



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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### Mr. Bill Braden

(Great Slave)

### Mr. Paul Delorey

(Hay River North)

### Mr. Charles Dent

(Frame Lake)

### Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

(Hay River South)

### Mr. David Krutko

(Mackenzie Delta)

### Mr. Leon Lafferty

(North Slave)

### Ms. Sandy Lee

(Range Lake)

### Mr. Michael McLeod

(Deh Cho)

### Mr. Steven Nitah

(Tu Nedhe)

### Mr. Floyd Roland

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, March 3, 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

**DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS****Member's Statement On Annual Report On The Staff Retention Policy**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on October 21, 2003, I asked the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat whether all annual reports required in the staff retention policy had been laid before the Legislative Assembly as required under section 20 of that policy. I had been unable to find them.

Mr. Speaker, I subsequently received a letter from the Minister admitting the information had not been tabled as required by the policy and promising to ensure that it was included in the next public service annual report. The letter noted that the information had been provided to members in a presentation to committee. It went on to say the information provided was not consistent with the requirements set out in the policy. The Minister attached a copy of the report provided to the committee to the letter he sent me.

Since the report had been provided to a committee, I followed our policy and approached the Minister's office for permission to share it with the person who had raised the issue with me. Mr. Speaker, since the staff retention policy required publicly reporting the information to the Assembly, you can imagine my surprise when the Minister's office refused permission to release the document.

We are supposed to have an open and accountable government. We have a policy in place that requires information to be publicly reported. I requested the information publicly in this House, yet I was provided the response by way of private correspondence and then told I could not share it. Mr. Speaker, that's not right.

The Minister and the government must follow a policy and provide information publicly as set out in their own policy, not just in the future, but for all periods in the past that were to be covered by the policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Braden.

**Member's Statement On 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of The Vincent Massey Branch Of The Royal Canadian Legion**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The number of organizations in the NWT that are more than 50 years old is a rather short list, but this weekend one new organization was added to that, Mr. Speaker. The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 164, held a banquet on Saturday to mark the occasion; the occasion of the naming of the branch, for Right Honourable Vincent Massey, a distinguished Canadian diplomat and Governor General, whose name was taken for that branch on February 27, 1953. The Yellowknife Legion's days really go back a number of years earlier, Mr. Speaker, to 1945 when some 19 returning veterans from the Second World War gathered fellow veterans together and started today's organization.

Mr. Speaker, the 470 members of today's Yellowknife branch joined branches in Hay River and Inuvik as members of the Canadian Legion's Half Century Club. Across Canada there are some 1,800 branches, some 750,000 members, and they have a 78-year history. They started in 1925 to help assure better pensions for veterans and since then, the Royal Canadian Legion has become an institution in towns and cities across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, legions pay their own way. They pay taxes, they have a big payroll, they have extensive youth and member programs and make contributions in the millions of dollars and hundred of thousands of hours of community service. In Yellowknife alone, the branch here anticipates returning some \$250,000 to the community. There are six legion branches in the NWT that are valued parts of our heritage, our community and our future. Canada owes much to the men and women who served in the field of battle and in the name of peace, Mr. Speaker. I want to pay tribute to all veterans in the Second World War who were at Saturday evening's event: Dusty Miller of the Royal Canadian Air Force; Jack Adderley of the Canadian Navy; Bishop John Sperry of the British Navy; Ethel Wilson of the Canadian Army and from the Korean War, veteran Jan Stirling also of the Canadian Army. Mr. Speaker, we congratulate the Legion, its members and wish them a great future. Thank you.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**Member's Statement On Harmonization Of Income Support And Social Housing**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to raise some concerns about the government's proposed harmonization project. This project was first recommended during the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The goal of harmonization was to

create a common policy framework that would see all income treated in a credible and consistent manner and a policy that ensures public housing rental rates provide work incentives for lower income earners. Mr. Speaker, in my eyes, this initiative was flawed from the start. In order to treat all income the same, what has happened is dollars are counted and rent is assessed without consideration of the sources. For example, in determining a household's income, any teenager over 15 who has a job will have to submit pay stubs to the Housing Corporation. Their pay will be considered as part of the calculations for rent. As it has been so rightly pointed out, how many people have a mortgage based on the income of their children, and how many children are expected to contribute to the monthly mortgage payment?

To continue on the issue of harmonization, Mr. Speaker, this double standard has been created through the harmonization initiative. When rental rates are based solely on household income, the size and condition of the public housing unit are not factored in. It does not seem right to me that someone living in an older two-bedroom unit in need of repairs should be paying the same rent as someone in a new three-bedroom unit just because their income is the same. The size of the family supported by the income also needs to be considered. It is only fair to recognize that \$1,000 supporting two people is going to go a lot further than \$1,000 supporting 10 people. Determining rental rates solely on pay stubs does Northerners a disservice.

Mr. Speaker, many homes in my region are considered in core need. That means they are not suitable for living in. The number one reason why some of the homes are in core need is because of overcrowding. There is a need for more private housing and a need to free up more public housing. This initiative does not address either of these issues.

In the Dogrib region, we have a young population. It is only in the last few years that economic opportunities have been opening up. I would like to see every opportunity made for people to work and it's unfortunate that this harmonization initiative is creating a disincentive to work by penalizing the working poor. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for North Slave is seeking unanimous consent. Do I hear any nays? You have unanimous consent, Mr. Lafferty. Continue.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, the North is going through an economic boom and this government is saying that the number of people on income support is declining. If this trend continues as it is expected to, there would be nothing left to harmonize. We would be better off focusing on increasing the amount of housing available, both in the private sector and the public sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

### **Member's Statement On Support For The GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the GNWT's harmonization initiative. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we, as legislators, remember that we are here to serve the people, and that we should always endeavor to remember that we are here to serve the people and that we should always endeavour to remember those that are in need the most. The harmonization initiative, Mr. Speaker, was welcomed in Hay River because one of the basic premises of the public housing rent scale was to ensure that the greatest benefit went to those most in need.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of fear mongering going on in the last several months around the harmonization initiative. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we are not hearing from the single mothers in public housing who would stand to have their rents decreased by \$100 a month on average, if the harmonization initiative was prepared to go ahead. Mr. Speaker, in Hay River, for example, 71 of our current public housing tenants would enjoy a rent decrease; 18 of our public housing tenants would have their rents increased, but only because nine of these people earn an average of \$2,300 per month and the other nine earn in excess of \$3,300 a month.

Mr. Speaker, it is my feeling that if people are earning that kind of money, they should be paying their fair share in rent. No, Mr. Speaker, it appears that we are hearing most from the small percentage of people whose rents are due to increase as a result of the primary premise behind public housing, and that is rent geared to income. So, Mr. Speaker, in my way of thinking, if this vocal minority is going to have their rents increased, then their rent hasn't properly reflected their income up until now. The harmonization initiative that is proposed, Mr. Speaker, helps those people who need help the most, namely young families with small income.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked very closely with seniors in Hay River and some of them will be affected by the new rent scale. The feeling among our seniors is that they are people who have always paid their own way in life, and like the independence that they have derived from it. So they are prepared to pay some of their income towards housing. I'm not saying, Mr. Speaker, that there are no improvements that could be made to the housing harmonization initiative, such as grandfathering some clients and then putting some clients at full rent. I think there is some improvement that could be made there but I think we've got to start listening to the people that need us the most, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

### **Member's Statement On Lack Of Performance Indicators In NWT Schools**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had opportunity to travel home this past weekend and talk to a number of constituents during the trip and a couple on the way returning here to Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, in the last week, there have been Members who raised issues around education. As last week was Education Week, it was an opportunity to raise issues around that, whether it was students

or whether it was quality. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that came out of the attention that was paid to it last week were some issues raised in this House by my colleague, Mr. Bell. One of my constituents pointed out that Mr. Bell raised some very legitimate concerns about what we find with our education system. As I talked to this individual, I found out more information or lack of it. As Mr. Bell pointed out, we can pull out all kinds of stats around people smoking or STD's as we call them around the Northwest Territories, but tell us what quality of education our children are getting and we can get a number of different answers.

For example, Mr. Speaker, I can say that one of my children is in Grade 10 and that can also be interpreted to say they are not only in Grade 10, they could be in year 10. They aren't necessarily achieving at the Grade 10 level but they could be taking some other courses lower than that. Mr. Speaker, I've raised the question on quite a number of occasions as a Member of this or a previous Assembly about a social pass or peer advance. There are a number of different terms and there is some disagreement on how those issues should go.

But, Mr. Speaker, as Members of the Assembly, we make decisions based on information provided and we need to get accurate information to know if, in fact, the system we are operating within is providing accurate details so that as a parent, I can make the right decisions for my child in school. What I am hearing around the table from different people, those involved in education, is that is not always the case because it can be said that your child is attending and achieving at Grade 6 math, Grade 9 social studies and so on, Mr. Speaker. But, when we ask the education system to provide us information on what grade they are on, they have difficulty in providing that. So I will have appropriate questions for the Minister later. Thank you.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Range Lake. Ms. Lee.

#### **Member's Statement On Observations On GNWT Capital Spending On Youth And Recreation**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to report to the House about some comments and observations my constituents are making about the capital expenditure priorities of the government on new recreational facilities. Mr. Speaker, this goes to the point I have been making on numerous occasions in this House already, which is that the capital spending on territorial facilities such as the Young Offender Facility and the Correctional Centre does not make it any less necessary for this government to do its part towards the funding of recreational facilities in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that the capital city is experiencing rapid growth and it seems that our property taxes are on an upwards spiral, but our taxes are not enough to meet the demands being put on our community infrastructure. We're falling behind in land development and underground water and sewer pipe replacement. The one that is really falling victim to this, Mr. Speaker, is our youth and recreational facilities. For the most part of past winter months, this city of 18,000 have had to share one ice pad. A large part of this had to do with the lack of funding which made it necessary to extend the life of the old Gerry Murphy Arena as long as possible until it was

shut down before the new one could be built. We are very glad that the second ice pad at the new multiplex is operating now, as it has eased the burden, but the sad fact is that this is far from enough to meet the needs of ice time in the city.

It has been brought to my attention, Mr. Speaker, by my constituent, that the city of Iqaluit, with a population of under 9,000, has two ice pads. Yellowknife, with a population of 18,000, just now has two ice pads even with the new one coming on stream. We are in need of at least three ice pads for the population we serve and this means we have no time to rest with the new pads up and running; we have to work on funding the third ice pad. I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the funding for recreation facilities are done by this government through block funding to the city.

This gives no comfort to my constituents who can see with their eyes, the irony of a young offender facility going up side by side with the recreational facility that has had to go through such a struggle to get its funding. I can appreciate how my constituents ask why we seem to spend more money to house young offenders than helping youth to stay out of trouble and lead a healthy and productive life. I really believe it is high time that this government acknowledged that it is falling behind the needs of this growing city, and that it cannot hide behind block funding when it comes to showing commitment to recreational facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Colleagues, I would like to direct your attention to the presence in the visitor's gallery of the Honourable John McCallum, the Minister of National Defence; the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State for Children and Youth, and Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic; along with Admiral Raymond Zuliani, Chief of Reserve Cadets with the Department of National Defence in Ottawa and also Colonel Norris Pettis, Commander of Canadian Forces, Northern Area. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Hay River South. Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### **Member's Statement On Reflections On Patriotism**

**MRS. GROENEWEGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about an issue which is somewhat personal, and that is patriotism. I was inspired by my attendance at a couple of functions over the past two days. On Saturday night I had the opportunity to join with the guests and members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Local 164, Vincent Massey Branch here in Yellowknife. They were celebrating 50 years since the inauguration of the name of their club. There was a lovely a Capella rendition of our National Anthem, with some audience participation.

This morning I had the opportunity to attend the unveiling of new Canadian stamp commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Rangers. The function included senior representatives from Canada Post, our Western Arctic Member of Parliament, Ethel Blondin-Andrew and the Honourable John McCallum, Minister of National Defence. There were many military personnel, Canadian Rangers and dignitaries, including Commissioner Hansen, and Ministers Antoine and Steen. The venue for this event was the Canadian Forces Northern Area

Headquarters. Former Speaker and Member of this Assembly Red Pedersen was in attendance along with his son and grandson; three generations, all of them participants past and present in the Canadian Rangers program.

It was a truly proud Canadian moment, but, Mr. Speaker, with no offence intended to the organizers, there was something very Canadian missing from the program. There was no singing of our National Anthem. When I think of the words of our anthem, I cannot think of a function where the words, "The true north strong and free" and "we stand on guard for thee," would have been more apropos than in the presence of representatives of our military and at a ceremony honouring our Canadian Northern Rangers.

I raise this today because I attend many formal functions and receptions celebrating truly Canadian achievements and remembrances, and many times the National Anthem is not included in the program. Sometimes when it is, otherwise not normally shy people sing about their country in a voice barely louder than a whisper. As leaders where we have an opportunity to influence agendas and programs of programs and functions, we should encourage proud, if somewhat, reserved Canadians to demonstrate their love of country by participating in an enthusiastic and patriotic rendition of O Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Member's Statement On The Report Of The Review Of The Official Languages Act**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be speaking in my language, so if you could turn to channel two and put on your ears, I would appreciate it.

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, we travelled to 17 communities. We received a lot of opinions on the languages and the work we've done on the Official Languages Act. We had very important work to do. We worked very hard on it. We had forwarded all our recommendations on how the government is going to be dealing with issues, showing people in Canada how the people are working with their language issues. We also did research and we have completed that work today. We have made many recommendations. We have over 20 pages. When we make recommendations, it's for the use of the people when we do recommendations. We can't expect the government to hang onto our language for us. We are here to help you. It's up to you to hold onto your language. We are here to help you. I am very happy today. I feel warm in my heart. I am here with my committee with the recommendations we will be forwarding. We have 65 recommendations that we have put forth how we are going to be working on these issues. We, the government, are here and we agree we are going to be very helpful towards you, so in the future we do not lose our language. People are saying that our language is how we understand the language in our land in Canada. So we will help each other. The society we have referred to, we are going to have a better life. That's all I am going to tell you. The next one we are going to be going according to the document. Thank you very much.

---Applause

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

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

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** At this time, I would like to recognize former Languages Commissioner Ms. Betty Harnum and also our Language Commissioner of the Northwest Territories Ms. Fbbie Tatti.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize today Mary Rose Sundberg from Dettah. She's the Dogrib interpreter today, as well as Mary Rose and Betty Harnum who are instructors with the Dogrib literacy class in Dettah. Some of the students here today are – I can't see everyone – Doreen Liske, Edith Wellin, John Crapeau, Therese Sangris, Beatrice Sangris from Dettah and Lucy Goulet from Ndilo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Rosie Albert, down from Inuvik, as well as translators Esther McLeod and Mr. Leonard Harry. Sorry about that, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my constituent and interpreter today Ms. Georgina Biscaye, Sabet Biscaye, the Chipewyan language coordinator for the Akaitcho Territory. I would also like to recognize Wayne Balanoff, who is working with the special committee that has reviewed the Official Languages Act, and his wife, Helen Balanoff, with the NWT Literacy Council. I would also like to take time to recognize our Member of Parliament, and our Minister of National Defence, and our friend from the south, the mayor of Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and welcome Sherley Esau from Sachs Harbour. Sherley is an Inuvialuktun teacher in Sachs.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Welcome. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Paula Anderson, the regional Cree languages coordinator from Fort Smith.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a couple of people. Daniel Lamoureux, executive director of the Federation Franco-TenOise, Lyne Gagnon, also from Yellowknife, president of Yellowknife's French community centre project and Michel Lefebvre from Yellowknife, who is the coordinator of the Yellowknife's French community centre project and single window options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not be forgiven if I didn't recognize two cousins of mine in the gallery, Rose Albert and Sherley Esau. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Welcome. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure today to recognize the mayor of Hay River, His Worship Duncan McNeil.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Minister Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Robert Galipeau, manager of language services with the department and also Benoit Boutin, who has been working on the language committee for the last several months, almost a year. Thank you.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 132-14(6): Staff Retention Policy Reporting Requirements

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat. Mr. Speaker, in a letter responding to my question last fall about the reporting requirement under the staff retention policy, Mr. Handley said deputy ministers would be reporting to the Legislative Assembly as required by the staff retention policy in the future. Mr. Speaker, he made no promise to provide reports that should have been tabled. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister undertake now to provide past-due reports to this House?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the FMBS, Mr. Handley.

##### Return To Question 132-14(6): Staff Retention Policy Reporting Requirements

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, yes, I will do that. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

##### Supplementary To Question 132-14(6): Staff Retention Policy Reporting Requirements

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the staff retention policy has been in place for a significant amount of time. Can the Minister advise us what years will be covered in the report he plans to table in the House?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the FMBS, Mr. Handley.

##### Further Return To Question 132-14(6): Staff Retention Policy Reporting Requirements

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, if I remember correctly, the staff retention policy came into effect in November 2000, so I expect that we should have reports going to year 2001. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

##### Supplementary To Question 132-14(6): Staff Retention Policy Reporting Requirements

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister advise the House when he plans to table this information?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the FMBS, Mr. Handley.

##### Further Return To Question 132-14(6): Staff Retention Policy Reporting Requirements

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the staff retention policy is one that really I believe is under the authority of the Executive, so I will speak with the Premier and work out when we will be able to do this.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

##### Supplementary To Question 132-14(6): Staff Retention Policy Reporting Requirements

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought that as part of human resources, that FMBS was responsible for all personnel matters. I wonder if the Minister can tell this House if he's confident that provisions of the staff retention policy have been followed with all employees to date.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the FMBS, Mr. Handley.

##### Further Return To Question 132-14(6): Staff Retention Policy Reporting Requirements

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the staff retention policy is the responsibility of the corporate human resources services of the Department of Executive and also they work closely with the director of labour relations and

compensation in FMBS. So in many ways it is joint in its implementation. To my knowledge, all aspects of the staff retention policy have been followed with any employees whose jobs have been terminated for any reason. Thank you.

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

**Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question would be directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, along the lines of my Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, concerns continue to come out during this process as we go through information on the main estimates and some questions were raised during the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's review. One was on quality information. I would like to know from the Minister, when a parent is given a report card for their child in school – and let's use Grade 6 as an example – when that child brings that report card home or the parent goes to pick it up from the school, when the parent reads Grade 6, what does that actually mean? Are they achieving that level? My understanding is the use of satisfactory, unsatisfactory or excellent is grading. Can the Minister inform us of that? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am informed by my department that the instruction that goes out to the DECs and to the schools, to the teachers, must indicate the level of courses that the students are taking, thus indicating the level they are at. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us if the reporting system, the system that's in place for teachers and for the schools to input information, what does it actually take in for the amount of classes and what can it report on? Does it report on the mathematics, the social studies, the English, the whole northern studies? Does it report on all those or is there only one class that makes up that mark? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to check into that detail to see the fashion, the detail of the reporting, Mr. Speaker, and then get back to the Member on that.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For advancement into the next grade level, from K to nine, is there requirement to achieve a certain level or is that only after departmentals? Does it start at 10 or just a Grade 12 requirement? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am confused on the question there. Perhaps the Member could repeat that. He referred to a number of grade levels there. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Roland, could you clarify your question?

**Supplementary To Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Gladly. For grading a child from K to nine, is there a requirement to pass a test to get further on? Is that a requirement at all between K to nine?

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

**Further Return To Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Testing is done, Mr. Speaker, and we also do testing across the board with Alberta testing, for example, but also within class. My understanding is that passing is done on the basis of that and that students advance accordingly but they stay with their peers. Students must take classes that they did not pass, Mr. Speaker, and I will get the Member further information. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For further clarification, is there a requirement for a student to achieve a certain result before they can advance? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 133-14(6): Grading Levels In NWT Schools**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will get further information for the Member on that because it may depend upon different courses. Thank you.

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

**Question 134-14(6): Cost Of Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's statement, the premise of public

housing is to assist low income earners obtain housing. The rent charged should be reflective of their income. The new harmonization initiative will go a long way in assisting public housing clients who need our help the most, single mothers and young families with low incomes. The harmonization initiative has been in the works for some time now and there has been a lot of work done by these government departments towards this worthwhile initiative. In recent days, I have heard some rumblings that the harmonization initiative might be scrapped. I certainly hope we can salvage it without scrapping it, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister to please advise this House, how much has been spent to date on this harmonization initiative between the two departments. What has been expended to date? I realize there's been a lot of work done. How much has been spent to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take that question as notice. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Delorey.

**Question 135-14(6): Impact Of Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, my questions are again for the Minister responsible for the harmonization policy. As I stated in my Member's statement, in Hay River 71 households would see their rent decrease because of the harmonization initiative. I don't think we can afford to ignore these people, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister please advise this House what percentage of public housing clients on a territorial basis would see a decrease in their rent through the harmonization initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of questions that are related, so I will take that as notice. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 136-14(6): Review Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Roger Allen, Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, when the harmonization initiative was introduced in 2000 to the Members, in the material given to us it states that 50 percent of social housing clients also are income support clients and 50 percent of income support clients live in social housing. Mr. Speaker, today the numbers read differently. Only 38 percent of public housing tenants are on income support. Basically, two-thirds of public housing tenants do not require harmonization. I would like to ask the Minister if he can re-look at this harmonization initiative and wait until I get all the hard evidence of how it's going to affect people before he goes ahead with Cabinet to introduce it fully on April 1<sup>st</sup>? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Return To Question 136-14(6): Review Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will reiterate my functional role as Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. I am responsible for the implementation of this policy, therefore, it is a Cabinet decision and direction to implement the policy effective April 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003. However, we don't have all the particular details, specific details the Member is requesting, so I am prepared to complete that in the next couple of days and respond back. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 136-14(6): Review Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, will people in Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik, compared to the smaller communities, pay the same rates for two-bedroom or a three-bedroom, or whatever size the units are and the conditions? Will those be considered?

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

**Further Return To Question 136-14(6): Review Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the size of the units, all rents assessed by the NWT Housing Corporation at the current time are based on income. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we heard today, some MLAs are supporting and some are not. In order to fully support this harmonization initiative, we need to have more information. I would like to ask the Minister if he can give us information to see how many people are living on pensions that are going to be for the rest of their lives, how many are single parents who are going to be affected in the Territories, where they live and all that? Mr. Speaker, some larger centres have people who have larger pensions to live on. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would just remind Members that your supplementary should be based on your original questions and not make up new questions as you go. Mr. Lafferty, could you keep your question specific to the original question you started with? You are wandering. Restate your question.

**Supplementary To Question 136-14(6): Review Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How is this harmonization project going to affect people in the larger centres and the makeup of people who would be affected, the people who are on smaller pensions, the larger pensions, the low income earners, the middle income earners? How will they be affected?

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

**Further Return To Question 136-14(6): Review Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, without question, most tenants will be affected by either an increase or decrease, but the process remains the same. The process remains the same based on income, even though public housing rents or incomes and income support benefits will be treated equally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 136-14(6): Review Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the harmonization project, some communities are supporting this initiative, but in Yellowknife just in the last two days, I have received e-mails of single families that have three or four children, no maintenance support, who are going to get an increase of about \$300 per month. Is this information giving the true facts for what is going to be happening for harmonization in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 136-14(6): Review Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very hypothetical question. Although we do have some examples of how rents will be calculated, that has been communicated through LHOs and various stakeholder groups, including NGOs, that have some form of vested interest in housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 6, oral questions. Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**Question 137-14(6): Review Of Harmonization Initiative Data**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I would like the Minister to inform the House as to whether he has gone through all the figures from across the Territories with regard to the harmonization initiative to see how many people are going to be seeing increases, how many people are going to be seeing decreases in different classes of people? Has the Minister gone over the figures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 137-14(6): Review Of Harmonization Initiative Data**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Quite frankly, no. I am awaiting transcripts of a meeting I had this morning and I will compile that information in the next 48 hours and report back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary To Question 137-14(6): Review Of Harmonization Initiative Data**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's kind of disturbing to me when a Minister is coming forward with a program to hopefully implement in April and hasn't gone over the figures as to what impact it is going to have on the Territories. That's a little disturbing, Mr. Speaker, but I am hoping that the Minister will look into it and come back with some figures that I was questioning earlier. Is the Minister prepared to make some changes to the way this initiative is being introduced in other aspects, as far as the grandfathering clause he's put in for some seniors and full rate schedule for others? Is the Minister prepared to look at some of those things instead of just scrapping the whole thing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 137-14(6): Review Of Harmonization Initiative Data**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't scrapped the concept. Neither have we scrapped the policy, but we are open to suggestions. I indicated last week in this House I am more than prepared to take the suggestion back to Cabinet and respond back to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this whole harmonization initiative goes a long way towards addressing the needs that we have in the Territories. Some of our clients really need a lot of help and we are trying to get a system in place that's going to be sustainable over the years. You may call me on this, Mr. Speaker, because it's a little bit different...

---Laughter

...but is the Minister aware how much money the federal government is proposing to cut from our budget in line with public housing that this harmonization program is trying to address? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will have to rule that question out of order, it is a whole new area you are covering there. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Bell.

**Question 138-14(6): Calculation Of Income For Public Housing Residents**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and it's about harmonization. Given that ECE and the Housing Corporation collaborated on the harmonization project, it's a fair Minister to put the questions to. We know that rent in public housing will now be geared to income, and this is something the two departments agreed on. Is that to say then that it doesn't really matter if income earners have two dependents as opposed to four dependents in their household, what matters is how much money they make?

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

**Return To Question 138-14(6): Calculation Of Income For Public Housing Residents**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we designed the program so that there would be benefit to seniors, students and income support clients and low income families. The way it treats low income families – this is a national standard, Mr. Speaker – is \$3,833 and anyone under that would receive a benefit to have their rent reduced by up to \$250, Mr. Speaker. We have approximately 90 percent of low income working families that will see their rent go down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 138-14(6): Calculation Of Income For Public Housing Residents**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very interesting, but I don't think it answers the question. I am curious to know if it matters how many people, how many dependents, what my expenses in the household are. I don't think it does, but I would like the Minister to clarify, does it matter how many dependents I have or is the issue only really income? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 138-14(6): Calculation Of Income For Public Housing Residents**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct. It's based on income. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 138-14(6): Calculation Of Income For Public Housing Residents**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In an effort to alleviate hardship, we decided to phase in some of these rents, so that they weren't too onerous. Can the Minister confirm that and also indicate who we have decided to phase rents in for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 138-14(6): Calculation Of Income For Public Housing Residents**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we had decided that we would grandfather students and seniors and that we would do that on the basis of maximizing the amount of rent they would pay to \$200 for the first year and that would change by 50 percent. In the case of seniors, who are on pensions and old age security, with their minimal pensions and old age security, they would pay approximately \$20 and that's for heat, electricity and rent. About 75 percent of seniors will pay less than \$100 with the majority of those paying about \$20, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 138-14(6): Calculation Of Income For Public Housing Residents**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly think the phased-in approach is a good one. I guess my question would be, why then have we chosen to ignore low income families in this phase-in approach? We decided to do it, and I think it's the right thing for seniors and students, but why are we ignoring low income families? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 138-14(6): Calculation Of Income For Public Housing Residents**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are not ignoring low income families. Those on income support will not be affected. Any rent increases they experience... if they are on full income support, they will have funding provided to them to cover those increases. For low income families, we have established a cut-off of \$3,833 that gives them an opportunity to go out and work and not be negatively impacted by the fact that they are out there working. We will reduce the rents accordingly, or the Housing Corporation will reduce the rent accordingly, up to \$250, Mr. Speaker, according to the amount that they would be paying. This is to provide an incentive for individuals to earn funding, Mr. Speaker, and go back to work. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 6, oral questions. Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 139-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier regarding the harmonization. We've seen this harmonization initiative passed from one Minister to another on several occasions now. Can the Premier tell us who is the actual lead Minister on this initiative?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is directed to the Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Return To Question 139-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The lead Minister for the harmonization initiative is Minister Roger Allen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 139-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Allen, the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, has indicated to a number of us on several occasions that he's declared conflict of interest. I would like to ask the Premier if that is actually the case. Has he declared conflict of interest on this issue to Cabinet?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Premier.

**Further Return To Question 139-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the development of the initiative and the policy, there was conflict of interest declared on dealing with certain issues. Now we are into the implementation aspect of the policy, so it's not an issue any longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 139-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am having a difficult time following what the difference is between implementation and development stages. Once you declare a conflict, I would imagine that it would stay in place. Can I get a clarification, Mr. Speaker?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Premier.

**Further Return To Question 139-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, during the development of the initiative and the policy, Ministers were obliged to speak in an unbiased, fair and honest way to the development of the initiative and the policy. The Ministers that felt they were somehow less than able to speak fully to the issues were obliged to say so. If they felt they had a conflict, those were declared at the time. The policy and initiative itself was adopted and it's no longer a debate. It's about implementing and putting in place an accepted position that every Minister in this Cabinet is expected to take full responsibility for. So the decision is made and we are into the implementation part of a decision. I think that's what the Member is asking. So there is a difference. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 139-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am still not totally clear on why you can be in conflict in certain areas and not in others, but I would certainly be interested to hear why the Minister declared he had a conflict in the first place. I would like to ask the Premier if he would tell us that. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Kakfwi.

**Further Return To Question 139-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister, we can say in general terms, felt because of family ties and the makeup of his constituency and the closeness of the issue in his particular riding and his family, he felt there was a conflict and we accepted that. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 6, oral questions. Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 140-14(6): Income Support Savings Resulting From Harmonization**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Jake Ootes, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. The first month after April 1<sup>st</sup>, how much would this government be saving under the harmonization program for income support renters for public housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 140-14(6): Income Support Savings Resulting From Harmonization**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure we would be saving any money as a department with this. Our department traditionally pays the \$32 for income support clients and if that rent increases for income support clients, as is stated, it will not affect income support clients with having to pay more money. It will not affect them. I want to repeat that. If on their bills, they do receive a bill for more money, then that is paid for by our department and returned to us from the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 140-14(6): Income Support Savings Resulting From Harmonization**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is paying for the \$32 for the rent. Who pays for the rest of the rent to run this building? I would like the Minister to answer that, please.

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

**Further Return To Question 140-14(6): Income Support Savings Resulting From Harmonization**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Traditionally public housing has been a program run by the Housing Corporation to provide subsidized housing for individuals throughout the Northwest Territories, those people who are in need on low incomes, income support clients, low income students, low income working families and so forth. That funding is paid for by the Housing Corporation, Mr. Speaker, as part of the social housing program. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 140-14(6): Income Support Savings Resulting From Harmonization**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister how much is his department paying for income support clients in the private sector in Yellowknife or the larger centres. Can you tell me that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 140-14(6): Income Support Savings Resulting From Harmonization**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What happens is when we can't access public housing, Mr. Speaker -- and this is one of the reasons for having harmonization -- is we must pay the rent, whatever the rent is out in the public and that is of concern to us. We want to ensure that our clients can access social housing or what we would call public housing. For that reason, we are concerned about the availability of those units because our department, in turn, would have to pay the private rent in the event that we can't get them into public housing. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 140-14(6): Income Support Savings Resulting From Harmonization**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister, in his first answer, said that he didn't know what it was going to cost after the first month once you get into harmonization. Is it regular practice for this government to go into any initiative without knowing what the outcome is going to be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 140-14(6): Income Support Savings Resulting From Harmonization**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what the Member means by that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have calculated out...The Housing Corporation has the number of people in public housing and so forth and there is an indication there of the number of seniors in there, the number of students, the number of income support clients and so forth. I believe that the detail would indicate that there is a lot of information available with respect to the impact of this particular program. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 6, oral questions. Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**Question 141-14(6): Intent Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Honourable Roger Allen, Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I would just like to get some sense, Mr. Speaker...I wouldn't want to come across saying that I'm supporting this harmonization initiative to try to negatively impact a large number of our residents but I think it's obvious, Mr. Speaker, that as a government, I don't know if we will ever be able sustain or even meet the housing needs of our clients. I think it's incumbent upon us to try and address the clients that are most in need. I would like to ask the Minister, in this harmonization, would it be fair to say that this harmonization initiative was brought forward with the view that we have to get a system in place that is going to be both sustainable and fair and addresses the needs of our lower income citizens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 141-14(6): Intent Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe last week I responded to that in bits and pieces. If I may put it in proper context; yes, we do. Harmonization is just a small piece of the equation. Last week I spoke about 16 different home ownership programs that will try and put those people who are the most impacted by this harmonization policy into home ownership. How we do it takes a bit of time to try to examine how we do that. We look at the income levels, we look at the total household income and see if we can now amend or fix the policy where those families who are beyond the income threshold can now go to home ownership. I believe we set numerous examples, here in this House, last June when they opened MDAP into Yellowknife. We talked about modifying the IHP, the independent housing program, we talked about also increasing the northern assistance program, where it is most needed and where it would be most applicable. So, yes, there are a number of factors and we hope to address them as we go through this in more detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary To Question 141-14(6): Intent Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state in this House, right now, that I'm in full support of the Minister promoting independent housing and I think that we should be doing more for our residents in promoting and encouraging them to get into home ownership. I think that is the way we should be going. However, I'm worried about a sustainable system that we have within our government to meet the needs of our housing clients out there. I would like the Minister to state in this House whether he has any information as to the amount of money that we have to deal with our housing problems in the Territories; if he has any indication if our funding from the federal government is going to be increasing or decreasing over the coming years to help us deal with those situations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 141-14(6): Intent Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the social housing agreement, the CMHC funding was declining. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I've stated in this House many times, that we need to look at putting people into home ownership to try to balance the equation. Now, in terms of public housing, Mr. Speaker, we hopefully will retain the status quo in the numbers we have. In the meantime, we need to address the issue of home ownership and that is where we need to really put some of our imaginative solutions to work together. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary To Question 141-14(6): Intent Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad for the Minister's answer. I would like to know, in trying to bring this harmonization to implementation, has the department

informed all the clients that we have now as to how they will be affected with this harmonization?

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

**Further Return To Question 141-14(6): Intent Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have developed a communication plan as well as a communication action plan. We've held a series of workshops, information sessions with the LHOs, district offices and those NGOs who have a vested interest in the housing policy. So, yes, we have gone through the communication strategy. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary To Question 141-14(6): Intent Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you. Just a very simple question, Mr. Speaker. Is it still the intention of the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation to proceed with the implementation of the harmonization strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 141-14(6): Intent Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly by statute, I am required to. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 6, oral questions. Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 142-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, the Honourable Roger Allen, the question, one month from the implementation date, can he give me the numbers of what it is going to cost the Housing Corporation to implement the harmonization project? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 142-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our assessment, it would be cost neutral. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Lafferty, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question 142-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the harmonization paper, they used the word equitable a number of times. So in order to make it equitable, maybe the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation can tell me, are they going to be renovating all the houses so they are equitable

accommodations, so that we can charge equitable rates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 142-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't intend to be, but I think if you look at the inventory of NWT Housing Corporation homes, it's pretty distinguishable. However, as I repeated earlier, all assessed incomes were based on rent geared to income. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 142-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he is going continue with the implementation of this program even if he has the majority of the Members against it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Speaker, again, I believe that is a theoretical question and I will take that as notice, thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Braden.

**ITEM 8: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Written Question 2-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Strategy**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will continue with the line of questioning to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, the Honourable Roger Allen. I have five written questions I would like submit with regard to the harmonization program, Mr. Speaker.

1. What process was used to determine that the harmonization program is revenue neutral across the NWT?
2. What are the projected numbers of Yellowknife renters receiving rental increases with harmonization?
3. What are the projected numbers of Yellowknife renters receiving rental decreases with harmonization?
4. What is the range of increase/decrease in cost for Yellowknife renters affected by harmonization?
5. What provisions does the harmonization program have for consideration of seniors, students, income support clients and public housing clients in Yellowknife?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item, 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Nitah.

**ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Committee Report 9-14(6): "One Land, Many Voices": The Final Report Of The Special Committee On The Review Of The Official Languages Act**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, languages are about our identity. They tell us who we are and how we understand and interact with each other and they help us to interpret the world around us.

The Northwest Territories is unique in Canada and among nations of the world because we have 11 official languages.

However, we are not unique in our efforts to value our languages and in our challenge to maintain and strengthen them as working languages at all levels of our society. Many other countries and regions are also struggling to preserve and revitalize their minority and indigenous languages.

Mr. Speaker, this final report speaks to the importance of our NWT official languages to our northern society.

Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories adopted the terms of reference of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act in the spring of 2001.

The special committee was honoured to carry out this important review, which was required by legislation, and the committee was greatly challenged by its scope and complexity.

The committee has worked hard and learned a great deal about languages. It has listened carefully to all and made a serious effort to establish a vision and make practical recommendations that strengthen our northern languages.

With the release of this report, Mr. Speaker, the special committee urges all NWT citizens to open their hearts and their minds to reflect on the value of our languages and the cultures in which they are rooted. We must continue to invest in our languages as a means to building a healthy, sustainable society.

Mr. Speaker, the special committee placed a high priority on keeping the public, government departments and agencies, and language communities informed of its activities as a basis for dialogue throughout the review. This commitment provided essential and invaluable information and direction to the committee in its formative stages and for its final recommendations.

The committee's public awareness work included individual and group meetings, newspaper, radio, television advertising, posters and brochures.

Some of the specific communication activities of the committee have included:

- Making a presentation to the Dene National Assembly in July 2001, a second presentation to the Dene leadership in November 2001, and a presentation of the progress report to the Dene National Assembly in July 2002;
- Meeting with officials from the Department of Canadian Heritage in Ottawa;

- Delivering a slide presentation on key language issues at community meetings across the North;
- Contracting local language coordinators to prepare for community visits, ensure a high level of attendance, and assist with elders' participation;
- Mailing multilingual brochures to households prior to community visits;
- Sending personalized letters of invitation to key language organizations prior to community visits and public hearings; and,
- Utilizing interpreters at community and territorial meetings.

Mr. Speaker, a cornerstone of the special committee's consultation process were the public meetings held in communities across our territory. From October 2001 to September 2002, committee members travelled to 17 different communities, to hear from every region of our territory. In total, approximately 350 people, including about 100 elders, attended these meetings.

While in the communities, committee members and staff visited local classrooms, daycare centres and cultural centres to get a better sense of the type and nature of language activities taking place throughout the NWT.

The special committee also held formal public hearings regarding the Official Languages Act here at the Legislative Assembly building on March 26 and 27, 2002. Prior to these hearings, letters were sent out to a wide range of agencies with an interest in languages, inviting them to appear before the committee.

The special committee hosted two territorial language assemblies.

The first assembly, held in October 2001, brought together delegates chosen by each of the official languages communities for a one-day meeting in Yellowknife. Delegates met with the special committee to provide input and advice to help shape the focus and direction of the review process.

In June 2002, the special committee tabled the document One Land, Many Voices: Progress Report on the Review of the Official Languages Act. The report was compiled using the information we had gathered from committee research, feedback from our community visits and our first territorial languages assembly. This document presented a set of nine strategic directions for change and was used to form the basis for further consultation.

Copies of the progress report were circulated to all of the language communities, territorial, federal and aboriginal governments, other language stakeholders, and the media.

A second territorial languages assembly focusing on our nine strategic directions for change was held in early October 2002, on the Hay River Dene Reserve. Forty delegates from the language communities attended the assembly.

Over the course of two days, through collaborative, small group sessions, delegates reviewed and debated these strategic

directions and, overall, voiced their support for the special committee's progress report. Delegates also provided valuable insight and input towards improving the recommendations for the final report.

The committee is pleased to report that the recommendations in our report capture much of their important contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I will now ask my colleague, the Honourable Roger Allen, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes and a member of the special committee, to continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Speaker, the special committee carried out a research program that included reviewing existing literature, learning from other governments and language groups around the world, conducting original research, and commissioning special studies.

To address its need for additional, specialized, and objective research and advice, the special committee commissioned studies regarding:

- The office of the Languages Commissioner;
- The aboriginal languages within the education system in the NWT;
- The aboriginal language rights in Canada and language and cultural provisions in land claims and self-government agreements; and,
- The Michif language and the Métis in the NWT.

The special committee reviewed the literature on the following topics, with a particular focus on minority and indigenous languages:

- The value of language and language diversity;
- The theory of language shift;
- Language rights and legislation;
- Language revitalization theory and practice; and,
- Language education.

In addition, the committee reviewed:

- Official languages legislation from each of the provinces and territories of Canada;
- Various pieces of NWT legislation with language provisions;
- A variety of language plans and reports from across Canada;
- All available NWT documents relating to language policy and practice; and,
- Alternative models of French language service delivery in Canada.

This information is presented and analyzed in this report within the context of the NWT language situation.

Mr. Speaker, the final report, which was drafted over the period July 2002 through January 2003, has undergone extensive formative review and revision by the special committee.

In order to further ensure the accuracy and validity of the information in the report and reasonably assure itself of the review's comprehensiveness, the special committee had chapters two through six reviewed in final draft form by content

experts. The special committee also consulted with the Law Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on relevant legal matters.

Based on the expert advice put forward by these professionals, a number of final revisions were made to reflect current language theories and practices and provide greater clarity to our findings.

Mr. Speaker, the final report has been divided into eight chapters:

- Chapter one introduces the Official Languages Act review.
- Chapter two addresses the value of our French and aboriginal languages and of language diversity generally. It also addresses the social, environmental, and economic aspects of our languages.
- Chapter three provides a historical overview of language policy in Canada and the NWT, with a particular focus on the impact of repressive aboriginal language policies and suppression of French language rights. This chapter also reviews the resurgence in Canada of the French and Aboriginal language communities in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the development of our current NWT official languages legislation and policies.
- Chapter four assesses the current condition, and obvious decline, of our official languages, with particular emphasis on our indigenous languages.
- Chapter five provides an overview of international and national language revitalization theory and practice, and leads to the formation of a language—revitalization framework for the NWT.
- Chapter six includes a detailed presentation and analysis of official languages legislation, management structures, and program/service delivery systems in the NWT, with a particular focus on GNWT responsibilities and accountability.
- Chapter seven presents the range of options that were considered by the special committee based on its overall research and consultations.
- Chapter eight contains a shared vision for language revitalization in the NWT, a set of recommendations to strengthen official languages and maintain language diversity, and an implementation and investment schedule.

Together, these chapters provide the rationale and direction for positive change and fulfill the terms of reference established by the Legislative Assembly for the special committee.

Mr. Speaker, in developing these options, the special committee acknowledges a key difference in the needs of the aboriginal and French language communities.

From a territorial and national perspective, the aboriginal languages are under greater threat and, at the present time, have less legal protection. Consistent with the preamble of the Official Languages Act, the committee has focused on the compelling need to preserve, develop, and enhance the use of

these languages before they become obsolete and, conceivably, lost altogether.

French, on the other hand, is a viable and strong world language, has clear constitutional protection in Canada, and has strong community infrastructure supporting it within the NWT. The focus for the committee has been to ensure that Francophones can receive a wide and effective range of government services in French, while continuing to support community-driven language enhancement initiatives for all language communities.

Mr. Speaker, taken together, the 65 recommendations in the final report are designed to serve as a roadmap to achieve our vision for ensuring a strong and vibrant future for each of our 11 official languages.

Mr. Speaker, I will now ask my colleague, Mr. McLeod, Member for Deh Cho, and a member of the special committee, to continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. McLeod, continue.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the report outlines the actions that must be taken in a number of critical areas.

In the first set of recommendations we seek to clarify and strengthen official languages legislation and policy by recommending that:

1. The current version of the Official Languages Act be updated to remove repealed sections and correct spelling, terminology, and translation errors.
2. Dene terms be used in the Official Languages Act for North Slavey, South Slavey, Dogrib, and Chipewyan, with the advice and consent of the affected language communities.
3. North and South Slavey, as such, or using Dene terms, and Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun be listed as separate languages in section four of the Official Languages Act, and removed from the interpretation section, with the consent of the affected language communities.
4. Michif research be funded with the intent of determining an appropriate designation for this language.
5. The preamble be amended to recognize the important role of language communities in preserving and developing their own languages and to acknowledge shared responsibility for language enhancement.
6. Section 14 of the Official Languages Act be clarified and defined through a combination of regulation and policy. Regulations be established for service delivery relating to occupational health and safety, health, and social services. Other services be defined through policy rather than guidelines.
7. Departments and agencies required to comply with the Official Languages Act be listed in regulations, along with provisions for compliance where these services are being provided by other agencies.
8. The Official Languages Act designate a Minister responsible, with the authority to implement the act and

the obligation to submit an annual official languages report to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, to clarify and strengthen official languages legislation and policy, we recommend that:

9. An aboriginal languages board be legislated through the Official Languages Act to advise the Minister responsible regarding planning, promotion, coordination, and resource allocation. This board will provide a legislated accountability link between the language communities and the GNWT.

The terms of reference for this board -- along with its structure, appointment process, consultation functions, and other necessary matters -- be established through regulation.

10. Aboriginal languages board members be nominated by their respective language communities, recommended by the Minister responsible, and appointed by the Legislative Assembly.
11. Concurrent with the establishment of the aboriginal languages board, the broad promotional mandate of the Languages Commissioner be reduced through the repeal of the last phrase in section 20(1) and Section 20(3) of the Official Languages Act.

The Languages Commissioner's promotional role is transferred to the Minister responsible and the aboriginal languages board.

The Languages Commissioner continues to ensure compliance with the strengthened Official Languages Act.

12. Sections 19(2) and 19(3) of the Official Languages Act be repealed, allowing the Office of the Languages Commissioner to be independent of the public service. The Assembly review the Office of the Languages Commissioner to clarify its management systems and administrative support relationships.
13. A provision be added to the Official Languages Act to allow for the appointment of an acting Languages Commissioner between appointments or where the commissioner is otherwise unable to perform his/her functions.
14. A provision be added to the Official Languages Act requiring the Legislative Assembly to respond to the commissioner's annual report within 180 days of the tabling of that report.
15. The Official Languages Act provide for the recognition of the collective language rights of aboriginal peoples within their homelands, consistent with current and pending land claims and self-governance agreements.
16. That section 29(1) of the Official Languages Act be amended to require smaller-scale evaluations every five years, beginning in 2008 -- concurrent with the release of the 2006 census Canada language data - to ensure the provisions and implementation of the Official Languages Act and other official language initiatives are effective.

Mr. Speaker to improve official languages management and accountability, we recommend that:

17. The Minister responsible consider establishing a small official languages secretariat by reprofiling existing resources. The official languages secretariat would provide a single point of access regarding official language matters and a focus for accountability within the GNWT.

The official languages secretariat would report directly to the Minister and would carry out the following management and policy functions:

- Liaison with the French and aboriginal language communities;
  - Preparation, monitoring, and evaluation of the official languages implementation plan and evaluation framework;
  - Liaise with the Bureau of Statistics;
  - Negotiation and management of the Canada-NWT cooperation agreement;
  - Management of contribution agreements with the official language communities;
  - Operational support for the aboriginal languages board;
  - Operational and leadership support for the establishment of one-window service centres;
  - Support the development of official languages regulations and policies;
  - Intergovernmental relations regarding languages.
18. The Minister responsible develop a GNWT-wide official languages implementation plan and evaluation/accountability framework, based on the Treasury Board model, that calls for the identification, gathering, and ongoing analysis of output and outcome-based data.
19. The Minister responsible ensure that language communities are fully consulted on the Canada-NWT cooperation agreement action plan and evaluation framework.
20. The Bureau of Statistics be tasked to gather and analyze data from Census Canada, a modified labour force survey, and current socio-linguistic studies, and incorporate this data into a language report every five years, beginning in 2003 with the release of the 2001 Census Canada language data.
- Mr. Speaker, to ensure effective and adequate financing, we recommend that:
21. The Minister responsible for the Official Languages Act ensure that all funding allocated for official languages be used for that purpose.
22. Funding for official languages initiatives be increased as required to implement the recommendations contained in this report.

23. The Minister responsible take steps to ensure that the Canada-NWT cooperation agreement is maintained and maximizes federal participation.
24. The GNWT enter into multi-year, flexible-funding agreements with the language communities to provide more certainty and program stability, with appropriate accountability mechanisms.
25. The GNWT support language community initiatives to generate other sources of language revenue, including endowment funds and business activities that support language enhancement.

Mr. Speaker, I will now ask my colleague, Mr. Bell, Member for Yellowknife South and a member of the special committee, to continue. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Bell, continue.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to enhance official language service delivery, we recommend that:

26. 'Active offer' with respect to occupational health and safety and health and social services be defined through regulations, and through policy for all other services.
27. The Minister responsible ensure that all departments and agencies properly implement active offer, with procedures and measures for tracking demand and service delivery.
28. The GNWT evaluate the bilingual bonus directive, with the intent of prioritizing and increasing the number of bilingual positions for front-line service delivery.
29. The Minister responsible work with stakeholders to provide communities with cost-effective access to basic translation equipment for government, industry, and public information meetings and gatherings.
30. The Minister responsible work with the federal government and Francophone community to support the establishment of a pilot French language service centre for Yellowknife. This centre would provide one-window access to government services in French and would include a 1-800 line for outlying communities.
31. The Minister responsible consult with the aboriginal language communities and the aboriginal languages board regarding the possible establishment of a pilot aboriginal language service centre.
32. The Minister responsible evaluate the pilot service centres after two years to determine their viability and make recommendations accordingly.
33. The official languages secretariat publish an updated public registry of French and aboriginal language interpreter/translators.
- Mr. Speaker to build human resource capacity in the official languages, we recommend that:
34. The Minister responsible work with the aboriginal language communities to expand the development of regional and/or territorial certification standards for

interpreter/translators and provide IT training in regions. The initial focus be on health, social services, justice, and other areas of regional priority. Training be tied to forecasted employment and business opportunities arising from increased official language service delivery.

35. The Minister of ECE consolidate and increase the regional delivery of aboriginal language instructor training according to standards set jointly by the language communities and ECE. Training is tied to forecasted employment opportunities arising from a strengthening of aboriginal language provisions in the Education Act.
36. The Minister of ECE develop an aboriginal second-language curriculum for adults and promote and support language training for GNWT employees, parents, and other interested adults.
37. The Minister responsible and the Minister of ECE meet with Aurora College, aboriginal language communities, and cultural institutes to review the development and delivery of interpretation/translation, language instructors, and adult language training, to improve cost-effectiveness and the overall success rate.
38. Aurora College and other public agencies providing language training submit an annual report of their activities to the Minister responsible and the aboriginal languages board.

Mr. Speaker, to support research and development for official languages, we recommend that:

39. The Minister responsible work closely with the aboriginal language communities, the respective cultural institutes, and elders' councils to identify terminology needs, fund terminology development, and establish regionally-endorsed terminology approval processes.
40. The Minister responsible work closely with the aboriginal language communities and cultural institutes to establish a coordinated cataloguing and distribution process for aboriginal language resource materials.
41. The cultural projects and geographic place names programs be evaluated and considered for increased funding.

Mr. Speaker, to increase and improve aboriginal language education, we recommend that:

42. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment issue a Ministerial directive requiring education authorities to use aboriginal language funding for the purposes intended. This directive is a necessary first step in improving aboriginal language programming in the schools.
43. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment clarify interpretation and strengthen implementation of section 73.3 of the Education Act, which directs education authorities to provide aboriginal language instruction.
44. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment issue a Ministerial directive regarding the minimum number of instructional hours for aboriginal languages. This directive strengthens the provision of section 73.3 of the Education

Act. Minimum hours of instruction would subsequently be addressed through regulations, consistent with other subject areas.

45. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment amend the Education Act to rebalance the authority of the Minister and education authorities with respect to aboriginal language programming to improve accountability.
46. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment oversee the development of a comprehensive aboriginal language arts curriculum in consultation and cooperation with the language communities and education authorities.
47. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment oversee the development of early childhood immersion programming in consultation and cooperation with language communities and education authorities.
48. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment work closely with the aboriginal language communities, colleges, and other agencies to actively recruit, train, and certify aboriginal language instructors and teachers. This task would include a review of pay scales and training/recruitment incentives.
49. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment prepare a strategic plan for aboriginal languages in education, early childhood through Grade 12, including the introduction of aboriginal language instruction in core subject areas. This plan would include partnerships with language communities and the need to link language development in the school and at home.
50. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment amend the Education Act to grant aboriginal parents the right to petition for aboriginal immersion schooling, beginning at the primary level, within their language homelands and where numbers warrant.
51. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment work with the education authorities to increase the role and capacity of TLCs to develop resource materials and to enhance partnerships with language communities.
52. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment submit an annual report on the status of curriculum development and aboriginal language education to the Legislative Assembly and the aboriginal languages board.

Mr. Speaker to promote official languages, we recommend that:

53. The Minister responsible develop an aboriginal language social-marketing plan in consultation with the language communities, to be implemented jointly by the Minister and the language communities. The aboriginal languages board, once established, would play a lead role in ongoing language promotion activities.
54. The Minister responsible provide support to the French language community to develop and implement a social-marketing plan.
55. Community leaders and other prominent role models take responsibility for using their traditional languages wherever possible.

56. The Minister responsible and language communities encourage the federal government, industry, and other agencies to use and profile the aboriginal and French languages, particularly in regions and areas where the languages are commonly used.
57. The Minister responsible increase funding for promotional activities targeting youth.
58. The GNWT promote and offer cross-cultural and language training for staff as an orientation and professional development activity.

Mr. Speaker to increase the use of official languages in media and technology, we recommend that:

59. The GNWT expand its support for, and utilization of, aboriginal and French language media, along with support for other communication initiatives, including the use of the Internet, digital technology, and emerging media technologies.
60. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and other agencies support media and technology training for aboriginal language speakers through scholarships and other incentives.
61. The Minister responsible ensure current aboriginal language fonts are available to GNWT staff and encourage their use. The use of these fonts becomes more important as aboriginal organizations and communities increasingly adopt traditional place names incorporating specialized fonts.
62. The Minister responsible assist aboriginal language communities to incorporate aboriginal language fonts on specialized software applications and address other technical issues, as needed, to support the use of aboriginal languages in a wide range of technical applications.

Mr. Speaker, I will now ask the chair of the special the committee, Mr. Nitah, Member for Tu Nedhe, to conclude the presentation of our report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Nitah, continue.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the recommendations and implementation/costing schedule proposed in this report are advanced, we further recommend that:

63. The Premier appoint a Minister responsible for the Official Languages Act within 60 days of the acceptance of this report by the Legislative Assembly.
64. The government introduce the proposed bill to amend the Official Languages Act during the term of the current Assembly.
65. The Minister responsible report to the Legislative Assembly within one year of the acceptance of this report. This report will address:
- The status and progress of the implementation of the recommendations

- The status of the Canada-NWT cooperation agreement
- Business plans and budgetary provisions for 2004-2005 and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that these recommendations are all achievable, but that they cannot all be implemented at once. Although we do not wish or propose to micro-manage the next steps, we have seen good planning work from the Assembly and government fail to be implemented adequately.

We have, therefore, prepared a preliminary implementation and investment schedule, with cost estimates, to guide the Legislative Assembly in its deliberations on this report and to guide those agencies tasked with implementing these recommendations. Further, we recommend the Legislative Assembly propose that Cabinet establish an implementation task force, possibly made up of senior departmental executives of the principally affected departments, to guide the preliminary stages of implementation.

Mr. Speaker, your colleagues on the special committee regret that you could not take part in sharing with the presentation of this report today. However, we would like to recognize your valuable input and strong commitment as an integral member of this committee.

Mr. Speaker, we, the special committee, on the review of the Official Languages Act, are also deeply indebted to the many people who, over the past two years, have contributed to the completion of this report.

First and foremost, we wish to thank all those citizens who took the time to provide guidance, input and advice to this review and for their interest in the well-being and future of our languages in the Northwest Territories.

Specifically, our sincere thanks go out to:

- Those who attended the first and second territorial languages assemblies and provided guidance to the committee in its consultation process;
- Those key people in each community who assisted in organizing our meetings and our visits to schools and other language-related facilities;
- Those citizens who attended the community meetings;
- Those aboriginal and French language community leaders who gave us their insight and support;
- The input and support of the NWT Literacy Council; and,
- Those individuals and organizations who took the time to consider caringly the needs and future of our languages, and to develop and make presentations at the public hearings.

Mr. Speaker, we traveled to many communities across the Northwest Territories and have had the opportunity to learn from the vast knowledge and experience within each of the language communities. We were heartened by the sincerity with which Northerners cared for and respected each other and were inspired by their deep concern for our future generations of language speakers.

We also experienced the warm hospitality of those who provided us with good food and lodging, for which we are truly grateful.

We also recognize that our review would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff and the assistance and input of the many people that work in the language field.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the hard work of the report writer, Mr. Peter Redvers -- who, unfortunately, was unable to be in Yellowknife because of a death in his family and he sends his sincere apologies -- the senior editor and advisor, Dr. Hal Gerein; and our managers of research and information, Ms. Denise Bekkema from May 2001 to August 2002 and Mr. Wayne Balanoff from August 2002 to our successful completion.

Mr. Speaker, we are especially thankful for and acknowledge the leadership, dedication, and support of Mr. Benoît Boutin, our committee coordinator, who began the review with us, traveled with us, kept us on course and on budget, and saw the project to its end.

We would like to recognize the support of the office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, the input from and collaboration with the office of the Languages Commissioner of the NWT, the Language Commissioner of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and their many staff, particularly the assistance provided by the director of the legislation division, at the Department of Justice. A very special thanks to the Department of Canadian Heritage for their support of the review.

Mr. Speaker, our thanks goes out to all the consultants, expert reviewers and proofreaders who contributed to this review. Also a special thanks to all the interpreters and translators for their hard work and care to interpret and translate the report accurately. Finally, our appreciation and thanks goes to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer for allowing the staff of the committee to share their offices.

Mr. Speaker, we are hopeful that this report will capture the hearts and minds of this government and allow everyone to share in our vision of the future. The report calls upon every member of our northern society to care for and respect our languages and cultures and is a reflection of the many voices that we heard from the people of the Northwest Territories. It is those voices that guided our path towards the vision we are presenting today. The time is now to move forward together and embrace the challenges that lay ahead.

**Motion That Committee Report 9-14(6) Be Received By Assembly And Moved To Committee Of The Whole, Carried**

This concludes the final report of the special committee. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that the report of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act be received by the Assembly and moved to Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading for bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

**ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 10: An Act To Amend The Hospital Insurance And Health And Social Services Administration Act**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 5, 2003, I will move that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Allen.

**Bill 9: Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 5, 2003, I will move that Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 2, Bill 3, committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6), 5-14(6), 6-14(6), with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

**ITEM 19: 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. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend committee continue with consideration of Bill 3 and committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6) and 5-14(6) concurrently, specifically to continue with the Department of Justice and then after that conclude the Department of Finance.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Chair will call a short break and come back.

---SHORT RECESS

**Bill 3: Appropriation Act, 2003-2004****Department Of Justice**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I call the committee back to order. We are here to review the Department of Justice. Does the Minister wish to bring in witnesses? Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Chairman, yes, I do.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in, please.

Mr. Minister, for the record, please, introduce your witnesses.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is indeed my pleasure to introduce Kim Schofield to my left, the director of corporate services; to my immediate right, Deputy Minister Don Cooper; and, to his right, Ms. Shirley Kemeys-Jones, assistant deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We left off on Friday on general comments. Mr. Braden is on the list. Did you have any more general comments, Mr. Braden?

**MR. BRADEN:** No, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Detail, please.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Ms. Lee.

**General Comments**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking questions under general comments last Friday when session ended. My questions were surrounding lack of resources for RCMP in Yellowknife. Actually, that's not true. There were further questions from Mr. Bell or statements. I am just looking for some clarification as to where the department lies in terms of why we are not able to see any extra resources in Yellowknife. There was an inference that there is a lack of action on the part of the federal government or the Treasury Board, in particular, or maybe there is a lack of agreement between the GNWT and the local RCMP here as to exactly what the level of needs are. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate it if there is information there that is not for public consumption, but for what can be made available, can I get the Minister or his officials to tell me where the problem lies? Where is the hiccup that makes it impossible for us to get extra resources for RCMP? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy minister to respond to that specific question.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Cooper.

**MR. COOPER:** Mr. Chairman, last year about this time, the RCMP informally and through the media had indicated that there was a shortage of RCMP and they were going to have to cut back on services. We met with them at that time and expressed some sympathy, and asked them to do an in-depth study or report which would rationalize their needs. We indicated that we couldn't simply go to Cabinet and FMB or

come before this House and say the RCMP have verbally, or in a short letter, advised us that they required 10 or 20 more people. We would have to have some statistical rationalization. The RCMP did have an audit conducted last summer. A report came out in the fall and now we have just received a document in which they have indicated some of their resource needs. There were some areas for discussion, however.

The NWT, next to Yukon, has the highest number of police per capita in the country, almost twice the number that Newfoundland has. In 1991, Yellowknife had a population of 16,000 and now it has about 18,000 -- depending on whether you believe the census or not -- and the number of police requested are seemingly disproportionate if you do a mathematical rationalization. So it might all be very justified, but we need to have some discussions with them about their resource requirements and we hope to be able to come back to the House soon or back to Cabinet and discuss this issue further and, hopefully, come forward with some requests in June. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that information. I have another question on the Minister's opening remarks and it has to do with the remark that the Minister made in the first page about justice coordinators. I just noticed that the positions being funded are part-time and I am wondering why these positions are on a part-time basis. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Perhaps I will ask Shirley Kemeys-Jones to respond to that.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding that was allocated was \$20,000 per community, and that was enough money for those communities that didn't have justice committees or a coordinator already in place to hire somebody at least on a part-time basis, but they can still combine positions in order to have a full-time position and they still have the contribution funding that they regularly get in order to assist with those positions as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Kemeys-Jones. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** So is the money for justice coordinators 100 percent funded by the GNWT, or is there any cost-sharing with any other levels of government? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** For the most part it is. For some coordinators, we do receive a small amount of money through the Aboriginal justice strategy, five communities in the Territories receive funding through there, matched funding for their programs, but the vast majority is GNWT funding. They always have the option of requesting funds through other organizations as well, and many do.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** But they always have the option of requesting funds through other organizations as well, and they may do.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Kemeys-Jones. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. Then back to the question why we are not funding this position at 100 percent. I understand that the actual bodies that are in this position may be paid full time by doing other jobs, but I think that this is a pretty demanding position and there is certainly a need for this in communities. So I'm wondering was this the way it was approved by the government? Is that the Cabinet's decision to do a half-time coordinator position because there is not enough money to do it? I'm just assuming that full-time funding will be better than part-time, unless I'm told otherwise. So is this a case of lack of funding? I guess that's my question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount was set by the communities in the Northwest Territories, some were at different levels. Some communities are very advanced in areas of community justice and some aren't. This particular funding was the first target for those communities that didn't have justice committees, or didn't have coordinators, or didn't have somebody that was identified in the community to address justice issues. So at the time, it was thought that if full-time funding wasn't required, that the \$20,000 would be enough to assist them to get somebody going and to have one person identified in that community who could be dedicated to justice issues, at least on a part-time basis and then if they had other duties, they would be able to take those on as well. So pretty much, that is how we established the level of funding.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you Ms. Kemeys-Jones. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. Just one last question on the opening remarks and it has to do with the North Slave Young Offenders Facility. I'm wondering if the Minister could provide me with what the total budget was that we spent on the young offenders' facility. Thank you.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Mr. Cooper to respond to that question.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is difficult to break it down because of the shared structures between the adult facility and the young offenders' facility, in the mechanical and the kitchen and other shared structures. The cost of the two together is just over \$49 million. I'm not sure if we can offer a better breakdown than that because, as I said, when the young offenders facility was ready to be opened, it was standing by itself being hugely overbuilt with the mechanical, electrical and the backup emergency systems and surveillance systems and so on, and the gymnasium. So it is hard to separate the two, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. The Chair will recognize Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to bring a couple of items up and one of the things I wanted to raise, first of all, is the issue of family law. They state that the backlog of cases that are before the courts, in terms of separations, child maintenance and just being able to access lawyers through the legal aid process is something that we are running up against. We are finding that in some instances we've had people who have paid their fee and submitted their application, and they can't have their situations dealt with. So I just want to ask the Minister, first of all, if he could tell me how big is this problem? How many cases are there in the backlog? I think a number was given last year and there was an attempt to reduce the number of cases, but I would like to know what that is now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Minister, you are indicating Mr. Cooper.

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of a week ago, I believe it was in the area of 70 or so. Approximately one month ago, the chairman of the Legal Services Board hired a family law lawyer on a term contract, with express instructions to clear the backlog. That will be a lot of cases for one lawyer, but it will help. As of today, we have a new director of the Legal Services Board who replaced the outgoing executive director, and his primary goal will be to tackle the issue and the problem of civil cases.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It raises some kind of concern. I think some time ago the numbers were 150 cases and it looked like the problem was being dealt with. It was reduced down to 50 and it is quite disturbing to see it is climbing back up again. I just would like know; is there any kind of time frame where we can see things come down to a fairly stable situation with the number of backlog cases? We're wondering when we can clean it up.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Cooper.

**MR. COOPER:** We're hoping that this lawyer, who is solely dedicated to civil cases will, perhaps, at least cut the number in half. The Legal Services Board is independent and will do what it decides independently of the department, but our suggestion has been that the executive director talk to the Law Society about engaging with the private bar in this activity a lot more aggressively. It has been suggested that they need a little more money because civil cases are very paper intensive, whereas criminal work is not, so that your secretarial staff and filing systems and everything else warrants a surcharge on the legal aid fees that lawyers make. We are more than prepared to look at that as a department, but we do want solutions very quickly. We think it falls to the local bar and, failing that, then we are prepared to have the board look at going South, if necessary.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to also point out, for the Minister's information, and it isn't something new, but in small communities and in the communities in my riding, to compound

things and make them even worse, we are still struggling with access to officers, especially court workers and parole officers. I'm glad to see that the Minister is considering putting in a few more positions and it looks like one is going to come to my riding. Can he tell me if he is doing anything to improve access to services for the other positions such as court worker?

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have looked at the department overall and trying to address all the needs, especially the court workers. I'm going to ask again, with your permission, to allow Mr. Cooper to respond to that. Thank you.

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

**MR. COOPER:** The court workers are with the Legal Services Board so decisions, in terms of where the court workers are located, will be made by the Legal Services Board. I believe the court workers for the Legal Services Board come out of either Hay River or Yellowknife, but we will certainly alert the Legal Services Board to the concern expressed by the Member, that the degree of case work in his riding may now warrant the establishment of a court worker in Fort Providence.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, it's good to hear that the Minister will consider at least reviewing the situation in my community. Right now it's very difficult. For the most part, if you're in trouble in the smaller community, and if you don't have a phone you're going to have a hard time, because most offices don't just let people walk in and access the phone. Since we don't have anybody located in the community, they don't have an office in our communities. It's very difficult and it really makes things hard when somebody needs to use a service. For the most part, most people don't have the information of who to contact, and if there's no access it really...For my case, I'm having to deal and act as a reference and referral and handle a lot of communication.

I also want to point out that I'm quite disappointed to see that we're spending a lot of money in corrections and we've spent a lot of money on jails and those types of facilities, but at the same time we've raised the issue of the inmate camps many, many times. We've always been assured that the Minister would look at it, the previous Minister said he would review the situation, and things haven't improved. In fact, I think almost all the camps are closed, if I'm correct. I know that we've worked very hard to get the one in my riding up and running and we put a lot of money into it. It only operates when it can get enough clients and it has been closed since last fall. Can the Minister tell me where we're heading with these inmate camps? Are they all closing their doors? How many are left? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll make a few brief comments, then I'll ask Ms. Jones to certify the number of camps open. But yes, it is still contingent upon the department to promote the wilderness camps as a method of integrating back into the community. We feel that that's one of

the key areas. We're not only dealing with it in the Deh Cho region, but other regions have expressed an interest in using that methodology to reintegrate their inmates back into the community. So we see this as an extension to our existing programs, so we feel comfortable that we will be able to maintain that level of service to the community. With that, I'll ask Ms. Jones to continue to respond to the Member in the context of wilderness camps currently open. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, we have two camps in full operation, and they are both operating at capacity level. One camp in Fort Providence is shut down, but the representatives from there continue to keep in touch with us and attend our meetings so we're hoping that they will open again.

We now have a full-time camp coordinator on staff, and he has been following up any expressions of interest in any of the communities. He just returned from a trip to Fort Good Hope where he met with people there and they were talking about having a camp in that region again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Kemeys-Jones. General comments. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** That's okay, I'll wait until we get to the detail. Sorry.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just going over our report and talking about additional chairs in the three communities, I want to ask the Minister if they're getting four additional deputy sheriffs and they're saying it's for security reasons. I'd like to ask the Minister and his department what kind of specialty they have for security reasons? Can they do it differently than having RCMP in the courthouse? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Allen, I think you're indicating Mr. Cooper to answer. Mr. Cooper.

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the last 25 or so years, certainly since I've been here, there has always been a sheriff travelling with the Supreme Court and who has been in the Supreme Court courtroom at all times for security reasons. But we never did do that for the Territorial Court. Over the years, and for the reason the Member mentioned, that is because generally speaking there was a member of the RCMP in the Territorial Courtroom at all times advising the Crown prosecutors. However, over the years the Territorial Court judiciary has complained about this, as has the RCMP, saying that member is sitting with his or her back to the door, is not looking out for security at all, and is so engaged in assisting the Crown prosecutor with the prosecutions that he or she doesn't have time to pay any attention to security. So the Territorial Court judges then strongly requested that they finally get accorded the same treatment as the Supreme Court, so that is why we did that. Thank you.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. It's a good way to look at things, but the understanding I have is that they don't carry arms and I don't even know if they take any hand-to-hand combat training

or whatever and they say it's for security reasons. I'm just wondering what kind of special training they have for security measures. Can you tell me that?

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

**MR. COOPER:** I think we should take part of that question under advisement. I do know that they do take training on restraint measures; but as for other specific training, I'm not certain. They do not carry firearms, but in many cases the RCMP do not have firearms in the courtroom either. But I'd like the department to get back to the member of the committee with a more detailed answer, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask what are the responsibilities of these sheriffs and deputy sheriffs right now? Does any of the work that they've been doing in the past have to be taken away from them because they're going to be in the courtrooms more often? Thank you.

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

**MR. COOPER:** No, amongst the sheriffs duties are courtroom duty when court is in session and traveling. At other times they are serving jury summonses to people. They are looking at courtroom accommodations in the communities, they're seizing goods or items that are being seized to satisfy civil judgments. That's the essence of what a sheriff does.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you. On one other subject, we have capital allocation concerns on the funding for 10 beds, \$10 million. I'm just wondering is the department still looking at that to see if that is the correct cost?

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

**MR. COOPER:** I think that there might have been miscommunication, misunderstanding when we were before standing committee. It was actually for 20 beds. Right now, the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre is a minimum security institution which means that you can literally walk out the door. There's just a panic bar and you can walk out the door. But we have a need for secure cells in that institution from time to time. When we have a prisoner who is at risk to either herself or somebody else, we have to put them in the RCMP detachment in Fort Smith where they can stay for quite awhile, where there's cramped quarters, they're guarded by males for the most part, they have no access to any programming or anything. So this has been a deficiency for some time.

We're looking at other options besides a 20-bed multi-level facility, which we could get into more detail about, but we are exploring other options which will be more cost-effective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just going back to what we've done in Yellowknife, we've got an adult facility and a young offenders' facility combined here to cut costs. We're also working in the Hay River area to put in another young offenders' facility. Is the department looking at seeing if they can cut costs by putting those two together?

Another thing is that, when we do build these facilities, we should start considering who uses those buildings the most. Which area? Is it the North Slave, the South Slave or the Inuvik region? Who uses those the most? It's a needs study. It's just like putting homes in the communities. Where are the most residents of these buildings going to come from, and to cut costs? Are they looking at that?

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of processes that are constantly used to make those evaluations. In some cases, we're required under the Fire Marshal's Act to look at replacement of certain facilities. It's typical that we find each and every year the demographics of where the inmates are from. But under corrections, I understand that there is a constant need to house inmates, for instance, in the young offenders' facility, whether it's in closed or open custody. As well, the deputy minister would very emphatically need to state that the TWCC at present is in a deteriorating state. So we need to review those facilities periodically to see if they do conform under the fire marshal's order or the current state of the required repairs. Thank you.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's good to know that the Minister said the inmates come and go from different places, so it doesn't make a difference where this building is going to be built. It doesn't have to be in the Fort Smith region, it could be in the North Slave. I understand that the Inuvik young offenders' facility was put there because of the stats saying that it was needed in that region more than in any other region in the Territories. So if we're going to consider that and we use our stats of where the inmates came from in the past and where we think it's needed, then maybe that's what we should be going on and not just because there used to be a facility there. Then using the fire marshal for a reason for rebuilding new is a good one, it's just that there's no information along with that. We don't see that information. In committee we didn't see the fire marshal's information of what it's going to cost just to keep it open, or if it's going to be too costly to keep it open, and we never weighed anything on that. So I'm really concerned on that. If it's \$500,000 for one bed, how much does it cost for each bed in Yellowknife? What's the difference in beds? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of contributing factors, I believe, in trying to justify the existing facilities and where they're currently located. I think if you look at it on a cost-plus basis, then economically it's most feasible to replace the existing facility from where it currently sits based on having to take into consideration that you may have to move long-term staff. So there are a number of circumstances surrounding that. But as I said earlier, I think the primary purpose is to, if we're under a fire marshal's order, satisfy a statutory requirement. I'm going to ask our officials to respond to that more in the context of the economics of

replacing the facilities, if I may, Mr. Chair, ask the deputy minister to respond.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member has pointed to one of the main criteria that we look at in recommending where facilities should be built, and that is the demographics of criminal activity. In the case of female young offenders, we see a disproportionate number coming from the Beaufort-Delta, therefore, it made sense to establish the Arctic Tern Female Young Offenders' Facility there in Inuvik.

There are some other considerations, as the Minister has pointed out, the cost and dislocation of current to staff wherever it would be. If you moved the facility from one place to another would be substantial, along with a considerable amount of resentment, we suspect. But also the Fort Smith women's centre has been there for a long time. The community has truly embraced the women. They do a tremendous amount of work in the community there, especially with seniors on a volunteer basis. There's an excellent program there, and that would have to be something that we take into account as well. If we're looking at where the people who commit the crimes are coming from, right now I'm not sure what our count is in TWCC. It's probably nine or 10.

---Interjection

**MR. COOPER:** Thirteen today. I believe three or four of those are from Nunavut. There's no women's correctional centre in Nunavut, so they continue to send their prisoners to us, and there's a smattering of people from all over the Territories, so you're not going to get a number that is so telling that it would lead you or compel you to say the only place that makes sense to build this is Yellowknife or Inuvik or Rae or Fort Simpson or Fort Smith. So those are some of the considerations, and we will be looking at all of those things, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. The Chair will recognize Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to raise a couple more things; just a point on my colleague's, Mr. Lafferty's, comments. I think that it's a very valid point for consideration for this department, along with other departments in this government, to start looking at decentralizing some of the institutions and facilities. We are continually seeing facilities being built with the mentality that it can't be housed anywhere else. I think that's not true. I think we have to really start looking at decentralizing some of the facilities into the communities. If we're going to have a healthy Northwest Territories, we have to have a balanced approach.

For some time now, I've been raising the issue about the RCMP situation in the Northwest Territories. I raised it up to two years ago when I was told by this department that there was no problem with the RCMP. Well, now, it's becoming very obvious that the RCMP themselves are saying there is a shortage. We certainly can see it in the communities. There is a need for more staff, more positions. At that time, I had indicated that maybe a possible solution is utilizing some of the community people in positions of community officers or even by-law officers so that we can take some of the pressures off the RCMP staff in our communities. It seems like there is no desire to go that route. Could the Minister indicate to me if

there has been anything done in terms of putting more resources or by-law officers or community policing officers in any of the smaller communities, or anywhere in the North, for that matter?

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've spoke to this topic many times, and politically we've been trying to deal under the policing agreement to give further additional resources or at least some form of peace officer in those communities that don't have them. We've been dealing specifically with three: Sachs Harbour, Tsiigehtchic, and Fort Wrigley. I believe we stated earlier that the department will be directed to deal with the chief superintendent in the next little while to review the report, review the policing resources and return back to myself as the lead Minister so that I may be able to have further discussion with my Cabinet colleagues. So that's what I promote. We haven't had time to review the report, due to other pressing items that have been put on our plate in recent weeks. Certainly once we get the time to review the report and establish a strategy, I'm prepared to discuss that further with my Cabinet colleagues. Thank you.

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

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is not a new situation. There have been problems with policing in communities for a number of years now, and it has been raised so many times it can't be stated that we need time to review the situation. The support officers that are needed in the communities, whether it's a community officer, a by-law officer or a community constable, there's a situation where all the ingredients are in place. The training is available, the equipment is available, uniforms are available and supplies; it's just there's no money for wages.

You don't have to reinvent the wheel here if we're going to go look at the situation. We know what the problem is. There is no money for wages. Up to last year, there was only \$3,000 in the whole budget for wages. So I can't really accept the fact that it needs to be reviewed. Can the Minister tell me what he's going to do between now and the election? Is he going to do anything in the way of providing staff dollars or dollars to fund our community constables? On the Hay River reserve, we had a student take the program. She has completed the program, she's trained, she's certified, she had everything that is required, but we can't put her to work because there's no money for wages.

I think the Minister has to do something and he has to do something quick. We've been fooling around with this issue for at least three years now. For the whole time that we've been elected, the request has been from the communities, the request has come from me and there have been other requests. It's not a new issue. Can the Minister tell us what he's going to do? Is he going to do anything, or is he just going to ignore the whole situation until a new election?

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope we're not going to be cross-referencing two departments here.

If he's talking about municipal by-law officers, then certainly you're talking my bailiwick, the Minister of Justice. But that still doesn't prevent us from working with the sponsoring ministry to try to find solutions. What I am referring to, especially in my address here this afternoon, is to talk about the existing policing agreement with the RCMP, whereby we fund 70 percent of the policing costs and it's cost-shared with the federal government.

We have been working through the existing system. I believe Ms. Schofield, on Friday, explained how we appropriate police funding through the Treasury Board. We are also confronted with the issue of some fiscal restraint here, so that is the basis of our reply. We also have some other input from my deputy minister. Perhaps he would like to add comment to that. Thanks.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our community constables, through the community protection funding of MACA, are funded through MACA to the communities. The money that Justice provides is for training and clothing, and we've increased that from \$3,000 to \$5,000. We have been negotiating with the RCMP for some time on the issue of the security of our smaller communities, and hope that we could arrive at an arrangement whereby senior community constables who would receive additional training to that received by community constables would be able to effect powers of arrest and have peace officer status. The RCMP, for a number of reasons, have declined to agree with us on that, and we have finally said that we are forging ahead with a plan which will see senior community constables graduate from an extended program at the RCMP depot in, I believe, May. They will come to the NWT for further training under the Liquor Act, and will be, hopefully, designated enforcement officers under the Liquor Act and have powers of search and seizure. We hope that by the end of the summer there will be two senior community constables in each community of Sachs Harbour, Tsiigehtchic and Wrigley, and that the department will ensure that the salaries paid are high enough to attract and retain good candidates for those positions. We are going to do that on a three-year pilot project. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, I'm certainly glad to hear the tail end of that response. It has been very frustrating to go in circles with this whole issue. This department has constantly stated that MACA has dollars in their budget for community protection. They don't have dollars in there that will allow any community to hire a by-law officer or a community constable, so we keep going around in circles. I'm hoping that this pilot project proves to be successful, and I'm sure it will, and that they expand it to other communities; communities such as some in the North Slave -- Wekweti, Wha Ti -- and in my riding the Hay River Reserve certainly could use a position. So I'd like to see them do that.

My final question to the Minister is if there is any avenue to look at providing new stations. There are a lot of communities that don't have any type of facility at all. Is there any mechanism within this department's mandate to provide that?

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Chairman, can we get the question rephrased? Is he referring to new police stations?

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

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, my question is regarding facilities. A lot of communities don't have any type of facilities, and I think it's time we started looking at providing some type of facilities for by-law officers or community constables or, in the case of RCMP members, we should have some place to house them.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we can ask Mr. Cooper to respond to that, from a broad perspective. Thank you.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Mr. Chairman, our understanding is that, first of all with respect to the RCMP, the federal Department of Public Works provides housing for the RCMP. We end up paying 70 percent of the cost of that housing, but that's not something we do. The RCMP gets that from the federal government Department of Public Works. With respect to community constables, again our understanding is that the municipalities and the communities are responsible for providing whatever office and other equipment those officers need with its funding through Municipal and Community Affairs. Those issues are being fully addressed as we discuss this program with the communities involved and MACA and ourselves. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. The Chair will recognize Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going back to building facilities and things like that, I'm just wondering; we see a lot of money going into a 10-bed... Well, they say 20 now, but when we did our briefing it was 10. At that time it seemed a little costly to have a \$1 million bed. But when you look at it, it's still \$500,000 to a bed for medium security. Actually, there was minimum security at the time of our briefing. What I'd like to ask is are there any repeat offenders in the women's facility, and if there are or if there isn't, what kinds of programs are in place right now not to repeat?

Another thing I just want to touch on is the facility in Inuvik for young offenders, a maximum security, is \$6 million for 12 beds. So this is sort of minimum and medium security, I guess. It's a higher cost. I'm just wondering if they're trying to make sure that they didn't have a cost overrun in this area too, so they put a big dollar amount on it. Thank you.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not an expert on facilities construction, so I'll ask Mr. Cooper to respond to that. Thank you.

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

**MR. COOPER:** I'm no expert either. We had talked in front of committee about the lock-up; the need for lock-up and secure

cells, and that is medium and maximum security. That just didn't get translated, I guess. So we were talking about that.

We've had as many as 19 or 20 inmates in TWCC. We use the existing house, plus a duplex which is right across the street. So our planning was that we should plan for 20 beds at least. We took the secure facility at Arctic Tern --secure and open -- which cost a little over \$6 million, and extrapolated the numbers -- and Arctic Tern is a capacity of 14 -- to 20, and then built in an inflation factor which ends up being over \$1.5 million if it's built over three years. That is how the figure was arrived at. Since we were before standing committee we have had a class D estimate done by DPW, and DPW has confirmed that the \$10 million figure would be accurate for that kind of facility.

I will just reiterate what I said earlier, which is that the department is examining other more cost-effective alternatives. Specifically, a 10-bed facility which would be minimum which would be essentially a house, because once you go over 10 you need fire retardant materials and the cost of construction escalates dramatically. But if we were to build a house essentially for TWCC and then, providing that the fire marshal permits us to, we would build a very small secure custody annex near or adjacent to that facility which would hold two prisoners, say, who are in need of maximum security, and then we'd continue to use the duplex across the street for overflow. That is what we are looking at right now, Mr. Chairman, in terms of a potentially more cost-effective solution. Thank you.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good the department used Inuvik as a number to...Well, using those numbers to put this project together. The cost of building in Inuvik is a lot higher than in the South Slave. To me, it's still quite a substantial amount to have a minimum and a medium security facility with that high of a cost. Are we going to be seeing any kind of studies where we're going to weigh let's say between putting two facilities in Fort Smith or break it down in half and putting a minimum security in Hay River and a full security in Smith, and what the costs are going to be? Will they be able to give us something like that before we can make some kind of decision on it?

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think we always have to evaluate as we go along. My understanding is that this proposed project is not scheduled until three or four years down the road, so circumstances may change. As Mr. Cooper alluded, we need to certainly look at the class D estimates versus I believe it's the class A for final cost assessments. In the meantime, I think the important point we're making to the committee is that we want to evaluate our existing facilities and see if it's appropriate for us to consider that as a cost-saving option. Certainly, I think this gives us sufficient time to re-evaluate that facility in Fort Smith. Thank you.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to thank the Minister for his answer, and I'd like to make a comment saying if we're planning for something four years down the road, if we

can work with his colleagues over there on prevention, we might not need to spend this money in four years. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Just a comment. General comments.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**Detail**

**Services To Government**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We'll go to detail on page 7-9, services to government, operations expense, total operations expense, \$8.251 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 9-11, grants and contributions, grants, total grants and contributions, \$76,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on the bursaries for \$30,000. This is a grant that's available to Aboriginal students pursuing a law degree. I'd like to know how much of this was spent in the last fiscal year. Thank you.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Schofield to reply.

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

**MS. SCHOFIELD:** I believe we had six applicants for \$10,000 each.

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

**MS. LEE:** Does that mean only three could have could have qualified for it?

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

**MS. SCHOFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the Minister approved six of the applicants. All six applicants were approved for the full funding for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

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

**MS. LEE:** And were all of those aboriginal students pursuing law degrees from the Northwest Territories?

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

**MS. SCHOFIELD:** I believe they all met the criteria for aboriginal students.

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

**MS. LEE:** Well, that is good to know. I just know that in previous years there was more money in there, but there were fewer applicants to tap into that money than the money that was available. I wanted to pursue that maybe that could be made available to non-Aboriginal students from the North who are pursuing law degrees. But I guess if we had six applications that sort of answers my question. I am wondering if, I guess you cannot give any detail of the applications, but could we get a community-by-community breakdown as to where these applicants came from?

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

**MS. SCHOFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have to take that under advisement and get back to the committee.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Page 11-7, grants and contributions, grants, total grants and contributions, \$76,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Law Enforcement

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-13, law enforcement, operations expense, total operations expense, \$20.608 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-15, law enforcement, grants and contributions, contributions, \$72,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total contributions, \$72,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Public Legal Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-17, public legal services, operations expense, \$3.839 million. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the public legal services, a question on how services are provided. For example, when Territorial Court is held in the city of Yellowknife and individuals from outside the capital are to appear -- whether it is a housing related issue if somebody is being evicted, for example, through the rental officer and it ends up proceeding to that, or if it is somebody else for whatever matter -- what are their options if they find themselves unable to pay for a plane ticket to get down to attend court? What options are available for them to ensure they meet the

requirement of appearing or have someone appear for them? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Don Cooper to respond to that.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is a summary conviction matter, an offender can appear by agent or counsel and have a guilty or not guilty plea put in. If the matter is to go to trial, the trial always takes place in the community, with some exceptions, in the community in which the offence was committed. So if someone committed an offence and then moved somewhere else in the Territories and had trouble getting back and wanted to plead guilty or not guilty rather than have a trial, there is not a public agency that is set up to cover off that situation because the person would have moved out of the place where they committed the offence by their own volition. So with respect to something like a hearing with the Rental Officer, I would hope that the Rental Officer could take evidence over the phone or could arrange for videoconferencing, but could take evidence over the telephone. I believe that has been done, although it would be somewhat unusual. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A little more specific, I guess. In the case, for example, if somebody goes to the rental officer and if they do not appear, it automatically gets bumped up to Territorial Court, I believe. Is there something within the organization of legal services so that an individual who cannot make the trip to the court has an avenue they can approach or get some assistance? Now, I can understand getting counsel if you have the money to pay for an actual lawyer to go and do this for you so you do not have to appear; but if you do not, what avenue is there? I guess I am looking for a case where someone does not have a lot of funds to pay for a lawyer to go on their behalf. So what is available to an individual in that case? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Cooper.

**MR. COOPER:** In this jurisdiction, unlike most other Canadian provinces, we do fund civil legal aid, but only in family law cases. So legal aid would not assist in this particular case. As long as it is a summary offence, the person can have another lay person, a friend or a relative represent them in the courtroom. It does not have to be a lawyer. A person who is an agent can appear and speak on behalf of the individual in that case.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess in this budget there is nothing there for an individual who cannot afford to pay for the services of a lawyer. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Cooper. Minister Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission I would ask Ms. Shirley Kemeys-Jones to respond to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Minister Allen. Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is some assistance available through the court worker programs. They can be agents in Justice of the Peace Court and appear on somebody's behalf if that person is not able to get there. They can also be available over the phone or they can liaise with other people and lawyers to get information required. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Kemeys-Jones. The Chair will recognize Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. I have a question on the public legal services with the legal aid funding. I have a constituent who went through the legal aid program with a family law case, and he was assigned a lawyer. I think we know about the lack of funding in this program and the lawyers in the program being overworked with too many files and so on. I do not believe that his case was addressed by the lawyer in time and then the lawyer ended up moving out of the jurisdiction and he got another lawyer, so the story continues. The end result is that some sort of third-party payments that his children would have been entitled to, somehow his children lost out due to various reasons, one of them being the lack of action on their child support files as a result of lack of legal aid service or legal aid lawyers responding to that.

He knows what happened there. He was pretty mad about it at the beginning and then he just told me he wanted me to bring this up so that this does not happen to other people. I am really at a loss as to what to tell him about what we can do to make sure that this does not happen again, short of his filing a complaint with the Law Society or something on individual lawyer's cases. In this case there were two or three lawyers in the legal aid who went through the file, so you cannot even really pin it on one person. But that is what happens to real people in real cases when we are not able to provide the legal aid that they need right away or in a reasonable time period.

I am wondering if the Minister could advise on officials if there is some sort of a mechanism where people who have lost out on some sort of financial gain or other things could use to file their grievance or complaint about what happened, short of going to the Law Society to complain against a specific lawyer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I am going to rely on the expertise of Mr. Cooper to respond.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Mr. Chairman, if a decision has been made in a family law case by a court of first instance, it is always open to the unsuccessful party to appeal that decision and, in the case of maintenance to always apply to the court for a variation

of the maintenance, should circumstances change. Without knowing a lot of the facts it is very difficult to contemplate from what we have heard that perhaps a complaint to the Law Society would be in order. When cases are assigned to lawyers and people make individual decisions to move that really is, I suppose, the bad luck of that particular client or the client base of that lawyer that for a period of time their files will not get the attention that they merit. I would not want to say anything about a specific case. We are trying very hard to address the problem and we intend to try to wrestle it to the ground this year so that we do not have these backlogs and delays.

It is probably worth noting that the makeup of the local bar in Yellowknife, at least, has changed considerably, with a lot of law firms allying themselves with national law firms and there are fewer lawyers available to do this kind of work. That is one of the difficulties we face. Fewer and fewer lawyers are choosing family law as a career choice to pursue. Those are our comments, sir.

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

**MS. LEE:** I think that is at the core of the problem here, as we have commented, and many Members here have commented, about the lack of adequate resources for legal aid lawyers for people who need them. This has been an on-going discussion, but things do not seem to be improving very much. I mean, I do not see an increase in the budget that we have right now for legal aid, but we have seen that waiting list is longer. Then added on to that, there is a lack of lawyers in Yellowknife in every field and in particular the family law area to deal with these sorts of files. Bigger law firms are moving in and they probably control more about what the caseload will be, too. So nothing points at an improved future for those in need of public legal aid in cases of family support or child support and spousal support and some of the criminal cases. So I guess, even before I ask, I know I really do not have any good news to give.

The situation that I was talking about -- and I do not want to divulge the details of the case or to ask officials to respond to the details of any case, but what I was trying to get at is -- in a case like this one, it seems that the client has suffered a loss due to the lack of legal services from legal aid; not necessarily from the court decision, nor from the result of the litigation phase, but just by the file being moved around and having his case taking upwards of three years. The other spouse that could have been providing support did not have to because that person was not asked to because the case never really made it anywhere, and they might have missed the time within which he could ask for anything and the other spouse who had the money no longer has the money and so on. Is there a mechanism in place for that person to go and ask for compensation?

I guess that is what I was getting at in the process. I realize that is opening up a whole new area of cost implications, but it is really disheartening to hear of a case where somebody needs a lawyer, cannot get a lawyer, finally gets a lawyer and then the lawyer leaves town, a new lawyer comes in and the caseload is so heavy his case never gets looked at and three years later the whole thing becomes moot. There is not even a point to going to court because there is really nothing to be had. So it is not really a statute of limitations case, but it is a case where lack of action in a reasonably timely manner resulted in financial losses not just to this person, but to his children.

I guess what I could ask is, I know that there is probably nothing like that in the process we have here, but I wonder if there is anything like that in any part of the country where somebody in a similar situation could make his case or his grievances known and be compensated somehow?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not familiar with all the legal requirements, so I will ask again to have Mr. Cooper respond to that directly. Thank you.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Mr. Chairman, to the best of my knowledge there is no process or fund set up to compensate individuals whose legal representation may have been a little on the slow side. I suppose the only thing that someone could do is, if the conduct of the lawyer or lawyers involved amounted to professional negligence and, as a result of that negligence, the individual client was harmed, then the lawyer, I would suggest, could be sued and the lawyer and his or her insurer would satisfy or deal with the issue. That is all I can suggest to the Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. We are on page 7-17, public legal services, operations expense, \$3.839 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-19, public legal services, grants and contributions, contributions, \$300,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total contributions, \$300,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Registries And Court Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-21, registries and court services. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maintenance enforcement has been one that, as well, has had a fair bit of backlog and concerns raised about it over the years. I would like to know from the department if there have been any changes in that program that would help move things along, again trying to deal with individuals who have either been awarded an amount through the courts, but trying to get those dollars from the person the order is made against is another thing altogether. In fact, there have been years where an individual has been receiving updates as to what is owed them, but not much beyond that. So I would like to know if there have been any improvements. I know there was some discussion awhile back to try to improve on those services. Has there been anything or will there be something done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Schofield to respond to that question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Ms. Schofield.

**MS. SCHOFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this main estimates, we have added two new positions and funding for a third position that we had already listed. With these two new positions, we had some casual employees working there, so these are permanent positions. So these are new positions. Thank you.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the department have agreements with other jurisdictions how it will handle cases that will go between provinces or territories?

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Cooper to respond to that directly.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Mr. Chairman, the Member is quite correct and that's a significant part of what our maintenance enforcement office does is enforce orders from other jurisdictions when one of the spouses moves into our jurisdictions and on the other hand when a spouse moves from this jurisdiction to another jurisdiction, say Alberta, our order would be registered in Alberta and enforceable by the maintenance enforcement branch here. Prior to the maintenance enforcement offices being set up in every province across the country, if a spouse left this jurisdiction and had a maintenance order where he or she was to pay the spouse that had custody of the children a certain amount of money every month, then if the person stopped paying and the individual here had to hire a lawyer in another jurisdiction to go after that person, and in almost every case throw in good money after bad. So one of the big things that our maintenance enforcement office does is collaborate with all the other provinces. There is an agreement with all the other provinces who have almost identical legislation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, what actually happens once a judge makes an order to a family with children? What happens from the maintenance enforcement side? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Cooper.

**MR. COOPER:** The spouse that's to receive the maintenance can register the order with maintenance enforcement and maintenance enforcement will collect to take action to garnishee wages if necessary. In all cases, they try to deal with the debtor and get his or her agreement to regularly deposit the monthly cheque or money order. That cheque or money order will be placed directly into the creditor's bank account usually. The parties do, however, have the option of going through maintenance enforcement. It's not compulsory. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Page 7-21, registries and court services, operations expense, total operations expense, \$10.293 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-23, registries and court services, grants and contributions, grants, \$3,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total grants, \$3,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Community Justice And Corrections

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-25, community justice and corrections, budget summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$32.265 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-27, community justice and corrections, grants and contributions, contributions, \$1.494 million. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it looks like we've increased community justice committees and projects slightly. I would like to know if that is the case and has it been increased as a forced growth item or are there some new initiatives? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** I will refer that question to Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MR. KEMEYS-JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The extra funding is the \$20,000 available per year for the communities.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it first come first serve or is it based on a certain allotment per community? What are the requirements? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All communities are eligible for the funding and in this fiscal year, the 10 communities who received the funding were those communities who do not have justice committees or a justice coordinator in the community. Next year, there are 11 communities who have already been self-identified through the regional justice coordinators and they will receive the next

funding. In the final year, the remaining 12 communities will receive that funding of \$20,000 apiece.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we be provided information around how, for example, with this money being used, how many diversions have occurred and how we are benefiting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** In the last fiscal year, we have had about 255 offences diverted to various justice committees across the North and about 211 so far this year.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we finding that it is more acceptable now to use this practice and deal with offenders in this way?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mr. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** While the courts have always supported the practice of diverting offenders to the community or diverting matters to the community, it's actually the RCMP and the Crown who have the discretion to divert the matters. We find that they are becoming more supportive all the time. We recently have had a restorative justice person from the RCMP working right in the community justice division and they have been visiting the communities in the detachment and they are developing all kinds of resource materials for those detachments and members out there. So we are expecting that there is going to be a lot more awareness around there. To answer the question, yes, there is a lot of support for programs.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, I wanted to state that I have had the opportunity to visit with the community justice group in Inuvik and found them to be very beneficial in how they have managed to pull some of their community elders and people together to help with that. So I think it's a positive thing to do instead of going to, as we have heard much discussion about, going to the actual correction facility itself.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. No question there, just comments. Go back to page 7-27, community justice and corrections, grants and contributions, contributions, \$1.494 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total contributions, \$1.494 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-28, information item, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 7-29, detail of work performed on behalf of others.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** On to 7-31, detail of work performed on behalf of others, total department, \$1.549 million. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, thank you. Under the community constable program, I noticed that we are showing some money received for this program from the federal government, I presume for 2001-2002 actuals and under this year's revised estimates, but nothing is shown in this year. Are we actually expecting that this program will be funded and, if so, when will we have an idea what level of funding it will receive?

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Chairman, I will require Mr. Kemeys-Jones to respond to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This funding was set for this fiscal year only. The agreement was until 2002-03. We are in the process right now of negotiating with the Solicitor General's office for the next few years. We have received very recently a discussion paper from them that sets out a strategy and they've asked us to comment back. Indications are that this is the one community constable program that they will endeavour to continue to support in the NWT. We are having a meeting with the deputy solicitor general, Ms. Nicole Jauvin, in May in Yellowknife and we hope to have a lot of those details ironed out by then. Thank you.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this has been a good program in the past. I guess the question would be, if we are not going to have a meeting until May, can we still hope that we might see some...With the funding that we might get this year, will we still be able to see the program in operation again this year? On top of that, is this government funding any of it or is it all in federal funds?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The community constable program is actually a partnership between MACA, the RCMP, GNWT and Solicitor General and we do have funds identified in our budgets in order to carry the program until we get federal funding. Thank you.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we working with the federal government to try to increase the funding for the program, so that we can expand the program?

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

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will rely again on Mr. Cooper to provide a response to that question. Thank you.

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As is evident, the amount of funding is rather modest that we have been provided with and we have had discussions with the deputy solicitor general and her office about increasing that substantially. After approximately a year of lobbying with the deputy solicitor general's office, she has accepted an invitation to come to Yellowknife and to see a small community. We are thinking of going to Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik in May. We would like to impress upon her how the money of the deputy solicitor general could go to work in this jurisdiction and we are reasonably confident that more money will be made available to us. It has been the case in the last several years, as we have pointed out, that the amount of money made available hardly covers the cost of administering that and arranging to meet to discuss getting more funding. So we have made it very clear that we would like to see the numbers go higher. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that information. It sounds like the department has a plan and I think that it's very useful to take federal officials to some of our smaller communities to see some of the challenges. I know that with the resourcing request that's been received from the RCMP, there is probably going to be significant dollars attached to responding to it. Programs like this one, which allow communities to better train their constables, can only help us. We are going to be really challenged to put the level of funding into a police agreement that I think we need to. While this won't replace the RCMP, I think it's still a very useful program to help the communities take on some of their own policing. I encourage the department to continue working with the federal Solicitor General and visiting the small communities, so they can see some of the situations they have to deal with there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Comments. Page 7-31, detail of work performed on behalf of others, total department, \$1.547 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We go back to 7-7, department summary, Justice, operations expense, total operations expense, \$75.256 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Registries and Court Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We go to capital acquisition, cap 11, Justice, registries and court services, total registries and court services, \$500,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

### Community Justice And Corrections

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Community justice and corrections, total community justice and corrections, \$13.592 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total department, \$14.092 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the committee agree that that concludes the review of the Department of Justice?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the committee wish to go to the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

### Ministry Of Aboriginal Affairs

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs have any opening comments? Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, I do.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Continue with your comments, Mr. Antoine.

### Minister's Opening Comments

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs' 2003-2004 main estimates.

The ministry proposes a total operation expense of \$8.511 million. This is a \$1.729 million or 25 percent increase from the 2002-2003 main estimates. This increase is due to the following factors:

1. \$1.29 million allocated to support devolution negotiations;
2. \$265,000 in collective bargaining increases;
3. \$27,000 to fund increases in air travel costs;
4. \$20,000 for amortization costs; and,
5. an additional \$127,000 to extend resources for continuing lands, resources and self-government negotiations.

The ministry does not collect any revenue and does not require capital funding. The ministry has 42 positions. In addition, the

ministry receives \$304,000 from the Government of Canada to fund three positions to coordinate and manage GNWT implementation activities flowing from the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu land claim agreements.

The main business of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is the negotiation and implementation of lands, resources and self-government agreements. This year, the important responsibility for devolution and resource-revenue sharing negotiations was added as a result of the transfer of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat to the ministry in January 2002.

The newly formed devolution section will support the goal of the GNWT to transfer legislative authorities and revenue sharing of resource royalties from Canada. Devolution and resource revenue-sharing negotiations will have a significant impact on the GNWT's delivery of programs and services and self-sufficiency in rising revenues. We are working towards the conclusion of a framework agreement by this fall, after which more intense and more comprehensive negotiations will commence for the transfer agreement. It is critical that the GNWT invest in these negotiations.

Devolution and resource revenue-sharing negotiations started this past September. The negotiation teams for Canada, the Aboriginal Summit and the GNWT have been meeting on a regular basis since that time. The GNWT and the Aboriginal Summit have also initiated bilateral negotiations on fiscal arrangements and resource management governance. The next main table negotiating session is scheduled for March 3 to 5 in Yellowknife. The next meeting with Finance Canada is tentatively scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>. I am pleased to report that our working relationship with the Aboriginal Summit team has been very constructive and considerable common ground is emerging. A common front will be important as difficult and complex negotiating issues begin to emerge.

Mr. Chairman, our investments in land and resources and self-government negotiations are also paying dividends as negotiations are proceeding in all regions of the territory. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the progress at a number of tables:

- I am pleased to say that negotiators have completed their work on the Tlicho Final Agreement. The resolution of the long-standing boundary and overlap issues between the Tlicho, Akaitcho and Deh Cho have allowed the Tlicho Final Agreement to move forward towards a final resolution. The parties worked over the past few months to incorporate the overlap agreements and other issues identified during the public information and comment phase in the agreement. We are optimistic that this work will set in place a process that will allow for the signing of this historic agreement at the Tlicho assembly this summer.
- Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased to say that the Akaitcho negotiations are again moving forward with the resolution of the overlap and boundary issues between the Tlicho and Akaitcho. We are hopeful that these negotiations can move forward quickly.
- At the Deline table, the parties are close to finalizing a draft agreement-in-principle. Following the progress at this table, other districts in the Sahtu are considering whether to enter into self-government negotiations. In fact, we

expect to hear shortly about the potential for a new self-government negotiation table to begin with Tullita.

- Finally, Mr. Chairman, last week the leadership of the Deh Cho First Nations unanimously passed resolutions supporting interim land withdrawals in the Deh Cho and for the signing of an interim resource development agreement with Canada. The intent of the land withdrawals is to ensure that environmentally sensitive lands, important harvesting areas, watersheds and sacred and cultural lands are protected while negotiations are proceeding towards a final agreement. The interim resource development agreement enables the Deh Cho First Nations to access its share of royalties from resource extraction to support economic development in advance of a final agreement. As importantly, with the resolution of these issues, negotiations to move forward with the process can proceed.

Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, we are making progress in negotiations in all regions of the territory. Our relationships with the aboriginal leaders and organizations continue to be productive and good relations, along with concluded negotiations that give clarity and certainty to governance arrangements that will result in a stable political and economic environment in the NWT that is attractive to investors.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development expressed concern in their report on the ministry about the slow implementation of land claim agreements. It is important to recognize that the implementation of these agreements is ongoing and much work continues to be done by all parties to these agreements.

The ministry continues to work with the Government of Canada and the Gwich'in Tribal Council towards finalizing a new Gwich'in implementation plan.

Through the Gwich'in Implementation Committee, the ministry is working with the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Canada on communications initiatives that will promote the Gwich'in land claim agreements in regional schools, as well as raising public awareness of the agreement. The ministry is also looking at options on how to raise GNWT employee awareness of all land claim agreements and the resulting obligations and implementations to the GNWT.

The ministry is working with Canada, the Inuvialuit and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development to finalize the economic measures public review. Recommendations from the public review are anticipated shortly. Working through the Gwich'in and Sahtu implementation committees, the ministry is working with the other parties to develop a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of government economic development programs as they relate to the economic measures objectives in the Gwich'in and Sahtu land claims agreements.

The parties have agreed that unresolved implementation issues should be resolved through the dispute resolution mechanism in the Gwich'in Final Agreement. The Sahtu implementation plan expires in June 2003. The ministry will be coordinating Sahtu implementation negotiations on behalf of the GNWT departments.

Another notable milestone during this past year was the decision taken by Members of this Legislative Assembly to

pass the National Aboriginal Day Act, making the Northwest Territories the first jurisdiction in Canada to recognize this day as a formal statutory holiday. By doing so we reinforced our commitment to bring people and cultures together to celebrate the many contributions of the Dene, Metis and Inuvialuit in the development of the NWT and our country. On June 21, 2002, celebrations marking this occasion were held in all communities across the NWT.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. Mahsi cho.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I will call on the chair of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development for comments. Mr. Roland.

#### **Standing Committee On Governance And Economic Development Comments**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development met with the Minister and his staff from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs on January 21, 2003. The Department of the Executive is made up of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, FMBS and the Executive offices. The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and FMBS submit their own business plans and main estimates for review by the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight reviews the business plan and main estimates for the Executive offices.

The ministry is proposing no change to its overall operating expenses budget of \$8.511 million from the 2003-2006 business plans.

#### **Negotiations With Industry**

Increased economic activity in the NWT is providing jobs and growth for the NWT as a whole. However, impacted communities are often the first to feel the effects of unlimited growth both in environmental and wildlife impacts and the social impacts of increased development within a small community.

The committee is concerned that there appears to be a lack of a clear policy to assist First Nations' governments to adequately prepare for negotiations with multinational corporations. These local leaders are responsible for negotiating complicated impact benefit agreements, monitoring the usage of land and resources, and responding to the social problems caused by development.

It is the committee's opinion that the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs needs to do more to develop the capacity of local communities in negotiations with industry that will adequately protect the environment and traditional livelihoods and also provide economic opportunities for communities in the impacted areas.

#### **Slow Implementation Of Land Claim Agreements**

Land claim agreements have long since been reached with the Inuvialuit, Sahtu and Gwich'in people. The committee remains concerned that despite this considerable passage of time there remains numerous issues to be addressed for implementation of land claim agreement clauses. Vital legislation, such as the Wildlife Act and the Forest Management Act, needs to be

revised to reflect the new reality of settled land claims in the NWT. These critical clauses will remain ineffectual until the passage of this legislation. Areas such as forestry, wildlife, recreational parks, and business opportunities are all important issues to be addressed by communities, but cannot be acted upon until rights are reflected and recognized in legislation.

The committee is disappointed to hear that the department considers it unlikely that these important bills will be considered by this 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. The committee continues to maintain that had a higher priority been placed on these bills in prior years, this current Assembly would have been able to complete and hand over to the new government, legislation implementing land claim agreement clauses.

### Growth Of Ministry

While the committee recognizes that there is little that can be done to address costs related to the addition of negotiation tables within the ministry's mandate, the committee is concerned about the significant increase in the ministry's budget.

A document provided by the Financial Management Board Secretariat shows that the ministry's budget has risen from the 1999-2000 actuals of \$3.455 million to its proposed budget is 2003-2004 of \$8.511 million. That is an increase of 146 per cent over the term of this Assembly.

The committee would like to urge the ministry to look at reallocating existing funding internally in order to address future new negotiations.

### Intergovernmental Forum - NWT Economic Development Advisory Forum

Members are aware the Common Ground Strategy offered considerable advice to the government on future direction for continued economic growth in the Northwest Territories. Several initiatives, such as the streamlining of business funding organizations, are now taking place.

The members questioned whether there is a true need for another economic development advisory forum such as the one proposed under the Intergovernmental Forum.

### Incremental Costs

The committee has consistently been reassured by the ministry that the federal government will pay the "incremental costs" associated with the implementation of self-government agreements. However, members are aware that the GNWT has yet to obtain from federal government, a complete definition of those costs. It remains a concern to the committee that the GNWT is negotiating agreements without a commitment to a proposed definition of the term "incremental costs".

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Does the Minister want to bring in witnesses? Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes. Thank you.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Sergeant-at-Arms, escort in the witnesses, please.

Mr. Antoine, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses, please?

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me, to my right, is Mr. Richard Bargery, deputy minister of Aboriginal Affairs; and, Veronica Puskas, manager of planning analysis. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I call for general comments. Mr. Braden.

### General Comments

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the Minister's remarks, I applauded the announcement that was not an announcement – we've known it now for some days – that the Dogrib, the Tlicho people, have initialed a final agreement and after some nine years of negotiating, we can look forward to this next step and a very welcome step in the future of the Tlicho First Nation. I was applauding not only the achievement, Mr. Chairman, but also the fact that here is one of several tables where we can actually stop spending money on negotiations and actually start spending money on implementation. The sustained cost and upward pressure and growth in negotiations is breathtaking, Mr. Chairman. In the life of this Assembly, we have voted and we are being asked to vote this year on money that will total \$27 million to \$28 million all going into negotiation and, except for the people and the consultants and the lawyers and the hotels and the airlines involved with this, there is no value being returned to the people of the NWT yet.

I am a believer in the outcome, but I am somewhat dismayed at the duration of this whole process and how long it's going to take. With the Tlicho agreement turning the corner, there are still several others out there. Are they also going to take the better part of a decade and millions and millions of dollars, as I say, with no real value to show to get through this really important stage in the development of this territory? Again, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to say this does not have value and should not be done, but there is an extraordinary cost in time going into it. I guess if I asked the Minister for comment it would be to give us some perspective on whether we are seeing real substantive progress in this. Have we gotten over the conceptual, philosophical, the reaching and the gazing? Do we now have a negotiating process going among the First Nations and among Canada that can deliver an agreement within a realistic time frame; because the kind of time frames we have been looking at so far, Mr. Chairman, to me are not realistic. I will leave it at that. Thank you.

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the work that the ministry does in terms of negotiating land claims and self-government arrangements and the different variety of tables -- I think there are nine tables going right now -- one of them is the Tlicho agreement, which is very close to being finalized, and that is just about the completion of our work on one table. At the Government of the Northwest Territories, we represent all the departments and the public system at the negotiating tables as a government.

Through this legislation, we say we support land claims and self-government. By completing a number of different processes, I think it's going to indicate to us we truly are doing what we say we do in terms of supporting land claims and self-government. The Tlicho agreement is a big step.

To the member I say, when you see the value in terms of looking at it from the aboriginal point of view, there is value in reaching an agreement, a substantial land claims agreement, where you have land that you own, surface and subsurface and the resources that go with it. The approach by the Tlicho is this is their traditional land that they have finally been on and finally there is some resolution to some very long, outstanding struggle that they have gone through to get to this stage. When you say value, then you also have to look at it from the Tlicho point of view. In terms of self-government, this is what the federal government has said. They have a self-government policy and we are also saying that, and this is a very complex agreement that we have reached with the Tlicho. It's the first time it has land claims attached to a self-government arrangement. It's the first time it's combined. The Deh Cho, as well as the Akaitcho, are also going to be just as complicated and they are in the very early stages of going through the process. I think that by going through this exercise with the Dogrib, I don't really want to say it's a template, but at least it's a first attempt in reaching this type of an arrangement. Certainly we hope to have it a lot easier the second or third time around. Hopefully, it doesn't take that long. We are optimistic that once things get rolling and we have an idea... This is also the first time for the federal government, too. So finding a way to try to resolve this issue, I think it's already done. The others, Deh Cho and Akaitcho, will be just as complicated. They will have their own problems like we went through with the Dogrib, but at least we did it once so it will show the way. Thank you.

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine, for the remarks. Could the Minister give us a quick walk through of the process with the Tlicho plans? I believe John B. Zoe, negotiator, was on the radio in the last day or two hopeful that the Prime Minister might be up here in August for the final signing with Canada, which will be a great occasion. I know that our Legislature also has some obligations. Could the Minister give us a tour of what it is we need to accomplish and what the rest of this Legislature should be looking at in relation to the Tlicho deal? Thank you.

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say that the federal government negotiator initialed the Tlicho agreement last Wednesday and the Dogrib chief negotiator re-initialed the Tlicho agreement on Friday. I made a general statement about moving the process forward. I just want to say to you today that the chief negotiator for Aboriginal Affairs, today at lunchtime, re-initialed the Tlicho agreement. So he is recommending it to us as a government to review it. Now in the process there is already an eligibility committee that's set up by the Tlicho to work towards ratification of the Tlicho agreement. They propose to put a borders list together and go for a ratification vote sometime in May or June. They are aiming for a tentative signing of the Tlicho Final Agreement in August when the Dogrib have their annual assembly.

As for our part, we have three pieces of legislation that we are still working on. We are hoping to table the draft legislation and we didn't know that the re-initialed is going to be this quick. So we are looking at the legislation we still have to work on. There is the community government legislation that we are still working on, a work in progress. There is the ISA legislation that requires cooperation with ECE and Health and Social Services. There is the settlement legislation that we need to work with, so we haven't gone through Cabinet yet on the timing of it. The re-initialed was very quick and we are looking at the June session. I understand there are plans to have a September session too, so we haven't decided yet officially, but once that gets done we will have better dates. We still have to go through Cabinet to get those affirmed. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. General comments. Does the committee agree on detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**Detail**

**Aboriginal Affairs**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** On page 2-63, Aboriginal Affairs, operations expense, total operations expense, \$8.511 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** On page 2-65, Aboriginal Affairs, grants and contributions, grants, \$300,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Contributions, \$1.4 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total grants and contributions, \$1.7 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Detail of work done on behalf of third parties. On to page 2-69, total department, \$2.378 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 2-70, information item, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We are back on page 2-61, Aboriginal Affairs program summary, operations expense, total operations expense, \$8.511 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the committee agree that that concludes the review of Aboriginal Affairs?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The Chair will recognize the clock and rise and report progress.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** May I have the report from Committee of the Whole? Mr. Delorey.

#### ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-04 and would like to report progress and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do I have a seconder for that? Member for Tu Nedhe. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 22, orders of the day.

#### ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at adjournment tonight and also again tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning of the caucus.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 4, 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
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act
  - Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-2004
  - 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
  - Committee Report 8-14(6), Report on the Review of the "Report of the Auditor General to the NWT Legislative Assembly for 2000 and 2001"
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 4, 2003.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:00 p.m.