will give us a better idea of what their budgets will need to look like to continue to operate in the future.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you. I am sorry that the Minister did not, I was just reading from the budget document when I said volume increases. Perhaps if I had said volume increases within patient care programs, that would have perhaps answered the question.

From what the Minister just said, does that mean that Stanton will not be funded for the increase that they negotiated with the emergency room physicians or with physicians for emergency room coverage?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not able to answer that level of detail. Now we are getting into the various components that contributed to the deficit. The Member is asking me to respond to that. We are looking at it in a comprehensive way. We have determined that these costs which have already been approved to be covered were things that were forced growth. I am not sure which category the emergency room coverage would fall into, whether that was considered forced growth or that was considered one-time costs based on the acute shortage of physicians we had at the time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been waiting since July to get into that level of detail. Is there ever going to be a time in this House when we can get into that level of detail to talk about it? I thought we were going to have a meeting earlier today with the Minister and some members of the board to discuss what was happening. Unfortunately, that was apparently cancelled. When are we going to get into this level of detail? I think my constituents have a right to know what is happening and what changes are going to take place. If certain actions taken by the board are not going to be covered by this government, it is going to have an impact on patient care at that hospital. We need to talk about that. That is an expenditure of public funds. I thought that was what we were getting into when we talked about this portion of the deficit for that operation there.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we will get into that level of budget detail when we get into the budgets.

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

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, I do not see how that is possible. If we are talking about a budget, we are talking about

expenditures for next year. We are talking here about expenditures that were made last year. When are they going to be covered? When are we finally going to get to the point where we are discussing that?

This \$552,000 is money that was spent last fiscal year, not this fiscal year. This is not part of a budget. This is part of a deficit that they ran and a recovery plan. That is why it is showing up in a supplementary appropriation. To say that it is going to be in the next budget, I find that hard to believe, that we are going to put in a budget two years down the road the money to cover a deficit.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, two things are going to take place. We are going to have a consultation framework established, because when the...first of all, the operational review will go some way toward helping out with this. The other thing, the level of detail Mr. Dent refers to that he would like to get into with this, we have to establish how the boards are going to undertake this consultation with MLAs, their communities, and with the recipients of the service.

I have a meeting with the board chairs on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November and we are going to talk about this. It is difficult if we come and discuss that level of detail first with MLAs before staff have been consulted and then the staff find out. It creates problems. We have already ran into some difficulties on the consultation and we are very aware that Members of the Legislative Assembly want to get involved in that level of detail and when we have come up with a suitable consolidation process, that will happen. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. We are on page 9, primary and acute care programs, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. Who will define the process the Minister just referred to and when will it be complete? As my colleague, Mr. Dent, indicated, we are being asked to provide money but with no detail, that will get to us later. One of those trust lines maybe?

When is this process going to be done and who is going to decide on the process? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department works in very close association with the boards and that is why we want to discuss this with the board chairs because this is, as I have stated before, a relatively new situation where we have deficits like this. When we are looking at options for deficit recovery, it is very important how those options are communicated and consulted. We want to make sure that we do it properly and that will be a discussion that will take place with the board chairs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** The discussion will take place, But who will finally decide on the process? Will that be by ministerial direction or will there be a consensus reached with the boards?

I did not catch the answer as to when this will be done given the pressing nature of the fiscal situation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not anticipate that the operational reviews are going to be complete. I am not exactly sure. It is a few months away before the operational reviews will be completed. They are also a very important piece of this discussion.

Who will decide? Well, we will decide along with the governance structures that we have right now to deliver health and social services in the regions and the communities. We will have a discussion about it. I think that we all recognize the kinds of difficulties that can occur when proper consultation does not take place. It has to be done in an orderly fashion, otherwise people get upset and we do not want to cause undue alarm, and we are committed to maintaining the standard of health care for residents. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process seems to be to come in with general requests for funds and we will give you the detail later about why we needed it and that should be sufficient. It seems somewhat reversed.

If, in fact, you were going to a bank to ask for this kind of money, my suggestion would be that they would probably just politely listen to your statement and show you the door and ask you to come back with some more detail with the kind of money you want.

This is not new. This has been building for awhile. Health care costs have been an issue. I just cannot quite understand why there is an inability to give any kind of detail. I know that the figures are big, but it would seem to me that there should at least be enough detail to satisfy the questions of the Members. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand the Member's concern, but in some instances the department was actually waiting for the level of detail that we are talking about from the various boards, and it was not forthcoming in a very timely manner. I will not name the boards.

We work together. We are trying to assist them. Hopefully they are trying to assist us. We work together to get this information together to make these kinds of decisions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. We are talking about deficit recovery plans here, and there are other boards that are in a deficit situation that I believe were to have their recovery plans in by August. I am wondering if the Minister can tell us if they made them in before the end of August? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** I know that the department, Mr. Chairman, has communicated with the other three boards besides Stanton with respect to their deficit and the ideal and the initiative to undertake the operational reviews is something that came into play after people had already started working on their deficit recovery plans.

I think it can be expected that there is probably going to be a delay in the implementation of any kind of deficit recovery until that information is here. The operational reviews will help the boards and help us to get a clearer understanding of what some of the challenges are. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. If I understood the Minister, deficit recovery plans are being shelved until we see the operational review. I am assuming that the August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline came and went without the plans being submitted. Is that correct?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think that if a board comes up with an initiative or an ideal for creating some efficiency that was going to be a cost saving measure for their board, and if the department and the government approved it that we would say no, that we do not want you to go ahead with that until the operational review is done.

I would not say that deficit recovery plans and initiatives are shelved, but certainly we recognize that we need more information. We also recognize that during the time we are getting more information the cost will continue to accrue. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Indeed, that would be a nice scenario if boards were to come forward with cost saving initiatives before the operational review were complete, but what about the flip of that scenario, boards that have not submitted plans or do not come forward at all with plans. What are we prepared to do in that case?

I guess my concern is the same concern that I expressed earlier with Municipal and Community Affairs. Those that seem to be managing efficiently and effectively, in effect, can look at themselves as being punished for having done so, because they cannot get additional monies, so a similar concern here.

If boards do not come forward with the deficit recovery plans that we have insisted that they are to come forward with, how many months go by before we step in and say that this is not acceptable and force them to deal with the problem?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will refer that one to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when we are dealing with boards where there have been expenditures of monies that were expended on avoidable costs, the operational review will reveal that. Those situations will be corrected with the boards.

There are capacity issues and I am not trying to say there are no efficiencies and things could not be done better, but there have been challenges facing the boards. There are capacity issues with the boards where almost all of the boards have had the same kinds of recruitment and retention issues, increased medical travel costs associated with personnel and human resources issues.

There are some consistent threads through some of the challenges that some of the boards have been facing so we want to be receptive to that as well. I do not think the boards or the department wants to take an approach that is not responsible. We want to manage the resources that we have in the best way and I believe that the boards are operating in that same vein as well.

Where there might be things that could have been avoided, the review will reveal those things and they will be addressed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. Clearly, I am speaking of only, I guess, what the Minister would look at as an avoidable issue. Volume issues, recruitment issues, these kinds of things certainly will be treated differently, I am sure, by the department.

I think that it is going to be important that after this operational review takes place and we have some information and we discover there are avoidable issues, that the department is firm and sends a message to those boards that are responsible and do manage properly that that is the goal here. Boards who are unable to manage properly should not simply just be given the money and bailed out. I really do not want to see Stanton come forward with a deficit recovery plan and be the only board coming forward with a recovery plan, or the only board forced to make cuts. If it is not going to happen across the board equally and fairly for all the boards, then I feel that this is a real problem.

Some boards should not suffer so other boards can mismanage. This is the same concern that I had with the municipalities. Just for the record, I would like to state that here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I want to assure you that all of the boards will be treated equally. If they do not come forward with debt recovery plans, then we will have to take other action.

As long as I can remember, the boards and the Department of Health will come forward with supplementary money and expect that we are not going to find all we need this year through these debt recovery plans. They are probably underfunded to some extent, but we have to be fair to all of them, and we will be fair to them all.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Listening to some of the questions and answers this evening, I wonder about this approach. We have heard forced growth alone is adding \$15 million a year to the budget for health. Is there really an expectation that we are going to find, I understand that there is \$3 million we need to find, for the deficits that were run by boards to the end of March 2000?

So are we really going to find that \$3 million through these operational reviews? Or is it more likely that we are going to, if we are not prepared to fund the operations of the hospital boards, is it more likely that we are going to find that we are going to have to start cutting services?

The question I have is, rather than piecemealing this, why do we not approach this by saying the boards are running deficits now, if they are providing the services we expect, if they are meeting the standard of service? The Minister has said that there is an expectation, no matter what happens in their deficit recovery plans, that the boards are going to have to meet those standards of service.

Why not provide the funding that is necessary to bring the boards out of deficit. Use the results from the operational review to cause corrections where necessary, but recognize if all you are going to put into the program of health is \$7 million when forced growth is \$15 million, that you are in fact talking about changing the standard of program? Let us discuss where those standards should change, rather than trying to force boards to do the impossible.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I am not so sure that we have to talk about changing standards. If we did get into that discussion, what the cost would be of changing those standards, we are not at that point yet. We need to have the operational audits completed in order to better understand what is driving these costs. Based on that, we will then treat all of the boards fairly based on their operational plans. If they do not come forward with operational plans, then we have to deal with that situation as well.

For the time being, we have to make decisions and come forward with the best information that we have, which is what we are doing today.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just say for the record, I find it hard to believe that we are going to find \$2.5 million in these operational audits that we are going to be able to avoid on an annual basis, going back. With deficit recovery plans, you are probably talking about a range of \$5 million out of the system from boards in the next three years in order to get to a balanced situation and then carrying forward.

I find it very difficult to believe that we are going to find that level of savings. I guess we will have to just watch. I am not yet convinced that this is the right approach. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, that is exactly the reason we are doing the audits. Mr. Dent may be right. We do not know that. That is why we have to do the audits.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have heard much on this issue and I agree with a lot of what Mr. Dent was just stating. One thing I see here is that I am aware, for example, the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board is also in a deficit position. These plans are going out, these audits are being done to see what needs to be done, if anything can be done.

Meanwhile, this one board is getting a \$500,000 bail out. Why is it not being done with other boards? Why is the same action not being taken?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the reason that has happened is because the one board has submitted information that enables us to make a reasonable judgement on it. The other boards have not submitted that information yet. When we get the information from those boards we will be in a much better position to judge what is causing their increased costs and their deficits. We need that information. Without it we cannot even begin to guess.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is what I am saying. These audits are being done and with those audits we will be able to review what can be done, and maybe in some situations as Mr. Dent said, maybe not much can be done except to increase the funding allocation. In this situation, you have found enough information to provide one board with some money. I would like to thank the Minister for his response to my question because I will be meeting with the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board next week in Inuvik and I will put that to them. Stating that they had not received funds to help them with their deficit information because they were lacking information. We will see what response we can get from them. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister responsible for Finance.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, exactly. If we can get the debt recovery plans and the information from the boards and complete the operational audits, we will then be in a much better position to determine what is driving these costs and what measures can be taken to control them.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are on Health and Social Services, operation expenditures, primary and acute care programs, \$1,035,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Not previously authorized, \$1,035,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, \$4,444,000, not previously authorized.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Justice, operations expenditures, community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$1,069,000. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question here. My understanding was that there were estimates done on how much we would receive from Nunavut and it was in the area of \$5 million per year over and above the existing dollars being spent on the system. As it is today, no changes have been made because there is a lack of dollars coming from Nunavut. Why is it they require a supplementary appropriation? There have been no new systems added to the correctional systems we have in place, when the plans were put in place. It was revenue over and above accounting for inmates that are not there now. Why would they be requiring this supplementary appropriation? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, prior to division, the GNWT and the Interim Commissioner's Office for Nunavut came to an agreement that Nunavut offenders who could not be housed in Nunavut would be transferred and kept in the Northwest Territories. Revenue projections were estimated using the average number of Nunavut offenders that had been held in previous years.

With that agreement in place, the department's vote 1 appropriation was reduced in anticipation that it would be replaced by vote 5 revenues generated by the agreement. The reason we need the money is, we took it away in anticipation of the revenue being realized by the continuation of Nunavut inmates using the Northwest Territories facilities. The money had been taken away, that is why we needed it back. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When Nunavut was created, we lost a lot of revenue. Not revenue because it was a cost to the government to begin with. We know that facility, particularly this facility here in Yellowknife, was over the maximum for which it was designed. Anybody over the maximum would almost profit, and that is a hard word to use in this system, but that is the way I am seeing it right now.

You are stating that in fact there was money out of the system when Nunavut went on its own and they had to build that back in through the billing. Unfortunately, in a sense, we are not getting the number of inmates from Nunavut. Is that correct?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. We took the money out of vote 1 and we are expecting to generate revenue by the same number of Nunavut inmates continuing to use that facility, as had been prior to division, so we would get the money through a vote 5.

Nunavut, for their own reasons, have not been sending the same number of inmates and we have not had the revenue to continue to operate that facility. The costs of operating the facility are largely fixed costs, regardless of whether or not we

have 70 or 50 more inmates, whatever it may be. The costs are there. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Justice, operations expense, community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$1,069,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$1,069,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Education, Culture and Employment, operations expense, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$325,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$325,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Transportation, operations expense, expenditures, Arctic airports, not previously authorized, \$379,190.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Community access roads, not previously authorized, \$101,000. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue on community access roads had some discussion in committee. In light of the Minister's statement today on a winter road to Wekweti, and I go to the third paragraph:

"The Department of Transportation winter roads are built every year and kept open through the season for use by the general public. The Department of Public Works and Services resupply road to Wekweti is built strictly for the delivery of freight with no public commitment that it will remain passable for general traffic or kept open any longer than necessary for the delivery of shipments involved."

I believe the same process was used in years past for access into Colville, whether it was for fuel resupply and resupply for materials for buildings. So why is it being done in this way and, under community access roads, the limit is \$50,000? This is double that. When other Members in the past have asked for more funding from that particular program, it has been denied. Can we have some information on that? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, following our discussion on this last night, we have checked and the activity for this is not community access roads, but is the highways activity. I want to clarify that. There is an error in this document. This is a highways activity.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I would like to refer the question to the Minister responsible for Transportation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the clarification as to the community access road program answers some of the questions the Member raised. However, in reference to why we have now included the road to Colville under a winter road program is for a number of reasons. The first is the activity in the oil and gas sector in that particular area is warranting a road into Colville Lake. Furthermore, the community itself has requested a road into Colville Lake on a yearly basis. Following that, there was some indication from the oil and gas sector that they would be prepared to share some of these costs. Based on these three things, the department received direction to put in a winter road on an annual basis into Colville Lake.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the argument could be used for a number of roads. For example, activity in the Slave Geological Province would benefit from a winter road into Wekweti. There is an argument there that could be used.

Roads to the diamond mines; companies do it themselves by charging themselves per tonne per kilometre. I have asked the Minister recently in the House for some work to be done on the crossings in my area on the Dempster Highway and have been told we could not afford \$50,000 more, that it just was not built into the system. However, we have something for double that amount, on the idea that it would help. Is this going to be a pattern? If it is, I will be happy with that and I will hope to see some of those funds flowing further north, where there is going to be much activity if we can help out companies in the exploration phase.

I know, for example, outside the community of Tsiigehtchic, Devlin Resources is pushing to get in there to do some seismic and drilling. There is 80 kilometres of road there. Is the department going to come in and support that initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, I am not the Minister responsible for Finance. I am the Minister responsible for Transportation and I will take the Member's question.

We are not building this road to help out the oil and gas companies. What we are building this road for is to give job opportunities and business opportunities to Northerners. They would be involved in the exploration activity. There is no suggestion here that just because an oil company wants access into the region that we are going to build a road for them. They have the opportunity like everyone else to apply for a land use permit and build the road themselves.

The point here is that there is more than one user. This is going to be an identified ongoing need. Furthermore, as Members are well aware, the department has a mandate to connect all communities to our highway system. This includes Wekweti. We are not trying to avoid that.

What the funding identifies is what we will need for this year. There is a lot to follow to this, in order to bring that road up to winter road standards. There are going to be more additions to

this for next year, but that is in the business plans. This is what you would see in the business plans.

What we are asking for here is for this year, and we have already identified some of the costs and how we are going to recover some of that cost this year. For instance, \$94,000 is available from existing sources and it breaks down: \$50,000 will be contributed by Public Works; \$20,000 by Housing, reflecting a decrease in annual resupply costs for fuel and housing units; and \$24,000 from the Transportation Assistance Program, which will be transferred from Public Works to the Department of Transportation. So the \$101,000 is less \$94,000. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Just for clarification, that was the Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen. The question was directed to the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat and I directed it to Mr. Steen, for the record. Would you like to add anything, Mr. Handley?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, just to be clear here, the total cost of building the road is estimated at \$195,000. Ninety-four thousand dollars, as Mr. Steen has said, comes from existing sources, Public Works and Services, Housing Corporation, and the Transportation Assistance Program, so the shortfall is the \$101,000.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that goes to the saying, let not your right hand know what your left hand is doing. Yesterday in defending this before committee, there was no mention of another \$94,000, and I will have to ask to see the transcripts. I do not think other Members recall that either. As the Minister responsible for Transportation stated that there will be more going to it, in fact, as we see in interdepartmental activities of transfers, they are usually identified in here, that it is coming from one department to the next. That is not the case. Why is that, Mr. Chairman?

Our documents still say community access roads, so is there going to be an amendment to this act? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no, there will not be a correction here because we do not vote it at that level. The Department of Public Works and Services, for example, will simply make a contribution of \$50,000. The Housing Corporation does the same at \$20,000, so there is no correction needed here.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still dispute the fact that we only vote on the whole department. The FAA mentions activity for a reason. That is one of my pet peeves we will have to discuss further at some other time. It goes back, right now, saying that does not have to be changed; but the fact is, I think we are missing some key information here. When this was presented to us, and it was not until further questioning that it has come out. Members had the idea that it was only \$101,000 that we were looking at. In fact, it has almost doubled when you look at the figures now. Where is it identified, the other dollars

transferred from Public Works and the Housing Corporation? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I did not realize that there was confusion. Certainly in the supplementary appropriation, we are asking for including \$101,000 as supplementary funding. That is above what we have now. We would have to spend money to move fuel into Colville Lake, to move housing packages into Colville Lake, so there is money in the departments in the government already to cover those costs. That is the \$94,000, which is what it totals up to. So what we are short to put a winter road in here is the \$101,000 that is in the supplementary document.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier in our sitting, I asked questions as to whether I could get a winter road into my communities. I was told that we do not have public roads into some of the communities. I see they are using public funds to put this winter road into Colville Lake. When I first looked at it, it said under the activity access roads. I could not find anywhere where I could get funds for access roads, even for a winter road. I am just wondering why the Minister, when he said there were activities going on in the community, there are activities going on in Wekweti, when I asked for funds for that, I was denied. The reasons given were there was no justification to do it. I am just wondering, diamond activities are not the same as oil and gas? I am not sure. I would like to know, how do we make sure the communities are fair when we do this funding?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, as we make decisions on where we are going to extend winter roads, we have to look at a number of factors. Resupply of the community is certainly one factor that has to be looked at. It is a major one in terms of getting basic needs into the community. The other major factor besides public use is the economic activity that could be or would be generated by extending a road into that community.

In the case of Colville Lake, there clearly is economic activity in terms of oil and gas exploration going on there this winter. There are jobs and business opportunities for the community of Colville Lake as well as other communities. There is good economic justification, as we said last night, for putting this road into that particular community. If someone can show us that there is the same level of activity going on in Wekweti, then it should be no different for that community than it is for any other one. We want to treat all communities fairly, but there has to be some economic return. We cannot justify a road just for a community resupply. There are other ways of doing that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just another question. Projects like this should be in plans prior to supplementaries. I am just wondering why. I know it was in the strategy, but the strategy had a lot of flaws in it. Maybe this was one of the flaws, I am not sure.

Something like that, if you know there are activities happening there and you can justify it, this should have been in one of the plans in our business plan that is going to happen in February, or the one in March. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, what was included in the budget for this year was the amount of money needed for resupply of the community. When we prepared the business plans and budget documents we did not know with certainty whether or not there was going to be the oil and gas activity that is now confirmed happening in that area. It was not included because we did not know it. Therefore, we bring it back as a supplementary. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was out of the room there for a bit, so I was just wondering, you mentioned all the different pots of money going in here. I noticed that you said you changed the activity list. Why was the change put in last night and not when we first received this document? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the error in the document in terms of calling this a community access road was noticed yesterday, last night. We checked on it to find out why it was included in that activity, whether it was a mistake. Today it was confirmed that it was a mistake, so it really belongs in the highways activity.

It does not change, though, the purpose of this winter road as is proposed. Everything else is still the same. It is just that the title on the activity was wrong. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it there is \$101,000 for access roads still out there somewhere, it is just the name was wrong?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no, there is no \$101,000 out there somewhere for community access roads. The \$101,000 that is here is for the winter road. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question. Is this the community access roads budget or another, just for clarity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley, clarification.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned before, there is a mistake in the document. This should be the highways activity and then to provide funding to add Colville Lake to the existing public winter road system, \$101,000. That should be in the highways activity.

The \$568,000 that is listed in the document is a community access road. That is a mistake. This was put into the wrong activity when the document was put together.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this is a mistake, this mistake is part of this whole bill. I do not feel comfortable in voting on a mistake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, there is not a mistake in the bill. This backup document, when it was entered, it was entered in as community access roads. Instead, it should have been entered in as highways. The amount in the budget should have been \$34,947,000. Correcting that mistake does not change anything in terms of the funding that is being requested, the \$101,000. It is still the same amount of money requested to build the same winter road. There is no difference there.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley, can you restate that for the record? Your microphone was off when you made that last comment.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I was just saying that the correction would be that this is a highways activity. The amount of money in that activity should be \$34,947,000. The amount that is being requested in the supplementary appropriation of \$101,000 stays the same. The purpose of the money is still the same. What is in the bill is still the \$101,000. There is no mistake in the bill. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you well know, and all Members know in this House, the budget under community access roads is \$50,000 per community to access recreational, tourism and other community use. That is, \$50,000 per community. Those funds are badly needed, every last cent of it. What we have on this side of the House is a document that says community access roads, under which \$568,000 has already been approved, and they want an additional supplementary of \$101,000. It says community access roads. We do not have additional material as the Minister or Cabinet does, that says it is a mistake. We do not know if it is a mistake or not.

Until the wording is changed on this document, I will not vote in favour. I will not vote at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Comment. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** I have the same concerns. I am concerned that the process was not undertaken through the business plan. It did not follow the regular process. However, by identifying this under community access roads, whether it is a backup document or not, it was pointed out yesterday that this was a mistake and the Minister indicated it was a mistake. I think there was an opportunity to correct it, yet he leaves it as a mistake and we are expected to pass it, knowing full well that this is not correct.

I have other questions for the Minister. Yesterday he indicated to us that there was no commitment from the oil and gas industry for this road. Yet I hear the Minister responsible for Transportation saying there is a commitment. There is a lot of

interest from the oil and gas companies. Which is it? We get a report and now we are starting to hear conflicting views.

It was not clear yesterday that it was going to cost a total of \$194,000. In fact, the Minister said it would cost \$20,000 more than what it would cost to resupply for fuel in housing. That is not what I am hearing today. I think we are seeing a whole new picture and I, too, am not ready to support this as it is. I think we have to have the corrections made before I can vote in support of this.

I cannot approve a document that has a bunch of mistakes in it. We have two Ministers saying to me, from what I can hear, two different views. I will not support it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we checked today. Last night we said we thought there was a mistake in there, because it did not seem to be correct. Today, we checked and I am confirming it is on the record that the mistake is noticed and corrected. If the Members want a corrected piece of paper in front of them then I would be happy to defer this item until tomorrow and we will make the corrections and give you a corrected page.

As I said, it does not change the request, and it does not change the bill. All it will give you is the backup paper that has the corrected information. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland.

**Committee Motion 37-14(3): To Defer Item Community Access Roads Under Department of Transportation, Operations Expenditures, Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2000-2001**

**MR. ROLAND:** Mr. Chairman, with what we are hearing around here in this last line of questioning and the responses we got yesterday, the idea it is just a page and forget about that. Just yesterday, Mr. Kakfwi said that we on this side of the House can make outrageous statements not based on fact. We can create legislation that does not exist and make reference to it. I have a very serious concern. You say that on one hand and you come in and we have a different beat today than we had yesterday.

I move that we defer this page until it has been replaced and corrected. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Roland, are you making a motion or do you just want to defer this item?

**MR. ROLAND:** Mr. Chairman, I move we defer this item for further consideration.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** There is a motion on the floor to defer community access roads, \$101,000. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

We will move to the next page. Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operations expenditures, resource management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$863,500. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to see if I could get a bit more information on a \$500,000 provision for funding to support the first phase of work to be completed by the Aboriginal Pipeline Group. The issue that I wanted to explore is not that I do not support this initiative, in fact I think in this Assembly and elsewhere in the public, we have been great supporters of this initiative. I think this demonstrates that we are ready to put our money where our mouth is, if you will, Mr. Chairman.

The initiative itself is not in question, but I did want to find out a bit more about the business plan for it. Specifically the question is, does \$500,000 need to be expended in this fiscal year? Has that full amount been committed or is it something that could be cash flowed perhaps over a two or three year period, something that would go a little easier on our books and still enable the Aboriginal Pipeline Group to go about its work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, this money is only committed when it is voted. Can the money be expended this year or is it required this year? The answer to that is, yes. The discussions on pipeline routing are moving along very quickly. In fact, the budget for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group is greater than the \$500,000 that the GNWT is contributing. It also includes a contribution from the federal government of almost \$400,000.

Yes, the money is needed this year. If we were to try and cash flow it over a couple of years we would miss the pipeline decision altogether. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you for that explanation. I would like to say further, if that is the amount of money and with the federal contribution in there we are looking at close to \$900,000, is it anticipated that we will be counted on to supply any additional funding or is this a one of a kind, one time contribution? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, no. We do not anticipate needing to supply any more money than this. We fully expect that by the end of March next year, the decision on a pipeline will have been made. If the Aboriginal Pipeline Group have not progressed to the point where they have essentially a proposal in hand, then they are too late.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask one more question, and I do not anticipate that the Minister will speak for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, but what is the objective of the group? What is the deliverable going to be for this fairly substantial investment of public money? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** The Member is right. I really cannot speak for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group but my understanding in discussions with them is their objective is to own one third equity at least, in a pipeline, in a joint venture with the producers and a pipeline operator.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully support the objective. It sounds like a business objective. Did the department look at making this kind of contribution as a loan or an advance on what would clearly be a money making proposition for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group? Was there some advantage there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we have put it forward as a contribution to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group. To have asked them to come up with an agreement to jointly take a loan out for that amount would probably have been impossible within the timeframe we have to work with here.

We view this very much as seed money that is going to result in a huge investment or return on investment for the Government of the Northwest Territories. If we can get the pipeline down the valley, get confirmation in place, get the regulatory processes streamlined, get a proposal together, have aboriginal equity in the pipeline, have it come down the valley in advance of the Alaskan one going whichever route they choose, then we will get many times our money back. It is not a loan. It is a contribution towards a future return.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions about this line item as well. Although I agree that we have to make sure we do not miss the boat and it is an important initiative, certainly something we want to be investing in, the time is now to make the stand. I am wondering if the Minister can tell us if any of this money has been spent yet?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, there is no commitment until the money is voted. The Aboriginal Pipeline Group have been meeting. I assume they have been meeting on their own account until now. They are depending on this money. They are depending on money from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. They may have that already, I do not know.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also believe you indicated yesterday that they will be coming forward with a business plan before the money is released, that your department will approve. I believe that is the case.

I also think your department has already announced that this money will be forthcoming and it has not been voted on. I would suggest that maybe it is a technicality that we have to vote on this money first, but it has already been announced. Is that correct?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, we are not asking them to bring forward a business plan before we give them the money. The money is for them to prepare their business plan which will set out in a legal form their financing plans, a draft agreement with the gas producers and their various partners, an agreement-in-principle between these northern components, regulatory strategy and so on. This money is to have their business plan fully developed.

The department has not announced this money. It may have been mentioned, I do not know. In some occasions, I have heard it has been but it has not been announced by the department.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Okay, well, the explanation for the business plan certainly does make sense to me. If this is money forthcoming to help them get a business plan together, that makes sense, but I thought the government had already announced this money.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I think there have been discussions about this money, but it certainly has not been with the Aboriginal Pipeline Group that we have talked about it. We have helped them arrive at a budget and so on. In terms of announcing that this has been approved, it is only approved once it is voted.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. Just to confirm. There has been no public announcement that this money would be forthcoming, we vote on it. When it is approved, then will we be making the announcement?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the department has not announced it. I was told yesterday that it had been mentioned. I think it was a speech or a presentation made by the Premier. I cannot answer for that, it was at a national round-table thing. Clearly, the understanding is that this money is not approved until it is voted.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are on page 13, resource management and economic development, not previously approved, \$863,500.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Environmental protection, not previously authorized, \$30,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total department, not previously approved, \$893,500.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We will move to page 14, Executive, capital investment expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$110,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Government accounting, not previously authorized, \$20,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$130,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 15, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital investment expenditures, regional operations, special warrant, \$1,103,000. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if what I am interested in is in the special warrant or the not previously authorized portion, but in the detail at the bottom of the page, we have core projects that are listed. I am just wondering if we could find out which ones were existing projects and which ones were new projects.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, the only new project is the Colville Lake power poles.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question, why would that project not have gone through the regular business plan process?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I was talking here and did not hear the question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The question was why this came through as a supplementary appropriation and not through the normal process. Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will have to ask the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs why it went this route instead of the normal budget process.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the information was provided to us as part of our land development costs. Just to clarify again, in putting up power poles, it is classified as a sub-division. It is classified as a catch-up project. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whether it is a catch-up project or any other kind of project, why would it not have been contained in the business plan of the department?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not have the detailed information here to provide that answer. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other projects that are listed here other than the new one, are these cost overruns?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, two of the projects are cost overruns. The Fort Resolution Community Hall is an \$80,000 cost overrun. Colville Lake Garage is a \$35,000 cost overrun.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Regional operations, special warrant, \$1,103,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Not previously authorized, \$695,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total department, special warrants, \$1,103,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Not previously authorized, \$695,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** 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 was wondering if I could get some detail about what is included in this special warrant?

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will have Mr. Voytilla answer this one. He has the detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Voytilla.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government determined that it could take advantage of some high speed fibre-optic work in the community between our buildings, so what we did was put an RFP out there for bid. We received a couple of bids. This \$480,000 is for the equipment that goes on each side of the fibre-optic network, to take advantage of it.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was this equipment something that was included in the responses of all of the firms or the two that I know responded? Was this equipment included in that RFP or was this in addition to the RFP?

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

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was not part of the RFP. This is the additional equipment the government requires to take advantage of and use the actual fibre-optic network that runs between the buildings in Yellowknife. The

RFP that was issued was just for the fibre-optic lines themselves plus some switching equipment.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was given to understand that the proposal put forward by NTNet would have included everything the government needed. I am surprised to hear that this was something that was needed in addition to what was provided or asked for in the RFP.

Would it be possible for me to get an explicit list of exactly what this \$480,000 is paying for?

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

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we can certainly provide the Member with the detailed information he is seeking, but our information is that the equipment that will be funded by this \$480,000 was not part of the RFP. The RFP was just for the lines and some switching equipment that would be part of the network put in place by the proponent.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you tell me, is the fibre-optic network in operation right now?

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

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the system is in place, however, I can certainly verify that and confirm that for the Member.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the information technology area growing so quickly, and it is really growing quickly in the Northwest Territories, I think it is incumbent on this government to make sure it supports as broad a base in this sector as possible.

I am very concerned that by having chosen one provider in this area that we may be in fact limiting the potential for private sector growth. With the government having adopted a fibre-optic network, have we said then that there can only be one supplier? For instance, if another supplier wanted to offer a fibre link to a department could they go to that department and make the offer to provide that link?

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

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fibre-optic system that has been put in place, that we are acquiring through this contractual arrangement is to service all of our needs in Yellowknife at this point in time. If there was growth in our requirements or there was an expansion of the buildings that we needed fibre-optic linkages to, that certainly might necessitate the use of more than the system than is currently part of the contract, so there is the potential.

I would also note that this, of course, is a contract for a finite period of time and at the end of that period we would expect that it would be out for tender again.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you. The question I am looking to have answered is, for instance, if there is a building, pick a building, the Laing Building, Yellowknife Centre, any building that the government has offices in right now, if there are different departments on different floors in that building, there are two fibre-optic networks going by each of those floors.

Can the departments choose which network they will tie into?

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

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Mr. Chairman, technically, that would probably be possible but I do not know, from a cost standpoint, if it would be practical. As you can see from this supplementary, there is a significant investment required in the government's hardware and software requirements to fully utilize these systems. If that had to switch back and forth or if each department had to make those kinds of investments in the fibre-optic network, that might make it cost prohibitive.

I think that is of interest to the government. It probably would make more sense to keep it running on one system.

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

**MR. DENT:** What I am looking for Mr. Chairman, is to find out if there is an inclusive contract. If someone could come in cheaper than NorthwesTel can they, a department, sign up with that competitor?

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

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly we do have a contract right now with NorthwesTel that we would have to honour. Whether or not there is an exclusivity provision in that I really do not know, but we can certainly answer that question for the Member.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I expect that we are going to try and conclude this bill tomorrow. I would just like a commitment. There have now been three commitments for information made to me. I would like a fourth commitment now that information will be provided by tomorrow.

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

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Mr. Chairman, we will be on to the department with the detailed information first thing in the morning and hopefully be able to provide that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will come back to order. 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 ON  
THE REVIEW OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001 and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 11: An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 3**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 3, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 11 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**Bill 15: An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act and the Public Service Act**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act and the Public Service Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 15 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 22, orders of the day.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, meetings of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning and at 10:30 a.m. of Caucus.

Orders of the day for Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2000:

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
  - Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001
  - Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1999-2000
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly the House stands adjourned to Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 8:30 p.m.