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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Friday, February 21, 2003

Members Present

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

Speaker's Ruling

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I wish to provide my ruling on the point of order raised on February 19, 2003, by the honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Prior to addressing this specific point of order, I would like to make some comment on the purpose of a point of order, just to refresh Members' minds on this procedural point as fortunately, we have not had one for sometime. A point of order is a question raised by a Member who believes that the rules of customary procedures of the House have been incorrectly applied or overlooked during the proceedings. Members may rise on points of order to bring to the attention of the Chair any breach of any of our rules or unparliamentary remarks uttered in debate. Members are able to do so at virtually any time in the proceedings, provided the point of order is raised and concisely argued as soon as the irregularity occurs or as soon as practicable thereafter. As a point of order concerns the interpretation of the rules, it is the responsibility of the Speaker, or Chair in Committee of the Whole, to resolve the matter.

I would now like to provide my ruling on the point of order raised by the honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley, with respect to remarks made by the honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty, on February 19, 2003, in raising the point of order, the honourable Member referred to Rules 23(h) and 23(j), which states: 23, "In debate a Member will be called to order by the Speaker if the Member:"; (h), "makes allegations against another Member, a House officer or a witness;" (j), "charges another Member with uttering a deliberate falsehood."

The statement in question was and I refer to page 278 of unedited Hansard and I quote Mr. Lafferty: "Mr. Speaker, I have to say the Minister is a total stranger to the truth."

Members will recall that I permitted debate on the point of order and the Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty commented and I quote from page 350 of unedited Hansard: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has put a point of order on the Table. The definition of what one thinks or what one says differs for everyone. The words I used were to say that he didn't know the truth and he was travelling a separate highway from the truth. I could have used those words. What he is saying in this House and the truth are different. I am not calling him a liar. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Mr. Handley then indicated that he might have to raise a further point of order respecting this reply by Mr. Lafferty.

Notwithstanding Mr. Handley's reference to Rules 23(h) and (j), while considering my ruling, I took into consideration the use of the language by the Member for North Slave and I referred to Marleau and Montpetit and I quote from page 526: "In dealing with unparliamentary language, the Speaker takes into account the tone, manner and intention of the Member speaking; the person to whom the words were directed; the degree of provocation; and, most importantly, whether or not the remarks created disorder in the Chamber. Thus, language deemed unparliamentary one day may not necessarily be deemed unparliamentary the following day."

Unparliamentary language is determined largely by context and has as much to do with intent as impact. To be unparliamentary, the language must have the character of being abusive and insulting; it can also involve a charge of deliberate misrepresentation, it is always difficult for the Speaker to know the intent of words spoken by Members.

In applying the context of the proceedings on February 19th, I find that the statement of the Member for North Slave does question the integrity and motives of Mr. Handley. It relates directly to representations attributed to Mr. Handley, and invites, if not demands the conclusion that the statements by Mr. Handley, to the effect that the department is doing a very good job and the highway is safe, are not true; that Mr. Handley has not spoken the truth in the House.

I further find that the same conclusion is suggested in Mr. Lafferty's response to the point of order with respect to the words "...he was travelling a separate highway from the truth." Using a clever analogy does not detract from the substance of the statement. Although the matter was not raised as a point of order, the comments were made and I wish to address them.

I, therefore, rule that the honourable Member for Weledeh has a point of order with respect to both sets of remarks by Mr. Lafferty. Accordingly, I inquire of Mr. Lafferty whether he is prepared to withdraw those remarks from the record, and further, whether he is prepared to offer an apology to the honourable Member for Weledeh. Mr. Lafferty, I have made my ruling.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to apologize if my comments made the Minister uncomfortable. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, are you withdrawing your statement?

MR. LAFFERTY: No, I am not, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, you have heard my ruling, I am requesting that you withdraw those statements or there could be consequences to not withdrawing at this time.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I felt, when I made those comments, that there were differences of opinion between me and him. I could have easily called a point of order on him because he is calling me a liar to the truth when I say that highway was unsafe. So I will not withdraw.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, a clear answer, yes or no, do you want to withdraw your comments from the record? Yes or no?

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, no, I will not withdraw.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, with regard to your response and not withdrawing your statements, I have to refer to Rule 25(4): "A Member named under Ruling 25(2) or (3) shall be suspended from the Assembly for the remainder of the sitting day. A motion without notice may be moved to increase the length of suspension of the named Member and shall be decided without amendment or debate." At this time, I would like to ask you again would you withdraw your statement, yes or no? If not, you know what the consequences are. Yes or no?

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, no, I will not withdraw.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty with regard to our rules, I have to ask you to leave this House for the remainder of this day. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 19-14(6): 2003 Canada Winter Games

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to provide information to Members about our NWT team which will be competing at the 2003 Canada Winter Games. These games are being held in Bathurst and Campbellton, New Brunswick, February 22nd to March 8th.

The Canada Winter Games are the country's primary multi-sport event. The 2003 Canada Winter Games will include 3,200 participants from all provinces and territories competing in 21 sports over the two weeks of the games.

The NWT is sending 70 participants from 10 communities. Week one will include badminton, cross-country skiing, women's curling, speed skating and squash.

In week two, Team NWT will compete in biathlon, men's curling and figure skating.

In addition, two artists from Hay River and from Yellowknife are taking part in the national artists program, which is part of the cultural component of the games.

On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I would like to thank the coaches, volunteers, territorial sport organizations and Sport North for their dedication and commitment in working with our young athletes in the past few years to prepare for the event.

For many, it will be the experience of a lifetime and the height of their athletic careers. For others it will be a stepping-stone to higher goals as they pursue excellence in their sport. I am sure that all the athletes who have been selected to represent the NWT at the Canada Winter Games will be excellent ambassadors for the North.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will continue to work with our partners to ensure that young athletes from the NWT who work hard and strive to meet the standards to compete at this level will continue to have the opportunity to participate in the Canada games.

Mr. Speaker, the Canada Winter Games are a national celebration that will bring together people from across our country. Our participants will certainly benefit for years to come from the experience and friendships they will find at the games.

I invite all Members to join me in wishing the best of luck to Team NWT and all the participants in the 2003 Canada Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Attendance At Funeral Of Cliff King

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to inform this House and my constituents that I will be leaving later on today to travel back home to attend the funeral of Mr. Cliff King being held tomorrow. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Similar sympathy goes to the family from the Legislature. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Delorey.

Member's Statement On Successful Housing Corporation Project At Diamond Jenness High School

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government, we take on many different projects, some of them very new, some are pilot projects that we try out to see if they work or not and very often, Mr. Speaker, we keep throwing money at some of these projects whether they are successful or whether they show any signs of success. But every once in awhile, a project comes along that shows signs of great success and tremendous possibilities for growth. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring attention to a project, a new initiative taken on by the Housing Corporation that the manager in Hay River, Tom Makepeace, and his staff did a tremendous job on and worked for in conjunction with Diamond Jenness School in Hay River.

---Applause

This new initiative that I refer to is a program whereby the Housing Corporation provides materials and labour dollars to shop students at Diamond Jenness Secondary School. Mr. Speaker, the shop students are required to construct a one bedroom or two bedroom house for the Housing Corporation that will in turn be turned over to a Northwest Territories Housing Corporation client. This is a fabulous idea, Mr. Speaker. Not only does the Housing Corporation have to provide a minimal investment, the 10 shop students get invaluable hands-on construction training, and not only training in construction of the house. They also do all the wiring, they do all the plumbing, and they only bring in trades people to inspect their work. Mr. Speaker, the labour dollars are provided to the high school to fund a half time position to supervise the students while they are building the house, thus creating employment. In addition, a local trades person is brought in to inspect the student's handy work. Mr. Speaker, it is not often, that I get to stand up in this House and applaud the government but I believe that accolades are very warranted to Tom Makepeace and his staff for this fantastic endeavour. Thank you.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement On Proposed Revisions To Business Incentive Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak on the issue of the Northwest Territories Business Incentive Policy and the proposed revisions to that policy.

The BIP was put in place 18 years ago as a means of giving a competitive advantage to northern companies bidding on government contracts for the supply of goods and services. The intent was to enhance the growth of northern companies in the belief that this would create direct and indirect employment and many other positive effects on a northern economy. I believe, to a large extent, the Business Incentive Policy has been successful in accomplishing that. Granted, many circumstances affecting the northern economy have changed since then.

In communities like Yellowknife, government contracts are not the major contributing factor to succeeding in the construction sector, for example, as they once were. Much activity is now driven by the private sector. Many northern and aboriginal companies have grown and are quite successful and competitive. The argument is made that this maturing makes the BIP less important and relevant. The capital budget of the Government of the Northwest Territories is shrinking and some would argue that this reduced amount makes it incumbent upon the government to get more for their limited resources, suggesting that without the BIP this would be better achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I agree that times have changed and it is good to examine government initiative and policies from time to time to ensure they are still accomplishing what they were intended to.

However, there has been some very critical information missing in the recent discussion and consultations about the BIP. We need a clearer picture of what the Business Incentive Policy is actually costing. Then, we need a clearer accounting of what we are gaining from that premium. Without that information in hand, I believe it would be premature to make any substantial changes to the policy. We can't proceed on anecdotal piecemeal information.

I'm also concerned about the scope of the proposed changes. I think minor adjustments may need to be made to address areas which could improve the outcome of the policy. But, the kind of sweeping and wholesale changes that are being proposed cannot be done in the absence of a clear articulation of the costs and benefits. I hope the Minister will act to put in place an effective monitoring plan over the next year. When and only when that information becomes available would I support revisiting revisions to the Business Incentive Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Members' statements. Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Amy And Andy Wittlinger

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on the Minister's well wishes for our athletes going to the Canada Winter Games, later today I will be recognizing in the gallery two remarkable young athletes from my riding about whom I have spoken before in the House. Mr. Speaker, the records of Amy Wittlinger and Andy Wittlinger are indeed impressive. In the 2002 Northern American Indigenous Games in Winnipeg, Andy and Amy were major contributors in amassing 25 swimming medals for the NWT. Andy won nine individual medals and two medals as a member of a relay team. Amy won seven individual medals and two as a member of a relay team. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, Andy and Amy combined to break five NWT swimming records.

Amy's and Andy's accomplishments go beyond the indigenous games, Mr. Speaker; they have also attended the Alberta Senior championships for the past three years and have had numerous top 10 finishes. In April, 2002, Amy competed at the Edmonton Keyano International Asia Group Meet in Edmonton, Alberta against swimmers from 33 clubs across Canada and the United States and several other countries.

Amy and Andy also have very supportive and hard-working parents, who deserve a lot of credit for their success. We know that athletes succeed by working hard to obtain the maximum potential their talent could bring. It is also true that their road is much more meaningful and easier with the support of family, friends and community. Their parents, Chris and Fred Wittlinger, have been there every step of the way to support these remarkable athletes.

Mr. Speaker, Amy and Andy are both young leaders giving time back to the Yellowknife Polar Bears Swimming Club. They are qualified coaches and are currently helping the younger age group swimmers with the club. Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Amy and Andy Wittlinger later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Lee.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't quite see them now, they are just walking in. I would like to recognize Andy Wittlinger and Amy Wittlinger and Chris Wittlinger from my riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to welcome you to the House and all the best at the games. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Bell.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 66-14(6): Negotiation For Additional RCMP Resources

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Justice and it is about policing resources in Yellowknife. I know that the RCMP were working on a business plan to document the case for more resources, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the Minister of Justice is in receipt of that and if in fact we sat down with that and started negotiating? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

Return To Question 66-14(6): Negotiation For Additional RCMP Resources

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that the item has been completed. There are a number of recommendations that were raised with our Department of Justice. I believe they are in the initial discussion stages and that is the latest update I can provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary To Question 66-14(6): Negotiation For Additional RCMP Resources

MR. BELL: Thank you. Can the Minister confirm that in fact that we have had no substantial increase to policing resources in Yellowknife from this government since about the mid 80's, and between then and now I think the population has almost doubled. Is that the case?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Justice, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 66-14(6): Negotiation For Additional RCMP Resources

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, there has been a status quo on the level of funding. We are continuing to work within other existing funding programs in terms of securing additional funds to meet the growing demand. We will continue to work from that level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bell.

Supplementary To Question 66-14(6): Negotiation For Additional RCMP Resources

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I think the only substantial additional resources recently, as far as the RCMP is concerned, have been mandated by the Supreme Court of Canada, forcing us to no longer have single member detachments. Would the Minister indicate whether or not the department is looking to or agreeable to increasing the level of resources for detachments right across the Territories? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Justice, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 66-14(6): Negotiation For Additional RCMP Resources

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the financial arrangements during the targeted setting exercise for the 2001-02 fiscal year, we directed that the RCMP resource be capped until 2005, pending consultation with the RCMP. Beyond that though, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further information to provide the Member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary To Question 66-14(6): Negotiation For Additional RCMP Resources

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just so I have got it then, is it correct to understand that we are sitting down now to talk about resources from 2005 on and there really won't be any significant change until that point? Is that the case? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

Further Return To Question 66-14(6): Negotiation For Additional RCMP Resources

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, my understanding is we continue to consult with the RCMP of 'G' division to enhance some of the policing services pending their financial capability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 67-14(6): Employees' Mandatory Leave Pay Deductions

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I questioned the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat regarding mandatory leave-without-pay days over the Christmas period. Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's responses to my questions, he's informed me that it is an agreement with the UNW, which I was aware of, that they don't pool the resources from the money they withdraw from employees' pay. I would like to ask the Minister what happens to those dollars if they are not pooled to be paid back at a certain time of year? What happens to those dollars that belong to employees? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 67-14(6): Employees' Mandatory Leave Pay Deductions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, each department has an appropriation that includes money for salaries, wages, benefits and so on. Each department is obligated to budget for and account for its total salary, wages, and benefits package. If at the end of the year, there is any surplus money, then that comes back to a consolidated fund as unspent operational money the department didn't utilize. If there are any savings - - I don't know if there is - - then it would be part of that package. In the same way, if someone leaves with a higher salary and we hire someone with a lower salary and there is some savings there or less cost, then that money comes back. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 67-14(6): Employees' Mandatory Leave Pay Deductions

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then can the Minister also confirm along this line if employees who leave before December 20th when that pay cheque comes out, in that time period, then they are receiving ten days leave without pay?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 67-14(6): Employees' Mandatory Leave Pay Deductions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't quite understand the point the Member is making, so maybe he could clarify what the question is.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Roland, could you rephrase the question?

Supplementary To Question 67-14(6): Employees' Mandatory Leave Pay Deductions

MR. ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the Minister stated that -- and it's known now -- that when employees leave before the final pay period in December, they do not receive the money that's been

deducted off their pay cheque for coverage of that one week, five days. So if they leave days prior to that last pay cheque, then they are receiving ten days leave without pay. Is that not correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for FMBS, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 67-14(6): Employees' Mandatory Leave Pay Deductions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, no, I wouldn't interpret it that way. We have an agreement with the union that regardless of when employees start or leave the government, then within the period of time that they are working there, they get whatever salary is accrued to them. In this case, in order to be fair to all employees, the agreement is in the collective agreement. It's very clear that this money will not be reimbursed to anyone nor will anyone suffer from either not having a cheque or only a partial cheque during that mandatory leave-without-pay period. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 67-14(6): Employees' Mandatory Leave Pay Deductions

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister, also in response to my questions in this area, stated that it's very complicated to try to bring money back to employees if they leave before that time and how they would prorate it. So is he telling me that the system we've invested in as a government and the payroll system, Peoplesoft, can't handle this kind of work?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 67-14(6): Employees' Mandatory Leave Pay Deductions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, certainly the system can handle it, but I just want to make the point that it would complicate the whole system to try to get information on every single employee and when they left, when they started and so on. The main reason for doing this, Mr. Speaker, is this is, in our view and the union's view, the fairest arrangement for all of the public service who work with our government. It's a joint agreement, Mr. Speaker, between ourselves and the union. It's in the collective agreement. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 68-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, I wasn't paying attention. Mr. Speaker, in follow-up to my Member's statement that I made today, my question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development with respect to the work that's been done on consultation and consideration to revisions to the Business Incentive Policy. I

would like to ask the Minister what the status of those considerations are because there are people out there in the private sector who are very curious as to what's going to happen. The proposed revisions were quite well broadcast and well known and there is uncertainty out there and I would like to know what the status of the changes are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 68-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Business Incentive Policy, as the honourable Member has indicated, has been the policy of this government to help businesses maintain the threshold and maintain development in the North. I think we've achieved that. In our consultation with the public, there are a lot of people out there who have their own views on the Business Incentive Policy and as a government, we try to reflect those views in this particular area. As a department, the members of my Department of RWED have worked very hard and tried to look at this. This is not the first time that any government has looked at the Business Incentive Policy. There have been a number of attempts in the past. We are at the stage again of what are we going to do? As a department and as Minister, coming from a small community, I have seen how the Business Incentive Policy works and I would like to see these changes. I think these changes are good. I think they are needed and I think the public has told us that. However, I have to work with my colleagues on the other side and the direction to date is not to move forward at this point in time because of one area with regard to cost. We are saying that we could probably leave this for the time being and introduce a registry to gauge what the costs are to have this policy in place. So at this point in time, the decision is for us to not proceed, but to have a mechanism in place developed by RWED. I would like to respond like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Delorey.

Question 69-14(6): Promoting Trades Opportunities In Schools

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement, in the Northwest Territories we are doing various things to try to promote people to take up opportunities that are opening up here in the North now. One of the areas we are very short of is in the trades department. There are always companies looking for trades people. In October I asked the Minister what his department was doing to promote the trades in the Hay River area, in the South Slave area, particularly in Hay River. The answer that the Minister gave me at that time was he was very happy that I had brought the issue up because it was one of the areas that... "It is my desire, Mr. Speaker, to start concentrating on the usage of facilities that have shops and home economics rooms so that we can get back into that whole area." I would like to ask the Minister what has been done since October and what is his department doing now to promote the trades, in particular in the Hay River area?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return To Question 69-14(6): Promoting Trades Opportunities In Schools

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, yes, it is a very good program and I am very pleased that this is becoming very successful in Hay River. With regard to the work that the department is doing since October of last year when Mr. Delorey brought this to our attention, we started to work on this in a more concentrated effort throughout the Territories. The first thing we needed to do was to design the curriculum so that we get different pathways for students to enter back into the trades area. We have been very diligent in concentrating in that whole area, Mr. Speaker. It's for the territory, as a whole. We expect that to be finished by this summer, so we have some alternate maths and sciences, not a watered down version by any means, but an alternate pathway that students can get into. From there, we need to identify the resources to address issues, just as Mr. Delorey's project in the school in Hay River is doing. We want to be supportive of that. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary To Question 69-14(6): Promoting Trades Opportunities In Schools

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that every time I bring up something in the House that would benefit Hay River, it can't be done unless it's reviewed on a territorial basis and it's done every other place across the territories in conjunction with what's happening in Hay River. I am speaking about a specific project that is proving to be very successful in the Hay River area in a partnership between the school and the Housing Corporation and one that is promising for expansion. Will the Minister commit to looking at this project with the possibility of providing more funds to help this project grow and be more successful without having to introduce a territorial-wide project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 69-14(6): Promoting Trades Opportunities In Schools

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Housing Corporation is going to carry on with the contributions they are making to this project. Certainly I will look at it, however, we do deal with a process here of ensuring that we fund the various district education authorities. What I am pointing out is we can't specifically fund specific schools with projects. We do it through a process of our boards. I am very supportive of this project, but I think by this summer we will be in a much better position to say we have the academic programs out of the way, now let's look at resources and target certain areas and I am quite prepared to look at Hay River as a target area where we can bring about some success. I am quite prepared to do that, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hay River, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary To Question 69-14(6): Promoting Trades Opportunities In Schools

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In October, I brought up the fact that Diamond Jenness Secondary School, the shop there works on a budget of \$4,000. That budget hasn't increased in a number of years, yet they are trying to be more productive. They have picked up probably in the neighbourhood of 14 to 17 kids now who normally would have dropped out of the school system, but they are very strapped as far as having the equipment to be able to take part in a project like this. Will the Minister commit to looking at the funding for the shop at the Diamond Jenness Secondary School with the possibility of increasing some funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Further Return To Question 69-14(6): Promoting Trades Opportunities In Schools

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will look at it. I do have a project as well in Inuvik and, as Members are aware, there are schools in Yellowknife that offer trades training and Fort McPherson has a shop. So I have to be considerate of all schools in the territory, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member's concern about his school. Certainly I will look at it. I certainly will do my best to provide support for that, but I want to be fair to all schools in the Territories because there are many schools with shops that are not in use at the moment, Mr. Speaker, and I want to get them up and running. I probably will go on the basis of some pilot projects here. We are working with the Housing Corporation on this. They've contributed \$80,000 towards this project. We will carry on with it and will continue to seek the support of the Housing Corporation to ensure that it continues next year in Hay River, but as well I need to ensure that we are concerned about Inuvik, Fort McPherson, et cetera. Holman has a new school with a shop and no materials in it, no materials whatsoever. That is of concern to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary To Question 69-14(6): Promoting Trades Opportunities In Schools

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I could probably name 10 projects that have started off across the Territories in training that haven't happened in Hay River yet.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DELOREY: I can tell you that this project is a very successful project that Education, Culture and Employment is putting very little into right now. The housing corporation is putting a considerable amount of money in it. I would like the Minister to commit to looking at this project as a separate project and maybe doing something through Education, Culture and Employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 69-14(6): Promoting Trades Opportunities In Schools

HON. JAKE OOTES: I will look at the project, Mr. Speaker, but I do have to take into consideration some others that I have been speaking to; Inuvik as an example and Fort McPherson as an example. I do need to take that into consideration. I am quite prepared to put the Hay River project on that list as well, but I have two or three that I want to ensure we consider. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Roland.

Question 70-14(6): Sport And Recreation Facilities Policy

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question at this time will be directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Knowing our budget is before Members now and in the budget we see a number of facilities that deal with recreation in communities, I would like to know if the department now has a new policy regarding sport and recreation facilities in our communities. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 70-14(6): Sport And Recreation Facilities Policy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, we haven't developed any new policies on supplying new infrastructure to communities. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 70-14(6): Sport And Recreation Facilities Policy

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I ask that question is in the community of Inuvik, the community council is preparing to build a new family centre. It's a recreation facility based on taxpayers raising a lot of the funds. I know the community had approached the Minister, they wrote him a letter, asking for any available funds. If there is no policy then, does he do this on a one-off situation? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 70-14(6): Sport And Recreation Facilities Policy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although MACA is funding some new sports and recreation facilities in non-tax-based communities, it is under the policy we have for supplying infrastructure to non-tax-based communities. Tax-based communities are funded through their block funding

process. They have signed agreements that they are responsible for all their capital projects. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 70-14(6): Sport And Recreation Facilities Policy

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall when those block funding agreements were first put in place, they also incorporated the capital plan that was existing for that community, so is that not the case anymore? All capital for recreation facilities is off the list for tax-based communities? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 70-14(6): Sport And Recreation Facilities Policy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not certain on that. I can take the request for information back to the department. I do know that I reviewed Inuvik's block funding with the department and I did notice that they signed in there that they would be responsible for their block funding. I also note in that particular recreational complex they have, we, in the past, assisted them with that. I believe it was \$1.8 million on that particular building. So we did assist the community for that particular building. I do have a letter from the community, as the Member mentioned, requesting our assistance. I believe we are responding to that under our existing programs, other than for our sports and recreation program for which we have very limited money. That's the only program we have that we can assist the community with at this time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 70-14(6): Sport And Recreation Facilities Policy

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that at year end, sometimes there is money available in budgets around in the Northwest Territories, so I would like to know if the Minister would be willing to work with the community. They are not looking for a lot of money, but just helping to get this phase going. Would you be willing to work with them to see if there would be any funding at year end that they might be able to access? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 70-14(6): Sport And Recreation Facilities Policy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly willing to work with the community and the Member to see what we can do to assist the community, although I must put it on the table that we are very limited in our options right now, but we will certainly work with the community and the Member. Thank you.

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

Question 71-14(6): Creation Of A Yellowknife Airport Authority

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this morning are for the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley, and it's with regard to the investigation or the initiative that is underway now to look into the creation of a Yellowknife airport authority. Mr. Speaker, for its size, this airport is one of the busiest in Canada. It is an essential part of our economy and our lifestyle here. This is not a brand new idea. It's been on and off for the last year or two. I wanted to ask the Minister this morning what is this government's position regarding the creation or the possible creation of a Yellowknife airport authority?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 71-14(6): Creation Of A Yellowknife Airport Authority

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, in 2001, an aeronautical market study was commissioned by the government and the city of Yellowknife to look at a number of issues regarding the airport and its future potential of long haul flights and so on. I have since that time, recently set up a committee that will be a panel that will be taking a look at the various options and will be reporting back to me within the next couple of months, by May 31st with their recommendations. We don't, as a government, have a stand on whether we should have an airport authority or we shouldn't have an airport authority. That's a question that has been put to the table to look at the pros and cons of it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 71-14(6): Creation Of A Yellowknife Airport Authority

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So what is underway right now is essentially more a marketing or business development study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 71-14(6): Creation Of A Yellowknife Airport Authority

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, the panel I referred to has broad representation from all stakeholder groups including the NWT Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Mines, the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce has a seat on it as well -- I don't know if anybody is attending yet -- the city, the air transport association, tourism. We tried to get a broad spectrum of people on the panel. The panel's mandate is to look at what is the potential and what are the implications of changing the status of the airport from one the government runs. It's a fairly

broad mandate to come back to us with some recommendations. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 71-14(6): Creation Of A Yellowknife Airport Authority

MR. BRADEN: So the creation of an authority is one of the options to be looked at. Right now the Government of the Northwest Territories does subsidize, to a considerable degree, the operation of the airport. I wonder if the Minister could give us some sense today, even a guarantee, that costs to customers and airlines would not rise. Is that one of the baseline criteria that we can anticipate regardless of what happens at the Yellowknife airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation.

Further Return To Question 71-14(6): Creation Of A Yellowknife Airport Authority

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, the government does subsidize the operation of the Yellowknife airport fairly substantially, so we accept that cost. But the main objective of the panel is to look at alternative governance models. How else can we run an airport? Are there advantages to it and what are the implications for all of the stakeholders? We believe there is a tremendous opportunity with the opening of polar routes with our tourism potential to expand the way we are doing things and do it differently. We think this airport can be central to transport air cargo, as well as our own use. So the mandate is broad. I look forward to hearing from the panel. If the panel were to come forward and say here's an alternate model, but in order to make it work, we will need the government to continue to pay the amount that we currently subsidize the operation by, that's certainly open. I want to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that there is absolutely no intention on the government's part to try to offload any costs onto anybody that we currently bear for this airport or any other one. So, Mr. Speaker, that is not our intention at all. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Delorey.

Question 72-14(6): Project At Diamond Jenness School In Hay River

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with my Member's statement, I would like to ask some questions of the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen. Mr. Speaker, this project I mentioned in my Member's statement is one that has been introduced in Hay River and is gaining a lot of interest. It is my understanding that these units that are being built by the students at Diamond Jenness Secondary School are units that, when complete, are ready to move into. They can be moved and someone can live in them. I think the total budget for the one that they are building right now is something like \$80,000. I would like to ask the Minister what his take is on that project, how successful it is and if, indeed, the units that are coming out are ready to move into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Return To Question 72-14(6): Project At Diamond Jenness School In Hay River

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I apologize, I missed the last part of the question, but to answer in the overall context, we do continue to support a lot of the youth initiatives. It should also be acknowledged that we do want to support the youth initiatives through the youth corps, the Youth Secretariat. So, yes, we are working in collaboration with various schools from a regional perspective and Hay River is a good example. I think it sets the tone. This High School Home Builders Program was initially introduced in 1999 and I am pleased today to see that it has reached this level and hopefully they will continue to be supported throughout other high schools in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary To Question 72-14(6): Project At Diamond Jenness School In Hay River

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that when this program was put into place, it was to try to capture some kids that were not intending to go on academically and maybe even drop out of school, but they have picked up some of these students that have gotten very interested in working on these projects, but now it's kind of captured the interest of other students, more academically inclined students even. More students are willing to get into the program. So is the NWT Housing Corporation prepared to expand their program so that it could take in more kids? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 72-14(6): Project At Diamond Jenness School In Hay River

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWT Housing Corporation, under its act, is very flexible, so yes we are very interested to help develop trade skills in amongst the youth as the program generates interest. We certainly want to work with other departments, the Department of ECE for instance, in trying to incorporate a curriculum-based program in high schools provided that it doesn't interrupt market development or contravenes principles of business policies, which then becomes competitive in nature. But certainly from a training perspective, we do want to support the High School Home Builders Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary To Question 72-14(6): Project At Diamond Jenness School In Hay River

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be willing to expand this program and put more dollars towards it without it having to be a territorial-wide

program? Could Hay River access more dollars without every other community asking the same amount of dollars? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 72-14(6): Project At Diamond Jenness School In Hay River

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that this program will continue in Hay River specifically. I believe that another meeting will be scheduled for next fall so we will assure the Member that there will be an allocation of dollars, perhaps of the same amount. Again, the concept is to support this initiative to allow us to support some of the skills and trades training within the high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary To Question 72-14(6): Project At Diamond Jenness School In Hay River

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Minister if he will ensure that he will keep the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment well apprised of this project and encourage this project to continue to grow between the two departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 72-14(6): Project At Diamond Jenness School In Hay River

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly from an academic perspective, yes, we want to work with ECE so they can develop a curriculum that we can feed into that curriculum and support those High School Home Builders Programs in their community as well as in other communities who may want to take on similar projects and who may want to develop skill trades for those who want to advance to the apprenticeship program. So, certainly, Mr. Speaker, we want to assure that continues. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Roland, the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

Question 73-14(6): Gwich'in Contracting Memorandum Of Understanding

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to thank Members on this side for giving me an opportunity to ask as many questions as I have today. I'd like to send this question over to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Following up on earlier questions I had this week regarding the MOU that was signed, I would just like to know from the Minister, if in fact the Department of Justice reviewed the agreement to ensure it met all the constitutional requirements that we're under. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Return To Question 73-14(6): Gwich'in Contracting Memorandum Of Understanding

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the development of the memorandum of understanding, there was an interdepartmental working relationship that exists there. All the different aspects of the MOU are forwarded to the Department of Justice for review and they make some suggestions on how to try to make sure we are not breaking any laws and compromising any of the different rights under the constitution. So, yes, Justice was involved in the development of the MOU. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 73-14(6): Gwich'in Contracting Memorandum Of Understanding

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister also inform me, before it was signed, was all of Cabinet aware of the process and the decision to go ahead? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Resource, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 73-14(6): Gwich'in Contracting Memorandum Of Understanding

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have been in discussion with the GTC since August and that the MOU was forwarded to Cabinet prior to the signing of this MOU. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Delorey.

Question 74-14(6): Update On Territorial Health Care Fund

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier. I noticed the Premier is back amongst us after he was on a trip.

---Applause

I want to welcome him back into the House and he doesn't look too beat up and wearing a million dollar smile. I'm sure he can't wait to tell us the details of his trip and I would just like to offer to the Premier an opportunity to update us what the latest is on the \$16 million fund that has been established. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is directed to the Premier.

Return To Question 74-14(6): Update On Territorial Health Care Fund

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, over two weeks ago at the First Ministers' meeting, the Prime Minister put some

money on the table and it was to be provided across Canada on a per capita basis. We said that at that time we could not accept that because it did not provide adequate resources for the northern territories, and the Yukon Premier and the Nunavut Premier and myself walked out in protest. Yesterday morning, the Prime Minister acknowledged again that per capita was not treating the territories fairly and indicated that \$60 million would be provided as a floor for the three territories to be provided over three or five years, and other adjustments would be made on the long term and that the Clerk of the Privy Council, Alex Himelfarb, would be the lead official to begin that process. Officials were talking briefly yesterday and again this morning on initiating that discussion. We have received, from the Prime Minister of course, an acknowledgment that the issue had to be addressed and we were right to take issue with it and they do not agree with the way we read the issue but we had a very good meeting yesterday morning at 24 Sussex. The three MPs were there with us and we thanked them for their support and work in the background trying to get everyone to come together and to move on with this issue. All in all, Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased with the fact that there were no casualties, no one has been sidelined or diminished as a result of this extraordinary series of events. The Prime Minister is still good with us, accessible to us, he's engaged on this issue and the three Members of Parliament are staying with us. The Premiers are still standing with us as well and no officials have been harmed or unduly stressed so it seems to be, at this stage anyway, a classic happy story. Everyone is feeling relatively good and we are all agreeing on what it is we need to do. Thank you.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 6, oral questions. Ms. Lee

Question 75-14(6): Ongoing Funding For Territorial Health Care Fund

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question also is to the Premier. Yesterday in the House, we were looking for some more information about the deal that was reached and, of course, I join all the other colleagues in the House in showing our congratulations to the Premier and the whole team in arriving at this deal. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if Mr. Premier could shed light on the background on why is it that it is one time funding only and what hopes do we have? Can we be optimistic that this could be something that could be continuing and that it's not just a one-time thing? I don't mean to be ungrateful; it's just that we are aware of the ongoing needs of health care funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 75-14(6): Ongoing Funding For Territorial Health Care Fund

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is important to acknowledge, as well, the incredible work of the staff, Liz Snider and Melody Morrison, George Braden, during the time he was engaged on that as well, Gabriela Sparling. There are so many of the staff that were involved in helping us get through this exercise. We'll thank them in due course. I just wanted to acknowledge them. The

\$60 million was offered up as a short-term revenue to bridge us to the point where we will look at long-term solutions and the Prime Minister, as I said, asked Alex Himelfarb, the Clerk of the Privy Council, to look at a process that would adjust the funding inadequacies between the federal government and this government. The difficulties are created by per capita funding and to find some remedies in the next couple of months and report back to us on how we can address that. Hopefully, we will not have to have a whole series of battles every time federal funding and programs are made available across this country that would see us receive only a marginal amount because of our small population. So that's the reason for it. The Prime Minister and Mr. Himelfarb indicated yesterday morning it is a floor, so it's a minimum amount at this time. We are going to look at ways of enhancing that and, in any case, it is for the short term.

The important thing to acknowledge here, which I tried to do yesterday, is we are on good speaking terms again with the Prime Minister's office, with Anne McLellan, who has agreed to come up in the last two weeks of March to visit and see for herself the circumstances and unique challenge of providing services to people in the North, in particular in the area of health and social services. We will report back to the Prime Minister who says he knows all that already. Just to acknowledge that one of the things we've achieved and captured, which is essential for us, which is a good relationship with the Government of Canada, the federal government, and we have that with the Prime Minister continuing to work with us and having Minister Manley pay some attention to this, to work with our Minister of Finance Joe Handley and the relationship and attention of Anne McLellan to work on this issue with us as well. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 75-14(6): Ongoing Funding For Territorial Health Care Fund

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree and I do believe that the big difference and the big power behind this engine was the unity of the Premiers as well as MPs and the Minister and the Prime Minister. A lot of working together has gone into making a difference this time around. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier indicated three deadlines that the government is working towards and one is March 31, 2003 to work out the details of territorial health care funding and then April 1, 2003 to work out the per capita funding inequities and then another deadline of April 1, 2004 another year to work out other challenges facing the territories, fiscal challenges facing the territories in general. I appreciate that this is in the early stage here, but I wonder if the Premier could shed a light on the details behind that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 75-14(6): Ongoing Funding For Territorial Health Care Fund

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have any details at this time. I spent a lot of yesterday afternoon travelling, so I know when I left Edmonton this morning, I was talking to the secretary to Cabinet, Liz Snider, who was already having some discussions with Alex Himelfarb,

so perhaps on Monday we will be able to give the Members in this House an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 75-14(6): Ongoing Funding For Territorial Health Care Fund

MS. LEE: I am wondering if the fiscal challenges that have to be discussed have to do with the similar problems we have under formula financing based on per capita on infrastructure funding and other funding questions that the government has been pushing with Ottawa. Is it correct for me to assume that those are the fiscal challenges that we will be working on with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 75-14(6): Ongoing Funding For Territorial Health Care Fund

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The formula financing arrangement, in itself, will be one area where there is an acknowledgement by the Prime Minister that there are unique fiscal challenges in the North and the federal government has indicated they are prepared to address that through a process of engaging their officials with ours. So that's one area where that will be addressed. The other is just in the many other programs and funding arrangements that the federal government takes up that's outside of the formula where very often the territories are not treated fairly. The Prime Minister, again, has indicated that area will be addressed as well. So how the process will begin and how it will be described, we will need a few days to address that. We are sure the officials will get that clarified and once that's done, we will provide the details to the House. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 75-14(6): Ongoing Funding For Territorial Health Care Fund

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Premier has been travelling a lot and I am sure that he's got some resting on his plan as one of his things to do, but I am wondering if the Premier could give any indication as to where we go from here. What is the action plan to follow through on all the commitments that the Premier has gained from Ottawa. I asked a question yesterday to the Deputy Premier: What's the involvement of the Minister's staff? Where do we go from here? Could he give any indication on that? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Premier.

Further Return To Question 75-14(6): Ongoing Funding For Territorial Health Care Fund

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the secretary to Cabinet, Liz Snider, has been having discussions, I believe yesterday but definitely this morning, with the Clerk of the Privy Council and they are going to now

engage in discussions that will outline where we go from here. At the political level, we have done the necessary groundwork, we believe, to get some work initiated and once there has been some discussion, we will provide some detail on how we will proceed over the next month. As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, I will try to provide some detail as early as I can, perhaps Monday, or later next week. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, replies to Budget Address. Ms. Lee.

ITEM 10: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

Ms. Lee's Reply

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This being the last day that Members have a chance to address the budget, I just wanted to convey a couple of points about the budget. Mr. Speaker, in many ways our discussions about the budget in the House have been pre-empted by a lot of things that have been happening outside of the House, one thing being the federal budget that we were anticipating, as well as the mobilization of the forces to get better health funding on behalf of the territories.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it very clear that there should be a lot of concerns about the fact that in this budget, we've had to spend, spend, spend, as the saying goes. We had to get into a deficit position and increase our deficit level in order that we meet our spending needs. I don't think there should be any question out there that this is our preference or a way that we want to do it. It appears that we have stopped talking about the concerns about the deficit lately. We have, in the North, accepted the premise that this might be the only way to go or this is the only option and we can't do it any other way. I think that people here are more aware than anyone else that I have been speaking for extra funding for health care, especially with respect to the shortage of staff at Stanton and I have pushed really hard for the Minister to come up with extra funding. I have congratulated the Minister for putting \$8.2 million extra. If it's a choice between going into deficit or not following up on our commitment to spend that money on Stanton, I find that I have no other real options than to allow the government to get into deficit spending.

Mr. Speaker, I think that our job doesn't end there. I don't think it's proper, responsible or prudent on the part of us as legislators to rely on deficit spending to manage our finances. I think that most people would agree that any government, and that includes us, can find a way to do better with the money that we have and I don't believe that we can say with confidence that we have done everything we can in that area.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, I usually have what's called "coffee is on me" at Tim Horton's prior to each session and I find that the sessions at Tim Horton's are a very good way to get a pulse of the people and what people are saying. There were a lot of budget items that came out in my discussions with the people there. It was a good three hours spent there and I just want to go over some of the things.

The extra funding for the hospital has satisfied many people. I think people do agree that until the extra money came in, there was not a lot you can do. You have to have so many dollars to hire the people. But now that we have the money, the message that I am hearing from the people is that we have to find a way to better manage the money that we have. Another thing the people have brought up, and this is something I have talked about in the House, is there is an impression in this House or out there that Yellowknife has everything that it needs and it doesn't need anything and we get an unequal proportion of capital funding. That is absolutely not true, Mr. Speaker, according to the people who come and talk to me at Tim Horton's.

For example, Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that the Aurora College in Yellowknife is one where probably more students go through than any other campus in the Territories. I don't know the stats, but some even mentioned that we probably get 15 percent of the Aurora College budget, but serve about 85 percent of the student population. This might not be a correct figure, but the impression is that the Yellowknife campus for Aurora College is being asked to do a lot more than the money that it's getting. Another thing that people are telling me is that as a capital city and given that the focus of the territorial government is on training people and there are a lot of programs being provided in Yellowknife, it's time very soon to be looking at having a proper campus for Aurora College. I believe the more that I meet in political life, having a proper institution for academic and critical thinking of what's going on in the Territories historically, politically and culturally is important, and would like to see the day that we have a university-level institution in the Territories. I understand and accept the fact that we should have three strong campuses or more in the Territories and we do have Inuvik campus, Fort Smith campus and Yellowknife campus, but we are the only real campus without a proper place to call a campus because right now we have part of rented space in a building. So I would like to see in the very near future a budget for Aurora campus.

Another thing people have brought to me that's going on in Yellowknife that needs financial attention is the industrial role that's going to be needed in Yellowknife. I live in my riding of Range Lake and I commute daily from that area behind Wal-Mart to the Legislative Assembly. Perhaps it's because of the fact that it is the winter season and there is a lot of trucking going on to the industrial sites around the city, but I certainly see dozens and dozens of industrial trucks moving on the Old Airport Road. I remember a time, Mr. Speaker, when people hardly ever drove that area, but now it's become a main traffic area for commuters everyday. At the same time, we have industrial trucks travelling with us, especially during the busy times. I think that it's becoming more and more clear that we have to have an industrial road that is going through Kam Lake and not going through town. The wide load trucks or heavy industrial trucks making turns in and out of Old Airport Road between Wal-Mart and the airport and then coming to town is becoming more and more problematic and it's becoming an issue that we really need to pay attention to. I read in the paper that city council has passed a motion to set up a committee to look into that more seriously and I have no question in my mind that the city will not have the financial resources to establish that area until they get some help from the territorial government. Those are the kinds of things we need to look at.

Mr. Speaker, another thing I really need to bring attention to is the class sizes in our schools. This is an issue that I have brought up many a time and I do believe that in the current budget we are working under the laws that we passed at the beginning of the Assembly, which reduced the pupil/teacher ratio from 18.5 to, by the end of this year, we will be going into 16.5 or somewhere near there. The reality of the situation is that this isn't resulting in a class size as small as we were hoping to see with this new formula. I do appreciate that with the deficit situation that we have, the Minister has made it clear in the response to the petition signed by my Range Lake constituents, that he's not able or prepared to look at reducing the class size at the moment. I have to really reiterate once again it remains a big issue for the constituents in my riding.

It's really hard to understand when they are being told by the government that more money is being put into education and that we are funding better than we have ever in the last three years and yet we see still a very crowded class size in that school. One of the problems the Range Lake School has is the fact that each class size physically is not built in the same way as the old schools. In old school buildings there just seems to be more space than the newer schools that are being built where to meet the safety standards or the way things are designed, the school classrooms in Range Lake are physically smaller than some of the old buildings, yet they are being asked to put a lot more students there than is physically possible or is educationally desirable. It's an issue that the parents and teachers at Range Lake want me to keep pursuing and is something I will be addressing with the Minister as we go through the Education budget, Mr. Speaker.

Another thing that was brought to my attention is the fact that something is not going right in our education system... I have this conversation all the time with parents of our community and teachers. We are spending more money on schools, but the one area that isn't being addressed very well is the need for special needs students. We have increased the funding for special needs, but I think that most parents would agree that that's not meeting the needs of special needs students. I think we cannot reduce the classroom sizes because we don't have enough money. Dealing with special needs students in classes will make it easier for the teachers to teach in class. So I am amazed at knowing how many students we have with special needs in our school systems that we don't have a comprehensive program that would train special needs assistants to make sure we have enough of them going around in our schools in Yellowknife and I am sure there are needs in all of the Territories.

Also, there's another thing my constituents brought up. We have the need to reduce the student population in the school. If that's not possible, we have to increase the funding to get more money for special needs students. One of the parents brought to my attention that their kids are graduating at grade 11 or 12 level, but from what they know from talking to these students they don't think they should be pushed through if they are not able to meet the standards of the school and there is not enough proper testing of the level that these students are at. I don't want this to sound like a criticism of our education system at large. I am a product of our education system. I know we do a lot of good work in many corners of our education system. But I hear more often than I would like to about situations where students are having much difficulty, whether it's because English is their second language, and I am not talking about

only those who are coming from outside of the country. Students who are from the North whose first language may not be English or there might be children coming from the communities, they come in and they are not obtaining the educational level that their grades are saying that they are. So, for example, somebody who is in Grade 10 may be reading at a Grade 6 level or 7 level or even lower. I know of a case where the parents had to push really hard to get a test for this student and then found that her child was reading at a lot lower level. I don't think we are doing any favours to those students if we are not providing them with the level of education and support that they need. Pushing them through when they are not ready to take on the next task is not the way to meet the needs of our students. So I would like to see more in the Education budget to address the needs of those students who seem to be falling through the cracks.

Another thing of the education system that I want to talk about is something we need to address in future budgets and I don't know if this is being discussed or included in this budget, and I will be pursuing that with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, is we don't seem to be prepared to deal with those students with disabilities that we put in the inclusionary education system. Mr. Speaker, the policy of this government is to have our students with various levels and kinds and categories of disabilities go through our school system and they do manage to get through from grades 1 to 12, but it seems like we just let them loose and let them fend for themselves when they get beyond grade 12. Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister is well aware of cases I have been working with where students with disabilities graduate from high school, they manage to get accepted to other programs after they finish high school, but our Student Financial Assistance Program doesn't cater to those students after they get out of high school. So we just leave them to fend for themselves and most of them will end up having to go and get support from income support or something else. That's not the way to do it, Mr. Speaker. I think if we have made it as a policy to have an inclusionary policy in the Territories and put them through school, then we have to be prepared to assist them as they pursue their post-secondary education or education beyond high school.

I was reading a government document on Maximizing Northern Employment. There was a clause in there about there being special programs for those with disabilities. What that told me is that I think Maximizing Northern Employment is an excellent one. It's one I have had a lot of positive feedback on, but once again we are probably falling short in addressing the needs of students who may finish programs they were able to get through, but they will not be graduating from a proper diploma program. There seems to be a gap in how we address those students that may have had a special program that they graduated from. It might be a certificate program or it might be a life skills course, but not what is conventionally known as university or a diploma program and when they do return, we are not able to provide them with internships or other transitional programs that this government has created. That is working really well for the mainstream students, but there isn't one that is designed for the students with disabilities or students who are not in the mainstream.

It looks like I have a minute left and I have only covered education. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to state that there should not be any impression out there that we are happy spending our way into a deficit. I think maybe the Minister of Finance has done such an excellent job convincing everybody this is the only way to go and we need every cent of the money that we have and we are spending it at the most optimum level and the only way we can do everything we need to is get into deficit spending. I, for one, would like to see a situation where we are not increasing the deficit, where we can manage our own. We've gotten extra money now from a very united effort on the part of everybody, Premiers, our Members of Parliament or our senior officials, media attention. I think we have gotten a response from outside. I think though we have a job to do here in doing our part and doing less of blaming other people for our financial situation. My time is up. I will end it there and I look forward to pursuing more discussions further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 10, replies to Budget Address. Mr. Delorey.

Mr. Delorey's Reply

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't intend to take up 20 minutes, but I feel obligated to make a few comments on the Budget Address. I can think back, Mr. Speaker, better than three years ago when I first came into this Assembly and when we sat down as a group to look at our fiscal situation and where we were, and the importance that we put on our fiscal situation at the time and where we were going and how we could not afford to go deeper into deficit and what would happen if we just continued to spend. I guess, Mr. Speaker, to some extent -- and it's been said before -- that we probably have changed our views on that. I agree with Cabinet that we have to continue to spend and there are many things that we have to do to prepare our people to meet the challenges that are coming forward in the NWT. I, like everybody else, am very hopeful that things will turn out at least in some cases, the way we envisioned them and that the territory will gain a lot of benefits from the resources that we have. I am certainly not comfortable yet that we have reached the point where we have the arrangements with Ottawa that will give us those resources. However, we have to continue to work towards that area. I am sure if we do, we will gain some cooperation with Ottawa to get more of the resources that we so rightfully need and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I was a little disappointed when the Budget Address came down. As a matter of fact, I was quite disappointed because some of the areas that I am very close to from the part of the Territories where I live and represent, represent some of the renewable resources that we have. A lot of my constituents deal in the fishing industry and I can tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, that the fishing industry is not one that's going to make the NWT a stand-alone territory, but we do have a lot of residents that depend on the fishing industry as a livelihood. We have mentioned many times that the fishing industry is a traditional industry in the Territories and we don't want to see it die. But to not even have it mentioned in the Budget Address, Mr. Speaker, gives me cause for concern.

Agriculture is another area in the South Slave region and we have some people working very diligently trying to promote, trying to make a living. Again, Mr. Speaker, it's not an industry that I see putting the Northwest Territories on the map as a stand-alone territory, but is that a reason to totally ignore it? I don't think so, Mr. Speaker. We can at least give the people who are working in those industries enough recognition to mention them when we make public comments about where our government is going, what we see as important in the NWT, what we want to see our territory become.

I guess if all we are going to depend on is the multi-million dollar corporations to come in here and take our natural resources that we have, non-renewable resources, take what we can from them and then when they are all gone, hopefully we've made enough money to sustain us forever. I think, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be a profitable territory and one that is going to live on with wealth, we are going to have to develop some of our renewable resources as well. We do have renewable resources. For me, I don't think we are paying enough attention to them, we are not letting them develop. I see people trying to make a go of our renewable resources, make a living, create an industry, create employment for other people in the Territories that are going out of business because our government does not want to do anything with our renewable resources. I know that some of the things that are stopping that are maybe out of our control, but I think we could be doing more to get some cooperation from everybody in the Territories to get some of these industries going.

Mr. Speaker, I look at the community that I come from and I go to other communities around the North and I don't see anywhere in the North that has more activity on the industrial side of things and what a place, when I think about it, to have a trade school; Hay River. Promote the trades and use the trades people who are in town and get a good trades industry going to supply industry in the North with good qualified trades people. There is nothing happening in Hay River for the trades. For some reason, Hay River is not a good place to set up a trade school. I think it's a fantastic place to set up a trade school. I don't know what it would take to get this government interested in doing something like that in that area to set up a trade school in Hay River, but from my perspective and when I look around and talk to businesses in Hay River, everybody thinks it would be a great place for a trades school. I think we could do a lot more promoting the trades and using what we have, the businesses we have established in the Northwest Territories, to promote that.

I am certainly hopeful that the government will come around to do more trades. Every time we talk about trying to promote people in certain areas, we spend so much money setting up programs, hiring more consultants and doing studies, we would have enough money to build a school and get a project going. I think we have the partners out there who are quite willing to work with the government and put resources into it that would help promote that. I think we need it in the Northwest Territories.

We talk about education. Again, we will never do enough for education, I think. We need our people educated, but sometimes we need to put the resources down to where they belong, to the students. I hear it all across the Territories. Every time we put more money into education, it's another position

somewhere. Very little of it gets back to the students. I think we can do a lot more in that area. I would like to encourage the department and Cabinet to make sure the programs and extra dollars we are putting out there get to where they are going to produce something, at the grassroots.

I worry about our health care situation. We continually put more money into health care, but we have a situation developing in the Territories trying to retain professionals in the health care field. I don't know where it's going to go or how long we are going to be able to keep up with the increases, not only in the services but in the professions, the doctors. How much can we pay our doctors and still have an effective health care system? I think it's going to be a question that is going to continue to plague us because right now, I don't know if we can keep up with the forced growth issues in health. The \$60 million that we got from the federal government for a separate fund is fantastic news, but I don't think it's going to get us out of the woods or anything close to that. By the time we split it up and put it out there, we are going to have to be very diligent in how we spend that money to get the best bang for the dollar. I am hoping we can continue to work with Ottawa to put more emphasis on that and get more dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to bring out a couple of points in there, especially the ones that deal with our renewable resources. I don't think our government is doing enough in that area and I would like to encourage the government to do more in our non-renewable resource sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 10, replies to Budget Address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 3, Bill 6, Bill 7, Bill 8, Committee Report 3-14(6), Committee Report 4-14(6), Committee Report 5-14(6), with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I call the committee to order. We have a number of issues to consider in Committee of the Whole: Bill 3, committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6) and 5-14(6) and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that the committee continue consideration of Bill 3 and committee reports 3-14(5), 4-14(6) and 5-14(6) concurrently and continue on, first of all, with the Department of MACA.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Chair will call a short break and come back and review the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 3: Appropriation Act, 2003-2004

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call the Committee of the Whole to order. Mr. Minister, would you like to bring in any witnesses? Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on my right is Ms. Debbie DeLancey, the deputy minister of MACA; and, on my left is Sheila Bassi-Kellett, director of corporate affairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are reviewing the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. General comments. Mr. Dent.

General Comments

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have any general comments, but I do have a question. I know the department has been working for some time on amendments to the municipal statutes. I was wondering if we could get an update on whether or not we are going to see the Municipal Statutes Amendment Act in the life of this Assembly.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we had the statutes amendment act scheduled for this session. However, we are told we may not be able to get the French translation done in time, so we are planning for it to be tabled for now and then we will have first and second reading in June.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that sort of timetable, is the Minister confident that there will be enough time between the June session and the tentative schedule for the committees to do their work? Over the summer, we have a lot of assemblies, it's difficult to get the public hearings in over that period of time. I understand this is a fairly extensive bill. Is it likely that we are going to have the time to get the work done before the fall session when it comes to the consultation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am certainly hoping there is time for the committee to do their work. We will be allowing for some consultation process by tabling the bill in the House during this sitting, so that communities or the general public could have an opportunity to review what we have as a draft bill.

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

MR. NITAH: Mr. Chairman, I just want to go back to the government's responsibility of addressing the serious issue of dust and the effects on our health. As an Assembly, we recognize that as a real problem in the Northwest Territories. People in communities have been pushing us as their Members to recognize that problem. Two recommendations of the special committee that was created to address issues in the smaller communities, the city accepted that responsibility. Sometimes, Mr. Chairman, I feel that when governments and their departments identify a problem, sometimes it takes too long to identify those problems, but once we do, we approach it as an obligation. The attitude that you should be happy, you should be lucky you are getting these services in your communities, when we should be happy that we have an opportunity to deliver programs and services on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, we should be happy to work with the communities so that we involve the community. When we address such a serious issue as dust control that every community has an issue with, it deals with the psyche. It has a negative impact on the human psyche when they have to swallow the dust in their homes.

As an Assembly, we recognize that, but what is our answer? A piecemeal slapped together response to that issue, using equipment rather than the needs and recognition that it is a health issue.

What I see is a Minister that has taken the opportunity and padded his riding, not recognizing the needs of the communities down in Mackenzie and around the Great Slave Lake. There is an opportunity, a political will was demonstrated. A decision to accept that responsibility, to address that issue was not made by this Assembly but the Minister decided we'll use availability of equipment to follow through with our responsibility. Whereas, what he should have done, right off the bat, was acknowledge that every community has this problem, taking our financial resources and applying it evenly right across the territory.

What does it take to set up dust monitoring stations in all our communities? What does it take to make our government departments go to every community and to do an analysis, working with the community to come up with a long-term plan so that they know that this government is responding to their issues?

We have, because of equipment availability, decided to spend an obscene amount of money crushing gravel without doing the leg work in Tuktoyaktuk, without doing an assessment of the amount of crushed gravel that is needed, how the plans are going to be put in place. How are they going to pave the road?

Are they just going to slap the chipseal down in communities with the community's participation? Those things have not been considered. No, there is an opportunity for me to get into that community and pave first or chipseal first and I'll use this equipment availability as the reason behind it.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to see this department finish with the community until that issue is resolved. I will be introducing a motion for consideration by my colleagues to do just that. We have an issue in every community. I think as a government, we have a responsibility to address that issue and then coordinate it in partnership with the communities so they know we are addressing their concerns, and it is a big concern. I argued strong and hard for my communities yesterday. Upon reflection, Mr. Chairman, it is not an issue for my constituency; it is an issue of territorial proportions. One of the very few that they could do as a territorial government to cover the whole Northwest Territories and have an impact on every community. We haven't done that. We took our political will and our acceptance of responsibility and one Minister ran with it and ensured that his riding would benefit first.

There are ways of doing things without financial institutions. If we don't have the money now, we could work with the community's development corporation. Mr. Koe runs our economic development arm of this government. We're always looking for projects in communities, here is a small business opportunity for people in communities to do the chipsealing and maintenance. Why can't we look at the whole issue holistically? Career opportunities. Let's be glad we could do it and let's be happy that we have the privilege of doing it, not approach it as an obligation, not make the communities feel guilty about getting something that they need. It is our responsibility, and this is good. Let's have a territorial impact, let's make people happy in every community. I think we don't have an opportunity to do that as a government too often, and this is one opportunity. Let's not belittle ourselves. Let's use the financial institutions, the political will of the people in the Northwest Territories. Let's see if we can move on this as needed, not based on the equipment availability. That kind of thinking restricts us and it keeps us from moving to the next level of society.

The attitude demonstrated by the Minister is, here is an opportunity for our riding, I'm going to jump on it. It is not good for society as a delivery agent, as a representative of the values that people hold in the democratic system. That is abuse of power as far as I'm concerned. So, I will be introducing a motion that will re-jig this whole chipsealing program so that all Northerners can benefit, all Northerners will know when we will address their dust issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. I didn't hear any questions there per se or comments, but do you want to respond Mr. Steen?

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think I responded to the point the Member raised again yesterday. However, since our discussions yesterday, I went over with the department why Fort Resolution wasn't earlier in the schedule.

What I have back from the department is that Transportation has already crushed material for Resolution. It is stockpiled there. They are not charging us at this time for that work but the material is stockpiled there for future use. Transportation has advised us that when they're doing the actual chip sealing part of the program, they try to arrange it so that they hit as many communities in an area as possible to bring the costs of the chipsealing machinery down. They own chipsealing equipment but it is only for repairs rather than for the actual laying of the chipsealing. The Member was right when he said that chipsealing is generally contracted to private enterprise. They do supply the chipsealing material. So what Transportation is trying to do is tie chipsealing in one community with chip sealing or crushing that they are doing in other areas.

I advised the Member yesterday, and I will confirm it again, that we are re-looking at this whole schedule, I mean, it is in the early stages of the whole program. We are looking again at how we can reschedule some of the other communities, if in fact it is possible. I don't guarantee anything here, but I do say that we can go over with Transportation what the cost would be to do a certain community in relation to where their equipment is. We have to keep in mind that although we manage to convince the government that chipsealing is an urgent need in the communities in relation to dust control, they have allocated only a certain amount of money for this. I am hoping that with the success that we are achieving even at this early stage with four communities, that we will be able to go back and show the government that there is a need for more funding and a need to step up the program. At this point in time, I am limited to a certain amount of dollars in this fiscal year. It is not my decision alone that decides what communities are being done, like I pointed out before. It's not my decision alone, it has to be in relation to where the other activities of Transportation are taking place. That's the only thing that makes it viable. Otherwise, we are talking millions and millions of dollars and we don't have that. I understand the concern of the Member and I will do what I can. I will work with him to see if it's possible somehow to do his communities. But, again, I can't base decisions on politics, otherwise his argument that I am doing this in favour of my communities will be valid and I am not doing it that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister communicating with the Department of Transportation to come to a realization that there is chipsealing happening there. My argument, Mr. Chairman, is not just for my communities. My argument, Mr. Chairman, is how government approaches its responsibility. It's an attitude that this government goes and runs with. You should feel privileged that we are delivering programs and services to you. We are doing things and you should be happy. That is the wrong attitude from government. It conjures negative feelings in communities that replicates itself. It contributes to the low self-esteem of our communities and our people. We must start changing our attitudes.

I am not just talking about Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e. Every community has problems with dust issues. How we approach this particular responsibility is troubling to me. We never thought it through. We let our financial restrictions dictate how

we think. Every community needs it. So what's the answer? We have the equipment, so we will do them first when we should have thought there is an issue here. There is an issue with dust and how it relates to our health. Let's determine what the dust levels are across the Territories in communities. Let's discuss with the communities, here is your dust level, this is more information, this is how much it's going to cost. We don't have the money now, but we will help you do your job so we can address the issue as soon as possible, not 10 years down the road, not 20 years down the road, but as soon as possible.

Sometimes we have to take a leap of faith at a global level. A good percentage of the world did it with Kyoto. We don't know what it means. We don't know what the effect is going to be with us as individuals and societies, the cost to our governments and institutions, but it was the right thing to do so we went with it. Not all of us agreed with it, but as a society, we went with it. This is something similar to that, just localized. That's what I am talking about, Mr. Chairman.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, I would like to call progress until we can deal with this more effective through a motion, so that we can change the department's way of dealing with this particular issue and so we can go to the communities and let them know we are dealing with their issue of dust control and that we will be dealing with it in a coordinated long-term plan.

The schedule that was given to me, half the communities are not even on it, yet those communities have dust problems in their communities as well. Because of our limited thinking, not thinking outside of the box, we are denying them the hope and opportunity to do something about that problem. That's what I am talking about, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Are you making a motion? Does the committee agree we continue with detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We are dealing with MACA, directorate, grants and contributions, page 4-11. We are on page 4-9, directorate, operations expense, total operations expense, \$3.996 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-11, directorate, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$225,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Contributions, total contributions, \$304,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total grants and contributions, \$365,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Sorry. Total grants and contributions, \$565,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Financial Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-13, community financial services, operations expense, total operations expense, \$4.957 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Community financial services, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, \$3.75 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under cost-shared water/sewer projects, tax-based communities, I see that we have the same amount in this budget as we had in last year's main estimates. I would like to get an indication from the Minister, if I could, why we are showing zero in the revised estimates? Were there no projects for the \$2.5 million we had in the budget for this year that were funded? What are the projects that are going to be funded with the \$2.5 million shown for the 2003-04 main estimates?

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I will ask the deputy to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$2.5 million is not shown in the revised main estimates because on an annual basis, this money is included at headquarters, but once we have actually determined the allocations to the tax-based communities, then we move that budget into the regional operations. So in the revised main estimates, this \$2.5 million would show up in the regions, allocated among the six communities. Similarly, what we've done is invited the six tax-based municipalities to make applications. We are in the process of reviewing those. Once the decisions are made, the

budget will be moved out to the regional operations accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Page 4-15, grants and contributions, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that we defer consideration of this item for a later day.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We'll take a short break and get a motion ready.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I call the Committee of the Whole back to order. I will get the honourable Member to read out the motion. Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 1-14(6) To Defer Consideration Of Total Contributions, Community Financial Services, MACA, Defeated

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee defer further consideration of the total contributions under the activity community financial services in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion. The motion is not debatable.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

We are at page 4-15, community financial services, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, \$3.75 million. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions on 4-15, expanding the boundaries of my constituency a little because of the fact that one of my colleagues is unable to be in the House today. I would like to ask the Minister about the water intake project in Rae. It's my understanding that some of this money is identified for that project, but in fact I think the preliminary estimates or the amount of work that needs to be done are in the \$8 million range. I understand as well that a study has been completed and I think the Minister is in possession of that study that would indicate exactly how this should be carried out. I think he explained the other day that he won't table it until March 3rd despite the fact that it seems to be complete now. I am wondering if the Minister can explain the status of this project and why it seems to be not moving ahead as quickly as possible. It seems that if the study doesn't come forward until March 3rd, we will likely be coming close to the end of this session before we have any chance to influence any changes to that. I am wondering if the Minister's thinking is, if there were any urgent resources required, he would then come forward for

a supplementary appropriation in order to complete the work on the project in Rae. Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding we have under this is identified for capital water and sewage within tax-based communities. There is, as we indicated, \$1 million as well for the chipsealing program. This particular funding did not include the work that's being done in Rae-Edzo. However, I will have the deputy respond to the Member's question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The outstanding issue with regard to the new intake plant in Rae is the identification of the water source. As the Member has noted, the current budget is based on continuing to obtain water from the same source. However, at the MLAs request, the department had undertaken some testing of alternative sites with the MLA and the community. That testing was completed in the fall. We are expecting the lab reports by the end of this month, at which point a decision will be made on the appropriate water source. Should there be a problem with the amount of funding, it will have to be addressed but until we can get the results back and determine the appropriate water source, it would be premature to explore additional funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Okay. Can I have some commitment from the Minister then that the lab reports will be completed by month end and that we will have a chance then to see that in committee and in the House before we adjourn this session? I think it would be important for Members and certainly the Member most specifically concerned to be able to have this information and be able to question the Minister in any event, whatever the lab reports have determined, because it seems to me that, should it require another water source, obviously as the deputy has indicated, it would require more money. That would be something that I think the Member would like a chance to speak to and lobby for, given the urgency of the situation. Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is where we are talking about capital money and it's identified as \$840,000 for this fiscal year and \$600,000 for the next fiscal year and \$10,000 for 2005-2006 for that particular capital project.

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

MR. BELL: Yes, I see the \$1.7 million that we've identified and the deputy indicated that would be required for the current water source chosen. Clearly we can't know what the costs will be in going forward in future years if it's deemed that there's a

more appropriate water source, but I think the Member is certainly interested in having a chance to see those lab reports prior to the adjournment of session, so we can have some discussion about whether another water source is preferable and get some sort of discussion around how much money we would be talking about in future years. After this session and after we pass this budget, the next year's budget process will certainly be shortened, given that it's an election year. I think the Member is going to want a chance to get some commitments from this Minister that, if we are talking about a different water source, he has the chance to get that kind of thing into the capital plan and onto the department's radar before two budget sessions from now. Clearly this is something that has needed work for some time and I don't think it's adequate to suggest that this will have to be delayed another couple of years if there are substantial changes of this nature made. Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can commit to having the report available before the session is completed and then we can have some input from the Member as to which options we would proceed with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Page 4-15, community financial services, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, \$3.75 million. I will call it again. Community financial services, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, \$3.75 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Emergency Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-17, emergency services, operations expense, total operations expense, \$703,000. Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 2-14(6) Recommendation To Change Delivery Of Highway Emergency Services, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Department of Transportation reconsider their approach to the delivery of emergency services on the highway system and place a higher priority on the emergency rescue responses that are accompanied with sufficient resources including highway emergency rescue vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): There's a motion on the floor. The motion is being passed around. The Chair will give Members an opportunity to look at the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The Chair does not recognize a quorum in the House. Ring the bells.

---Ringing of Bells

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We have a motion the floor. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-17, emergency services, operations expense, total operations expense, \$703,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Governance

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On to 4-21, community governance, operations expense, total operations expense, \$771,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Lands Administration

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-25, lands administration, operations expense, total operations expense, \$2.178 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Sport, Recreation And Youth

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On to 4-29, sport, recreation and youth, operations expense, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, again in this area, I find severe and major problems in delivery of sport and recreation in the Northwest Territories. Our representation at territorial, national and international sporting events is one-sided. We seem to be very efficient at sending representation from regional centres, territorial centres, but we hardly ever send anyone from our communities.

That tells me that we are doing something wrong. This is an issue that we discussed on day one. We are going down that same road again. Whether it's a road of truth or not, that's for Mr. Lafferty and Mr. Handley to hash out. Mr. Chairman, it's a problem that's continuing. I have had the opportunity to review Sport North annual reports going back ten years. You look at the scholarships, the high performance, 90 percent are in regional centres, 90 percent. This was way before Nunavut left, Mr. Chairman. It seems that we have a sporting organization

that represents a segment of our population and doesn't represent the other segment of our population very well.

I will be sharing information that I gathered from my colleagues when I have finished compiling the information I get. I am not there yet, but that information will tell my colleagues that delivery of sport and recreation is very one-sided. In fact, Mr. Chairman, the numbers in any other jurisdiction would warrant a review. Again, I think it's the attitude and philosophy we have as a government to deliver those programs and services. I don't want to ask questions because it's been demonstrated that we don't get the response, so I am just going to use the information that I have and try to educate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. I didn't hear a question there, but I will give the Minister an opportunity to respond if he would like. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, some of our sports partners actually had the same concern as the Member. That's why they had organizational meetings as to how to address this particular concern. They have had these meetings, including Sport North, and the overall agreement is that an NWT sports board would be created which would give direction to Sport North as to how they spend their finances. In the past, they felt that the small communities didn't have all that much input into those decisions. So small communities are now being given the opportunity to do this through their regional sports groups and bring their concerns to the NWT sports board, once it's created. It will be at that level that the decision would be how Sport North would spend the lottery funding. I appreciate the concern the Member has brought up. We are planning to see what results come out of the final meeting they have planned. I believe it's for next month. Hopefully we can see some movement on the board being established. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Steen. Page 4-29, sport, recreation and youth. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that page I am just wondering, given what the Minister stated in his opening statement about there being more money that's being set aside to support sports and recreational facilities and the Minister stated that this new community initiative program will allow communities to apply for up to \$100,000 per year, I am just wondering where we would find that budget. Is it part of this item here on page 4-29? Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am advised that it's under regional operations in the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I get some help on where that item is? Is that to come later on in the department's budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. I think it's probably coming up on page 4-33. Would you like to confirm that, Mr. Steen?

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our numbers on our pages might be a little different. We are showing 4-36. It's under regional operations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. I think our books show 4-33. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I found it, so I will address it when we get there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Page 4-29, sport, recreation and youth, operations expense, total operations expense, \$1.043 million. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in connection with this activity area, I would like to explore something that has gone on in the past year or so and I think it's been discussed in this budget review. That is our consideration of the major sporting events and how we can engage more participation, especially at the smaller community level. There was, as part of a discussion paper, an option proposed that would see the creation of an NWT games in off years from the Arctic Winter Games. That's something that could engage and foster that kind of participation. I wanted to ask the Minister what the status of that particular approach is. Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are hoping that that decision would be made by the new board as to whether there would be that particular sporting event taking place or whether they may wish to continue with Arctic sports. So we are leaving it to them rather than us making a decision. They will make it themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BRADEN: In a related area, and this perhaps broadens the discussion to a little more of a policy area and it would certainly involve the Department of Health and Social Services. This is the notion that sport should be considered more than just a competitive or recreational pursuit that takes in a relatively small and already active lifestyle. Part of the population believes that leading healthy lifestyles should be a paramount goal of any government to help create a healthier society. I know this has been something that has been kicked around. It's gaining more prominence and popularity, the idea that there is a health component to enabling and fostering more recreation and a healthier lifestyle. So I wanted to ask the Minister in this position something the Minister of MACA is taking up with his colleague in Health and Social Services to see whether there are resources such as some of our infrastructure, some of our people and certainly some of our budget that could be pooled to help this agenda along? Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I could indicate, first of all, the new sports policy hasn't been completed yet by MACA. In there would be some recognition of the fact that this is not just sports and recreation, this is related to active living. That's one point. The second point is we are right now partnering with Sports Canada in funding arrangements whereby we meet them 50/50 with some contributions they are giving us with some sports activities, but it's really related to active living. It's to encourage active living in all communities, not just the small ones. It's not a large fund at this time, but I believe me and my officials are in the process of negotiating and signing that off right now while the games are going on in Bathurst. So it's in the final stages. It's an agreement between all three territories. The third point is we are, at the present time, participating with health and social services, on an active living strategy which would work towards identifying what we can do to encourage active living at all levels, not just young people but even seniors.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, in connection, this is an initiative that I know the Sport North people have been carrying around the city and I know at our level as well. It relates to the potential for using part of what will soon be the abandoned Yellowknife Correctional Centre for an office and a training component that this organization and potentially others could put to use. Right now, Sport North is renting facilities. They have identified that this is an opportunity to have their own permanent location. So here we have a facility that, at least as I understand it, is destined for demolition. We could come forward with an idea that we could keep it going. What's the status of that with his department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any official approach from Sport North on this particular request, but I do know the government has a process for disposing of property. We would probably follow that process. Once Sport North makes their request known to us, we could then pass it on to Public Works, the ones who handle the disposal of territorial government property. That definitely would come into play at that time. Thank you.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes my remarks, but I may be bringing this up when Minister Steen is before us wearing his Public Works and Services hat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Page 4-29, operations expense, total operations expense, \$1.43 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On 4-31, sport, recreation and youth, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$28,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Contributions, total contributions, \$195,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total grants and contributions, \$223,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Regional Operations

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On page 4-33, regional operations, operations expense, total operations expense, \$62.080 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On to page 4-35. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I noticed the grants to eligible community governments to assist with the rising cost of insurance is quite a bit lower in the main estimates 2003-2004 than it was in the revised estimate for this current year. Is this because insurance costs are decreasing or are we decreasing our support to municipalities for insurance?

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will ask the deputy to respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, actually we are increasing our support to municipalities to deal with rising costs of insurance this year. The reason is simply that last year there were some additional funding items that were included as additional funding and they've now been rolled into the community government funding. So although it looks like a decrease, we've actually given community governments the

same amount as an increase in the next fiscal year that we gave them during the current fiscal year. So we are continuing to assist them with the rising costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Regional operations, grants and contributions, community government, grants and contributions, grants, \$36.993 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Contributions, \$6.58 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-36, regional operations, infrastructure contributions, \$5.235 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total community governments, grants and contributions, \$48.808 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-37, other grants and contributions. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to note the increase in the funding on the contributions for this year. This past year, there was \$150,000 budgeted, but it's gone up to \$1.125 million. Then there is another same amount budgeted for this year. Then I noticed that the community programs section has another \$1 million budgeted this coming year. I think it's a great thing. I assume that's the statement the Minister made. I am interested in knowing, I appreciate that this fiscal year of 2002-2003 is not yet over, but I am wondering if I could get a breakdown of where that money has been spent for this year, as much as the department can provide. That gives me an idea of where that might be spent in the upcoming year, if at all possible. Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy to respond.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we misunderstood the question and could seek some clarification. We felt the Member was referring to the new \$1 million community program funding. I am just not sure which program is being sought. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: No, Mr. Chairman, I wasn't seeking specifics for the new \$1 million because I am assuming that that is yet to be spent. I am assuming that will depend on who is applying and so on. What I was trying to do was I wanted to make a note of these increases as a good thing: "\$1 million for community programs to address community priorities, example, youth and families with a focus on active living." I look forward to some good things happening out of that money. I just wanted to make a note of that as a positive thing. The question I had was to do with the recreation organization funding. In the current fiscal year, the budgeted amount changed from \$150,000 to \$1.1 million. Then we have another \$1.1 million budgeted for this upcoming year. So I am interested in knowing how the money was spent with that current... How was the money spent for 2002-2003 thus far? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the breakdown of the expenditures for 2002-2003: We have \$825,000 for community governments for recreation and sports programs; and \$225,000 for Mackenzie recreation association; Beaufort-Delta and Sahtu recreation associations; NWT Recreation and Parks Association; the regional associations; we had \$180,000 for recreation facility operators program for the development and delivery of maintenance training for recreation facilities through the school of community government; and \$120,000 for O and M allocation for North Slave, Sahtu and Beaufort-Delta regions to support new regional recreation positions and \$50,000 for role model film on a territorial experiment ski training program. That is to be used in an upcoming active living role model program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I get a breakdown on the \$825,000 that has gone to community governments? Could I get a community-by-community breakdown?

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have it. We can read it out or do you want a copy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Ms. Lee, do you just want it read out or a hard copy?

MS. LEE: I guess that depends how numerous it is, Mr. Chairman. I don't mind having a copy, if that's possible, but I do have a follow-up question on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Mr. Steen, is it short enough to read or could you get her a copy? Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could have copies made for the Members, but we did pass this out to committee in the past, the standing committee. We can pass that out and while we are doing that, she can identify which particular community she's asking questions on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. Lee.

---Agreed

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This contribution says it's for recreation organization funding and he says it's a contribution to eligible organizations. The information I am getting is it's going to community governments. I am assuming it's to municipal governments. I would like to know more about how this works. Are sports organizations allowed to apply to this under each municipal government? For example, how do groups in Yellowknife apply for this? Do they go to the City of Yellowknife to apply for this? I want to know if this is a program that is available to sports groups to apply for. Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy to go into details of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct. We do have a departmental funding policy which dictates the allocation, and as the Minister has read there are certain territorial and regional organizations that are available to be funded through this policy and then at the community level, we do fund community governments and community level groups are directed to apply to their community government for funding support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: I don't have a further question. I will wait for the handout and then go from there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Page 4-37, other grants and contributions, grants, \$49,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Contributions, \$3.852 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total other grants and contributions, \$3.901 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total grants and contributions, \$52.97 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

School Of Community Government

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-39, school of community government, operations expense, total operations expense, \$2.266 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-41, school of community government, grants and contributions, contributions, \$25,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total grants and contributions \$25,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-42, information item, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is the Sport North organization part of the active positions or is it part of Municipal and Community Affairs?

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Sport North doesn't work for the department.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as an organization that is funded heavily by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, does the Sport North organization follow the Affirmative Action Policy in its hiring practices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Sport North is governed by a policy as to how they can spend their lottery funding. That's the policy that gives direction to Sport North.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister telling us that Sport North does not have to follow government's Affirmative Action Policy?

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we don't direct Sport North with their staff. We just direct Sport North as to how they can spend their lottery funding. We don't give any direction for that. Thank you.

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

MR. NITAH: Mr. Chairman, Sport North is an arm's-length institution of government. Would it be comparable to the Power Corporation or the Housing Corporation in that sense?

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't think you could interpret Sport North a part of the government at all. They are just an organization that has the authority to raise revenue through lotteries. The lottery policy governs how they can spend that funding. That's the only connection between us and Sport North. They must follow our policies with regard to how the expenditures from lotteries is spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is Sport North mandated to deliver sport and recreation programs using the revenues collected through the lottery system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We are straying away from the topic here, Mr. Nitah, but I will let the Minister answer this one question.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes and the Minister does control and has to approve their plans every year.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as a mandated organization that is mandated to deliver programs across the board, maybe it's high time the Sport North organization adopts some of our government policies and social policies such as the Affirmative Action Policy. I would like to ask the Minister if he would work towards that realization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Again, you are straying away. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, we certainly take the

Member's suggestions into consideration, but I believe that Sport North is established under the society's ordinances and would have very little connection to us with regard to who they employ. Sport North would definitely be getting some guidance from the NWT sports board once it's established, but that's the only connection it would have with the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Information item, page 4-42, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 4-43, detail of work performed on behalf of others.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On to 4-44, total department, \$2.698 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): On to 4-45, revenues, recoveries and transfer payments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Go back to program summary, 4-7, Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 3-14(6): To Cease Work On The Main Street Paving Program Until Baseline Data On Dust Levels And Health Information Can Be Collected, Carried

MR. NITAH: Mr. Chairman, I move, that this committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs immediately cease all work on the main street paving program planned for fiscal year 2003-2004; And further, that the GNWT revisit the program's eligibility criteria to ensure that it is based on health considerations rather than on where the Department of Transportation's crushing and other equipment is situated; And furthermore, that dust level monitoring equipment be located in all non-tax-based communities to ensure that the relevant baseline health information can be collected to help determine where limited program dollars can most effectively be targeted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: ...page 6?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Bell, for the record, could you repeat your question?

MR. BELL: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. For the record, I was asking if we were on capital, page 6. I thought you had called for capital prior to the motion. I will wait until we are dealing with capital. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. We are on department summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$77.994 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Agreed. We are on cap 4, Municipal and Community Affairs, new financial services, land administration, \$800,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Community financial services, \$2 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Regional operations, page 6, total regional operations, \$5.253 million. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister has already committed to bringing forward some information prior to session so we can have some discussion about the water treatment plant in Rae, but I do have one other question for him. If you look at the project as it is laid out here, it looks like it's \$1.7 and some odd million. Can the Minister clarify whether or not this project had been identified as being over \$2 million fairly recently and has now been bowed back and explain whether or not this is the case. If so, could he explain the discrepancy? Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that question to my deputy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand the question, it's whether the total project cost is recently being identified as being higher than what's in the main estimates. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Mr. Bell, could you clarify that?

MR. BELL: Yes. Recent estimates show over \$2 million identified in the plan and now it's showing at \$1.775 million. I am sorry I don't have the specific number or the document that it was in, but maybe the document could speak to whether or not this project estimate has come down or has, in fact, been changed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware that the project estimate has been changed. As I think we've indicated, we do know that based on the water source decision, there may be a need to revisit it, but we can certainly look into whether there has been a recent change in the project estimated scope and get back to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: If I could have that information. I recognize that if there is another source then this may be a moot point, but I would like some sort of documentation and if there wasn't a change in project, that's fine, but at least I would like to see something in writing that would explain whether or not this project has changed in scope or the amount of money being spent. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Yes, we will look into that right away and get the information back in writing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you. Total regional operations, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this is a multi-year item regarding a solid waste disposal at Detah. The total plan for this up to 2007-08 is just over a half a million dollars. I wanted to ask what collaboration may or may not have taken place with the City of Yellowknife, which is, itself, looking at a significant landfill solid waste requirement in the future. Has anything gone on between Detah and the City of Yellowknife on potentially sharing that need? Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would have to go back to the department and find out whether or not there was a consultation or any discussions at all between Detah and the city as to the use of their solid waste site.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total regional operations, \$5.253 million. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On cap 5, the Tuktoyaktuk solid waste site with a total budget of a little over \$1 million, I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the money identified in the capital will be used by the department as intended? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, if I understand the question correctly, the Member is asking if the \$400,000 identified for a solid waste site for this year would be used for that particular purpose.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): That's correct, Mr. Steen. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, Mr. Chairman, we have a request from the community to have the funding changed from O and M to capital, so they can use it on the shoreline.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask if that's a common practice, but I would like to ask first if the need for the solid waste site has decreased or is it not needed anymore? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: MACA just had an engineering consulting firm complete a study on the Tuktoyaktuk solid waste site and the future of the site. Tuk did have a plan to relocate the solid waste site in relation to the construction of a road to a gravel source. Tuk is now reconsidering whether or not they have the option of relocating the solid waste site. Based on the engineer's report, if they change some of the management plan of the solid waste site, they may be able to extend the life of the solid waste site for a number of years yet. Tuk is reviewing the solid waste site report as to whether or not there would be any immediate need for further funding at this point. However, in relation to the \$400,000, Tuk has decided that the shoreline erosion is more of an urgency to control than it is to relocate the solid waste site at this point. So they are asking for permission to use the money for capital rather than O and M. If they were to use it on shoreline erosion, it would be considered capital and, therefore, we have to have approval from FMB for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as a Member and as an individual, I have no right to argue the desires or requests of the community, but I do have a question as to why a study to determine if you could extend the life of a solid waste site was done in the first place. Was it done after the request for capital was done, after the \$400,000 was identified in the capital process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe the study was done to justify the original expenses, but they had a recommendation in there as well that if a situation didn't develop that they have another place to relocate to, then there are certain steps they could do to extend the life of the existing site.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is it a common practice by the department to identify a budget in capital and then do a study after the fact to justify if it's needed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the budget was established based on the engineer's study. It's not done before the study, it's based on the engineering study.

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

MR. NITAH: Mr. Chairman, I think we are experiencing a communication difficulty here. If the Minister is telling me the engineers went in and did a study, identified \$400,000 to relocate the solid waste site and from the same engineering study, we determined that with a minor investment into that solid waste site, we could get another 10 years out of it. Therefore, I ask why was \$400,000 identified? Was \$400,000 identified as a need to address the minor repairs to extend the life of the solid waste site or was that \$400,000 identified to be used to relocate the site? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the \$400,000 and another \$400,000 this year and \$200,000 next year were identified to relocate the solid waste site. However, the road that gives the community the option to relocate was not constructed so the community has to re-examine its plans for the solid waste site. Thank you.

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

MR. STEVE NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, so that I understand this correctly, \$400,000 was identified. Actually \$1.04 million in total was identified for the relocation of the site but there is no road. It seems like they have put the

cart before the horse here. Is that a common practice by the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the community had at that time planned that there would be a road to relocate to a new solid waste site. That portion of the plan did not develop. It was not the fault of the community, it just didn't develop. So, there is no road to relocate to, so that is why the community has asked to re-examine its plan as to where it can relocate to, whether or not they have to take certain steps to extend the life of the solid waste site that they presently have. Thank you.

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

MR. STEVE NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what is troubling me here is we identified a little over \$1 million dollars for a relocation of the site and I am wondering who is paying for the road? Who is supposed to pay for the road? Is it a cost that was going to be incurred by the community or was it a cost that was going to be incurred by this government, whether it's part of Transportation, or MACA? That is where my confusion is, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, the road project was a plan under Transportation and I believe it was a shared cost with the federal government and an aboriginal group. A third part of the funding, one third of it didn't show up so, the project was dropped. Thank you.

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

MR. STEVE NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this line I see \$440,000 has been spent on prior years cost. What was that \$440,000 spent on?

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe he is referring to the \$400,000 that we were just talking about and the \$40,000 that was an engineering study.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Minister Steen. I believe he is referring to \$440,000 shown as prior years cost, but I'll address Mr. Nitah.

MR. STEVE NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on this line item, there are three numbers, \$440,000 under prior years cost, \$400,000 for budget year 2003-2004, \$200,000 for budget year 2004-2005 totally \$1.04 million, I am just asking you where the \$440,000 was spent on prior years cost.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: As I was telling the Member \$40,000 was spent for an engineering study. The \$400,000 is the one we are talking about that the community is asking if we can spend it on the shoreline and the roads rather than on the solid waste site. Mr. Chairman, the other \$400,000 is in this fiscal year and the \$200,000 is for next year. Thank you.

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

MR. STEVE NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I understand this correctly, with an engineering study on the solid waste site, we spent \$40,000. There is \$40,000 that wasn't spent that is recognized only on the prior years cost, which would leave \$600,000 in the total budget of \$ 1.04 million. What would happen with that \$600,000 now that the solid waste site will not be relocated? The community has made a decision that they will extend the life for another 10 years and is requesting \$400,000 that would have been spent on that for the shoreline. So, \$600,000, would that money go back into general revenues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated to the Member, the community is re-examining, based on the engineering study, what is necessary to be done to the existing solid waste site in order to extend the life of the site because they don't have, at the present time, an option of relocating. They may, in fact, decide that the \$400,000 which was going to be spent to extend the life of the existing solid waste site, that is in this year's funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Total regional expense, Mr. Nitah.

MR. STEVE NITAH: Mr. Chairman, I am still not getting my head around this. There is \$1.04 million identified here. What the Minister is telling me is that they are not going to relocate the solid waste site because there is no road to the new site. They are going to spend the money to extend the life of the existing one. Is the Minister telling us that we used \$400,000 that is identified in the year's budget to do that? Are they also asking at the same time that we split this line item budget in half so that the \$400,000 could go to the solid waste site and \$400,000 go to the shoreline project? Is that what the Minister is asking us here? Is that what the community is asking us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, at the present time, the funding is still identified for the community solid waste site. Until it receives authority from FMB and this Assembly to use it for capital, it cannot be used for anything except a solid waste site. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Nitah.

MR. STEVE NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we're being asked to approve a budget here of \$1.04 million on a project that isn't going ahead. The community is requesting that we take some of that capital and put it somewhere else in the community, which I don't have a problem with. But, we are asked to accept a budget with a number attached for a purpose which won't be carried out. I'm just asking if this is a common practice, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Chairman, I have already indicated to the Member that the point that the community is trying to make here is that they have an engineering study before them suggesting options to extend the life of the existing solid waste site. It may require funding, obviously it will, but the community has the option that, if they no longer have the ability to relocate, then they have the option of extending the life of the existing facility. It may be that they are going to have plans to use that funding for that particular purpose. At this present time, I don't have the figures that the community has in their solid waste site study as to what it would cost to extend the life of the existing site. I don't have that, but they still have the option from a process from last year of relocation to another site. That's what the money was approved for. Thank you.

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's like putting the cart before the horse. We understand through a partnership arrangement between the Department of Transportation and our brothers in the south in the federal government that they are going to build a road to a new solid waste site. That apparently has fallen through. The community does not know if they will build a road, but we are asked to approve a budget of \$1.4 million for a project that may not go ahead. I am just asking if that's a common practice. I understand the request from the community to take this capital that's been identified to put it into another area of concern in the community. We normally take care of these...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Nitah, I will rise and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister and your witnesses for appearing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Delorey, could I have the report from Committee of the Whole? Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-2004, and would like to report progress with two motions being adopted and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Orders of the day for Monday, February 24, 2003:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognitions 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
 - Motion 3-14(6), Extension of Mandate of the Special Joint Committee on Non-Tax-Based Community Affairs
 - Motion 4-14(6), Setting of Sitting Hours by Speaker
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-2004
- Bill 6, Electoral Boundaries Commission Act
- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
- Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Elections Act
- Committee Report 3-14(6), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the Review of the Draft 2003-2004 Main Estimates
- Committee Report 4-14(6), Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development Report on the Review of the Draft 2003-2004 Main Estimates
- Committee Report 5-14(6), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Draft 2003-2004 Main Estimates
- Committee Report 6-14(6), Report on the Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner's 2001-2002 Annual Report

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

DEPUTY SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Monday, February 24, 2003.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 2:00 p.m.