



# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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## HANSARD

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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker



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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2000

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## ITEM 1: PRAYER

--Prayer

**MR. SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Please be seated. Good morning everyone. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

## ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

**Member's Statement on Towards a Better Tomorrow, 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly's Vision Document**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On many occasions in the early days of our new Assembly, Members have talked about the concept and ideas for the vision, objectives and strategies of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Defining that vision and how we can make it happen was among this Assembly's earliest tasks.

In February, we enjoyed the hospitality of the community of Fort Providence for four days. We compared, argued and compromised with the values and agendas of 19 freshly elected, vigorous and highly principled politicians. We did not fully achieve our goal that week.

Subsequently, Mr. Speaker, we met for another two days earlier this month to finalize our work. Today, I address the House as the Chair of Caucus to advise the people of the Northwest Territories that our document has cleared its final revision and is now at the printers.

Mr. Speaker, our plan is to release this important document next Friday, March 31, 2000. It is called "Towards A Better Tomorrow", and it takes its inspiration from the words of a prayer by Fort Providence elder Mitch Landry, at the tremendous feast the community hosted for us.

The Honourable Joe Handley, House Leader of the government, will join me and Caucus deputy chair Steven Nitah, the Member for Tu Nedhe, in its release and in taking our message out to the people of the Northwest Territories. We will also be distributing copies to every mailbox in the Northwest Territories, and making direct contact to a broad range of other governments and agencies. We want to talk about the plan and get some response and reaction.

Our expectation is not that we will get instant approval from everyone. That would be too easy. Rather, we hope this paper will spark a renewal like fine spring weather in our optimism and outlook for the future. I look forward to rising in the Assembly next Friday and tabling the document that will help us towards a better tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement on Recognition of Youth of the Northwest Territories**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this very fine Friday, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and honour an important segment of the people whom we serve and represent; our youth. As the Members may have noticed, we have a huge number of young people in the gallery who, I believe, will be recognized later on at the appropriate time on the order paper.

Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing a lot this week about which side of this House works harder. I am not sure who would win that battle, but as a new Member on this side, I can say it has literally been meeting after meeting around the clock in the last few days and weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I once had a dessert called "Death by Chocolate", which was very good. I wonder sometimes if we are collectively engaged in an exercise of "death by paper" or "death by meetings". When I feel buried in these meetings and papers, I get empowered by the happy thoughts and positive energy I receive by remembering the young people I have come into contact with since I decided to enter into a political life.

I have had the occasion to visit local schools to speak to them about what we do as MLAs, and to read to them during their literacy week. The look of curiosity and fascination in their eyes are something to treasure. I experienced the same look from the group of young people I met in Fort Providence during our Caucus retreat when they came to visit me at our hotel on the last day there.

I know it is for the well-being and secure future of these young citizens, not only in my riding of Range Lake, but throughout our vast Territory that we often engage in rancorous debates on both sides of this House. I do not think we need to wait for a special day to do this.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the youth of our Territory on behalf of everyone in this House. The group of seven children in the gallery is especially dear to me, Mr. Speaker, for their unusual enthusiasm for political process.

Brooke and Dana Harris wrote and sang a song for me, which was aired in one of the riding profiles on Northbeat.

James and Aurora Williams came out in the early hours of a very cold morning to do what is known as a burma-shave. This is a code word for those greet and wave sessions by the roadside during our campaign.

Mickey Marshall and Kayla Chang became fascinated with all of the campaign material, and would often come to my office to

stock up on the buttons and posters. I had no idea what they did with them all, but I do know one of the posters is still hanging in Mickey's window by Wal-mart.

Andrew Hoover was volunteered by his mother to go door-to-door with me for an hour. He liked it so much, he stayed...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ms. Lee, the time allowed for your Member's statement has expired.

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member for Range Lake is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Ms. Lee, you have unanimous consent.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Andrew Hoover was volunteered by his mother to go door-to-door with me for an hour. He liked it so much, he stayed for another four hours on the last day of the campaign.

I would also like to recognize the Fort Providence youth, who are not here in person, but to whom I would like to send greetings. They are Audrey-Lynn Landry, Chelsea Elleze, Rebecca Landry, Dori-Ann Lefoin, Simon Elleze, Samantha Perron, Melissa Elleze, Eva Yakinneah, and Shauna McLeod, who I understand watches the Session on television every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to see these budding politicians of tomorrow. I would like to tell them to dream big and work hard. I would ask the Members to join me in welcoming them to the House and in sending greetings out to all of the youth in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

**Member's Statement on Quality of Information Produced by the Government of the Northwest Territories**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk briefly on the issue of quality of blue-chip information in the government.

Every day, Ministers and deputy ministers are making significant decisions on the programs and services. Decisions that often have huge impacts on people and dollars. In the private sector, most decisions are made based on good, quality blue-chip information. Things like understanding of their market, precise financial information, detailed understanding of their employees and their skills. Mr. Speaker, since first coming to the Assembly in 1995-96, I have been asking for similar types of information. I wanted more than vague reassurances as to how well decisions would be made and why they were being made.

Over the past few weeks, I have once again been reminded that we still do not have this quality of information in all areas of the government. I would like to cite three examples, Mr. Speaker.

The first one is position numbers. The government regularly says people are our most important resource. It follows that the government should have a good understanding of what human resources it has and where. In 1996, standing committees wanted to know how many people work for the government and where. It seemed to us like a simple question. In fact, it became a six-month, arduous exercise from reconciling numbers from an electronic system and comparing them to where people actually were and where they worked. As a result, government moved away from full-time equivalents, and decided we should keep track of positions.

In April of 1997, FMBS was finally able to produce a report that was supposed to be an accurate reflection of the number of staff, the employee, department and location. As I mentioned yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I recently requested information on the departments, position and location. I was given information in December and was told it had been double-checked by departments.

Mr. Speaker, I did not really think this was a big issue, since it was numbers pulled off of the accurate PeopleSoft system, a system we have spent millions of dollars on and have a large staff employed to maintain.

Mr. Speaker, I was very disturbed when I saw the final figures and the significant differences between what is on the PeopleSoft system and what the departments say are the real numbers.

The second area is financial information, Mr. Speaker. The fiscal outlook and projected deficits seem to be moving targets of the tens of millions of dollars, often it seems overnight. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Miltenberger, you may conclude your statement.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 1995-96, numbers offered by FMBS changed by \$50 million in the course of six weeks. I remember that time period well.

In the fall of 1998, the Assembly was told things were really good and significant supplementary spending subsequently took place, near \$100 million, if my memory serves me correctly. Five months later, we were told those figures were not quite what we thought, and things were not as rosy. In fact, things were looking a little grim.

Apparently again this week, fiscal position has differed from that paper by \$19 million.

The third area, Mr. Speaker, is written questions. During the February Session, I had asked a number of written questions requesting basic operating information. For example, I asked Public Works and Services to tell me how many contracts were over budget and by how much. Mr. Speaker, what they gave me was about six trees worth of every contract they have, which tells me nothing. It does not tell me what contracts were over budget and by how much. Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of information that should be readily available. It came up more than six months ago. I was also told in every written response how hard it was and how much work it was to provide that kind of basic, standard information.

If we are going to make good decisions, we need blue-chip information. I would hope this government would make a greater effort to provide basic information, and tell us in a clear way, and honour the promise they made for straight answers on simple questions. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement on Economic Opportunities For First Nations People**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is regarding economic opportunities for First Nations people, especially people who have land claim settlements. Mr. Speaker, the Gwich'in negotiated their claim some eight years ago, yet sections of that agreement are not implemented. That is the responsibility of this government.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking of chapter 10 of the Gwich'in Agreement, which is the economic chapter. It clearly identifies that the government carries out public activities in the settlement area, and gives rise to employment and economic opportunities when the government elects to enter into contracts with respect to those activities.

It continues to stipulate that the Government of the Northwest Territories procurement and negotiating policies and processes are to maximize local, regional and northern employment and business opportunities.

Yet, I was alarmed to hear of a contract that went out to the Inuvik Regional Health Board regarding security reception services. Chii Construction, which is a company with the band in Inuvik, which is a Gwich'in organization, had the contract for the previous three years. They did, in my eyes, a good job and they had the experience. Yet they were not successful in their bid, considering they were the lowest bidder and they had the work experience.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, they were not told there was a process to appeal. After making an attempt to appeal their case, they were told there were no policies in place with the Inuvik Regional Health Board to appeal the contract.

I find that alarming. These are public funds put forth by this Legislature to carry out activities for this government. Yet we talk about partnerships with aboriginal First Nations and improving the lives of these people, but it seems that whenever they take the step and strive to improve their economic opportunities and enhance the lives of the people they represent, they are losing out. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you may conclude your statement.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, there is no real process or avenue for this government to ensure the obligations that are in place in the Gwich'in Agreement, which is a public document that is protected by the Constitution. This government is not making any effort to change its policies to ensure we receive the maximum potential that has been

negotiated which is that this government improve the lives and conditions of aboriginal peoples.

We talk about public funds. I would like to again mention that this contract is public money. Yet there is no appeal process. There was not one aboriginal person on the board that reviewed the contract. We talk of fairness and whatnot. The majority of people in Inuvik and the Inuvik region are aboriginal people, yet not one aboriginal person took part in the review of these contracts. That is an injustice, when you are not being judged by your peers, but by people from outside the region.

I will be asking the Minister responsible for Finance some questions on policies and procurement to ensure aboriginal people receive their fair share of economic opportunities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement on Tribute to Joseph Farcy**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this moment to recognize an elder from my constituency, Mr. Joe Farcy, who passed away on Saturday, March 18, 2000. Mr. Speaker, Joe was born on April 4, 1912, and raised in the North Channel area at the mouth of the Mackenzie River. He spent many years trapping on the Horn plateau area. As a youngster, he worked as a woodcutter for the SS Distributor and the mission in Fort Providence.

Joe loved the bush life. He was a trapper, a hunter and a fisherman. Mr. Speaker, from 1955 to 1985, Joe served on the band council under the leadership of Chief Vital Baton Rouge and Chief Phillip Simba. Joe always acted and served in the best interests of his people. He was a friend, a good adviser, and an elder for the community. Joe was pre-deceased by his wife Theresa and children Morslan, Phillip, Fabian and Alex. Joe is survived by his three sons, four daughters, 26 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Once again, on behalf of my constituents, I offer our condolences, prayers and support to the Farcy family.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The condolences of the Legislative Assembly are extended to the Farcy family. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

#### **Member's Statement on Stickhandling Through the Game of Politics**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since it is Friday and all, I would like to start off by sending greetings back to my wife and children. I would also like to take this opportunity to try and look at this forum we are in, in a different light.

Mr. Speaker, being a hockey player, and it is said that due to my age, I have gone from speeding around the rink to coasting around the rink, I would like to draw some parallels to this forum. Mr. Speaker, what I felt like yesterday when we found out information about the interim budget, I felt like a player that was sent a blind pass. I was in the tracks and looked behind to receive the puck and was hit by a wall.

Mr. Speaker, that was the feeling I had yesterday as we found out information regarding Municipal and Community Affairs. I do not think this was a purposeful thing. Most of the time, your own team-mates do not set you up to be hit hard. They try to get you the puck so you can score a goal. Hopefully, this was an event that was unintentional. In fact, as they say in the game of hockey, when you get hit hard, you get up and you skate again, but you remember the number of the player who hit you. Mr. Speaker, I remember the number.

I remember my days in contact hockey. One of the best feelings I had as a defenseman was when I knew I had my opponent lined up in my sights, and he was in his tracks. Mr. Speaker, the game is not over. We are early in the first period, and I have my head up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Indeed you have your job cut out for you with defensemen like Mr. Handley and Mrs. Groenewegen. They make it pretty tough to score a goal. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

#### **Member's Statement on Congratulations to Nunakput Arctic Winter Games Participants**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in the Nunakput riding, I would like to recognize our young athletes who participated in the Arctic Winter Games. I would like to congratulate the following individuals, who won gold, silver, and bronze ulus:

- Charlton Wolki from Tuktoyaktuk was part of the silver medal midget hockey team;
- Matthew Anikina from Tuktoyaktuk won silver in the Alaskan high kick, and bronze in the one-foot high kick;
- Phillip Jacobson from Tuktoyaktuk, junior male in Arctic sports, won gold in the one-foot high kick, gold in the knee-jump, silver in all-around, silver in the two-foot high kick and bronze in the Alaskan high kick;
- Noah Pokiak from Tuktoyaktuk, junior male in Arctic sports, won a bronze in all around, and a bronze in the two-foot high kick;
- Sharon Alanak from Holman Island, open female in Arctic sports, won gold in all-around, and gold in the two-foot high kick;
- Eli Nasogaluak from Tuktoyaktuk, open male in Arctic sports, won gold in head pole; and
- Irwin Elias from Tuktoyaktuk, open male in Arctic sports, won gold in one-hand reach and silver in one-foot high kick.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Members will join me in thanking all of these athletes, both those who received medals and those who did their best for their participation and professionalism they showed in representing the Northwest Territories in these games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Setting a Definition for Northerner**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to touch on a subject that is very important to me, and indeed to everyone living in the North. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this government, we strive to create a vision, set policies, procedures and priorities. This we do in the best interest of the people we represent.

In my opinion, we are here to represent all Northerners. Yet there is a very grey area as to who we recognize as a Northerner. Mr. Speaker, we entertained, supported and encouraged a group of young people, who are here to promote the fight to stop racism. As they so fairly indicated, Mr. Speaker, racism takes on many different forms.

However, far too often when we deal with issues such as student financial assistance programs, from medical services and travel, to hunting rights, we tend to classify our people.

My major concern is with our young people and how they relate to each other in terms of equality. If we want to see our vision become a reality, I suggest we are going to need many different people living and working in the Northwest Territories. If, Mr. Speaker, we want to have everyone working together towards the same goal, it may be worth our effort to define who is a Northerner.

Mr. Speaker, if we could accomplish this, I think we can truly say we are working and making decisions that are truly for the betterment of all Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may, I would like to recognize the visitors from my riding. Aurora Williams on the far right, Brooke Harris, Dana Harris, Mickey Marshall, Kayla Chang, Andrea Hoover, James Williams. James and Aurora are the children of Tom Williams, who is the executive assistant to Minister Allen. Pam Williams is at the back, my assistant, Jean Wallace, and the mother of Brooke and Dana Harris, Melinda Harris. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

It is my pleasure to recognize the young people of the Rotary northern exchange group, along with their chaperone, Mr. Ports. The Rotary District 5370 of Alberta and the Northwest Territories has this exchange group every year about this time. The students come from areas such as Medicine Hat all the way to Peace River. With that, I would like to welcome the Rotary exchange group to the gallery.

-- Applause

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Pat Thomas of the NWTTA. Welcome, Pat.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Oral Question 118-14(2): Review of Contract for Security and Reception Services

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Finance. It is regarding my opening comments, and the consideration that we do have some obligations under land claim agreements.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, the question I would like to ask the Minister is regarding a contract that was let for security-reception services in Inuvik. Chii Construction, who previously held the contract for three years, was surprised to find out that out of nine tenders, they came in seventh, despite having the lowest bid and the experience. They did not qualify for the bid. They asked for an appeal of the case, knowing they had the lowest bid and the experience. I believe the contract went to a taxidriver in Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, knowing these are public funds that we block-fund to the Inuvik Regional Health Board to carry out their activities, why do they not have an appeal process so we can get the return on our investment? So we can get the best price for the services provided? In this case, I believe they had the best price, they had the experience, yet they were not awarded the contract.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance, what policies are in place to ensure there is an appeal process on all public funds allocated by this government?

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

##### Return to Question 118-14(2): Review of Contract for Security and Reception Services

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be able to tell the Member that, although I am not familiar with this specific contract, through the Financial Management Board Secretariat, we are doing a thorough review of all of our procurement practices. This process is now in its final stages. I am sure the issues regarding appeals procedures and so on will be taken into consideration as we move along with the recommendations from the procurement review, which is currently underway. Thank you.

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

##### Supplementary to Question 118-14(2): Review of Contract for Security and Reception Services

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to know we are looking at it, but my problem is that this incident is at hand. Do we have a way to allow these people to appeal the case? In my opening statement, I made reference to the board that reviewed these applications, yet there was not one aboriginal person present when they did the review.

Because we have an obligation in the land claims agreements, which is chapter 10 on economic measures, this government has some obligations. Will the Minister tell me what his department will do to see if there is an opportunity to review the case at hand?

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

##### Further Return to Question 118-14(2): Review of Contract for Security and Reception Services

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not familiar with the details of this specific contract, so I will take it as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

##### Oral Question 119-14(2): Listing of Summer Student Employment Opportunities

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was going to be directed to the Premier, however I will redirect it to the Deputy Premier. It was indicated in this House by the Premier that summer student employment within the Government of the Northwest Territories would be handled out of the office of the Executive. If there were resumes, they should be sent to that office.

Given the fact that universities and colleges will be adjourning for the summer in about five weeks, I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if she would commit to tabling a list in this House of all of the available casual positions in government by community, so students coming off the plane will know what is available for the students that are returning.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mrs. Jane Groenewegen.

##### Return to Question 119-14(2): Listing of Summer Student Employment Opportunities

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand correctly, the Member is asking for a listing of all of the jobs within the various communities by department available for students returning from post-secondary education. Mr. Speaker, that sounds like a good idea. I do not know of anything that would stand in the way of doing that, putting the list together and contacting the departments to find out what their needs are over the course of the summer. Perhaps the Member would like to clarify that is in fact what he is looking for. Thank you.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Am I able to direct my supplementary to the Premier?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. No, the rules allow it to be directed to the one person. The Premier is allowed to direct it to someone else. That is the only option.

**Supplementary to Question 119-14(2): Listing of Summer Student Employment Opportunities**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my supplementary to the Deputy Premier. Just to clarify my request, I would like to have tabled in the House a list of specific positions that can be targeted within departments for summer student employment for students returning from school. A list of positions in all the communities where there is government. Whether the Deputy Premier would commit to tabling that so we have that information, and that information can, in fact, be sent out to the communities and students, so they will know what the opportunities are. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mrs. Jane Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 119-14(2): Listing of Summer Student Employment Opportunities**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not knowing exactly how much work might be involved with that, and how providing the information might coincide with the House sitting, the Member is asking for it to be tabled. Perhaps what we could do is come to some agreement as to when we could have the information available for the Member as opposed to when we could table that information, and also discuss the timeframe in which we could do that. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 119-14(2): Listing of Summer Student Employment Opportunities**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, like the Deputy Premier, I am a reasonable individual. I am more than prepared to try and do what is best. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if she could indicate whether departments have specific positions put aside? Given students will be returning in five weeks, I am assuming the government already has the wheels in motion to take care of this business, to have this information collated and available. I am concerned that it may be an onerous process, and one that may go on. I would like to have some clarification from the Deputy Premier.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mrs. Jane Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 119-14(2): Listing of Summer Student Employment Opportunities**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of specific positions targeted for summer employment by various departments, but I am also certain that we could survey departments to find out what positions may be

available for summer student employment by department and by community. I am not certain how long it would take to get that information. The Member is correct when he says the students are returning in five weeks. I believe we could undertake to contact departments to get that information. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 119-14(2): Listing of Summer Student Employment Opportunities**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary is for further clarification. Since April comes every year and summer students return every year, can the Deputy Premier indicate what formal process they have that is ongoing, so it is not a question of scrambling around trying to get the information and so it is planned out in a careful, anticipatory way, knowing what the numbers are and what the need may be. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mrs. Jane Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 119-14(2): Listing of Summer Student Employment Opportunities**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of previous years in terms of precedent on how this information was gathered. I will have to take that supplementary as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. That part of the question was taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**Oral Question 120-14(2): Areas Requiring Legislative Amendment**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice. I would like to ask him about this government's intentions for developing legislation in a few different areas. Specifically, I am very concerned with human rights legislation. We currently have a Fair Practices Act. I think that by all accounts there are big-time holes in all of this. It excludes a lot of people. It seems every time we have problems, we have to go to Ottawa in this area.

I also have concerns with labour legislation. With some of the issues and concerns that have recently been raised, I think it has been suggested that the North take ownership and develop some labour legislation. I have heard it many times. I have heard Mr. Dent speak to this on occasion.

We know this government has a zero tolerance for violence declaration. I would suggest that this, in its current format, is simply a nice gesture and nothing more. This thing really has no teeth. I think we need formal legislation and policies in this area. I am wondering if the Minister can tell me what his intentions are in this area. Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 120-14(2): Areas Requiring Legislative Amendment**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is doing a number of things regarding strengthening a number of acts. The development of a Human Rights Act...currently, this government has a Fair Practices Act which has very little teeth to it. As a result, we are paying a lot of dollars to go and see the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

I did inform the Members at the Fort Providence workshop that this department is going ahead in developing a Human Rights Act to replace the Fair Practices Act. We are proceeding with the development of a consultation paper and draft legislation regarding a new Human Rights Act.

In regards to labour standards, the Labour Standards Act is seriously outdated and in need of a major overhaul. The Department of Justice is reviewing this act now. We have contracted this out. We expect to have a report of an internal review of this act by March 31, 2000. Following this internal review, the department will prepare a proposal on a public consultation to be considered by Cabinet. If that process is successful, we will follow it by preparation of a legislative proposal.

Regarding zero tolerance, the previous Legislative Assembly has dealt with it. I believe there was a motion in the House a few years ago which was passed, whereby Members of the Assembly expressed the position of the people on the issue of violence against women and children, and also that there was an amendment in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act at that time which provided for the disqualification of Members of this House if convicted of sexual offences, exploitation of children, and so forth. That is what we have in the Legislative Assembly. We, as a department, have not really looked at it, or at least I am not aware we have. I should ask the department if we have seriously considered it. As of now, we have no intentions of moving forward with the zero tolerance to violence.

I just want to add that the federal government has a tolerance policy that sees that the police press charges in the case. It is actually out of our hands in that case, as the crown prosecutors do the prosecution in this matter. We just give advice, and sometimes this advice is not taken.

There is a standing motion of the previous Legislative Assembly that expresses a strong concern about zero tolerance to violence. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 120-14(2): Areas Requiring Legislative Amendment**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was happy to hear the Minister suggest we are looking forward to our own human rights legislation and possibly labour legislation. But I am not so happy with his responses in relation to zero tolerance for violence.

I do not think it is enough to say we have a strong concern in this area and the federal government has legislation. I think we have to take ownership in this area. I think we have to do

something and we have to move quickly. If the government does not have plans in place now, I would like to urge this government to make plans. I think this is very important. I am wondering if the Minister can tell me, and assure this House, that he will look into this area and report back to the House?

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

**Further Return to Question 120-14(2): Areas Requiring Legislative Amendment**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are open to suggestions from the honourable Member as to what the Members of this House think the government should be doing in trying to address the zero tolerance issue.

We are going to take this very seriously. Once I talk to the Department of Justice to see what the possibilities are in moving this issue forward, I will inform the Members of this House. Thank you.

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

**Oral Question 121-14(2): Compensation for Northern Addictions Services Workers**

**MR. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen. It has to do with the NAS facility outside of Yellowknife. I have been getting calls from my constituents who had worked there and who have been in limbo for the last few weeks without getting paid.

Their matter has been before the Labour Standards Board. I understand the certificates were issued, but they are still waiting to hear if they can get the money. I would like to ask the Minister what she knows about what the government has done and what the government is able to do to compensate these workers.

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

**Return to Question 121-14(2): Compensation for Northern Addictions Services Workers**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the issue the Member raises in the House today. We had been contacted by someone from labour standards asking what the government will be prepared to do in response to these concerns that were raised by employees of Northern Addiction Services.

The Department of Health and Social Services has a number of contracts with the board of directors of the Northern Addiction Services. However, these contracts have expired some time ago. The department does not have a contractual relationship with NAS at this time. The responsibility for the payment of the employees of NAS rests with the board of directors, not with the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary to Question 121-14(2): Compensation for Northern Addictions Services Workers**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's answer. However, I think this is a situation that is very similar to the Giant Mine pension workers, in that the workers at the facility are being penalized with their pay. There are about eight people that I know of who are going without pay up to thousands of dollars. I think it is really unfair for the government to say the contract was with somebody else. They were providing the services required by Health and Social Services. I would like to ask the Minister if she would look at this situation and find the money to pay the workers the wages owed. I do not think it is a lot of money, but it will go far for them. I am wondering if the government can do anything. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Honourable Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 121-14(2): Compensation for Northern Addictions Services Workers**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed it is a very regrettable situation for the employees of NAS as well as the board of directors who now may find themselves in the position of being liable for these costs.

However, the department did try to provide advice to the NAS board with respect to their responsibilities to their employees, and had even advised at one time the board should get insurance in the eventuality of something like this happening. The board declined to do so. We find ourselves in a difficult situation. It is an awkward thing to expect the board of directors to be liable for this. However, they continued to employ people after contracts had expired. It is not possible for the government to come in at this time and respond to those shortfalls. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary to Question 121-14(2): Compensation for Northern Addictions Services Workers**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has anyone told the workers this? They are waiting for somebody to pay for their wages. They think the board of directors is working on it. They think the government is working on it. I hear that nobody is really working on it. It is really up to the board of directors, which I know is not doing anything. We have workers out there working without getting paid. They are working as we speak, and think they are going to get paid. I feel the government has to take the responsibility and let them know they are not going to get paid.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. I am not sure of the question. You made a statement. Could you clarify the question please?

**MS. LEE:** If I may re-phrase, Mr. Speaker, I do not mean to be confusing, but would the Minister please make a commitment to meet with the workers and inform them of what their predicament is. If they are not going to get paid, they should at least be told by somebody. I think the government has some responsibility to do that. Thank you.

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

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the previous relationship with the Department of Health and Social Services was with the board of directors and not directly with the employees. The contracts were held with the Northern Addiction Services board. They, in turn, had the relationship with the employees. To my knowledge, at this time, there is only one person who is actively working for the NAS board. That is someone who is maintaining the facility at Dettah as a caretaker and maintenance person. I am not aware of anyone else continuing to work.

With respect to communicating with the board of directors, we have a meeting hopefully to be agreed to Monday to meet with representatives of the board to discuss the outcome of recent proposals and potential contract arrangements with the board. Thank you.

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

**Oral Question 122-14(2): Consultation on the New Wildlife Act**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. A couple of days ago, I noted the Wildlife Act is under consideration for redrafting. A number of my constituents have a concern about their ability to qualify for resident hunting licenses.

I am wondering if the Minister could advise this House when specifically the public consultation period is over? Is it at the end of this month, as expected?

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

**Return to Question 122-14(2): Consultation on the New Wildlife Act**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had made a commitment to revise the Wildlife Act. We have released two documents in November of 1999 to deal with the revision to the Wildlife Act itself, as well as to look at legislation to protect species at risk.

We have conducted consultation meetings and discussion throughout the regions to identify issues this proposed legislation should consider. We should have the first round of discussions and consultations concluded by the end of this month. We will take the information that is gathered through this phase and use that as a basis to put together a discussion paper, which will then be distributed to the public once we have this first phase completed. We will have a better idea of what type of discussion paper should be sent to the public, and that will give us some idea of what type of consultation we should have for beginning the drafting of the legislation. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 122-14(2): Consultation on the New Wildlife Act**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the Minister could provide the House with an outline of what the timetable is expected to be for appropriation of the consultation paper, the draft discussion paper. Subsequent to that, after getting the responses back, when can this House expect to see new legislation for wildlife?

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

**Further Return to Question 122-14(2): Consultation on the New Wildlife Act**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to doing that. I think it is important to recognize that much of the legislation has to be done in partnership with the aboriginal communities, leaders and organizations. In many cases, they have constitutional rights, rights through their claims legislation, through treaties and other instruments that require us to proceed in partnership with them.

The timetable and extent and form of consultation is to be decided in partnership with them. I will undertake to do that as soon as the initial round of consultation is concluded at the end of this month.

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

**Supplementary to Question 122-14(2): Consultation on the New Wildlife Act**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand we have a number of partners that have important roles to play in this whole process. I am trying to get a sense from the government, is the expectation that this can be done within the next year, within the life of this Assembly, or is this going to take us ten years to conclude this legislation?

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

**Further Return to Question 122-14(2): Consultation on the New Wildlife Act**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to believe that all parties are interested in having an updated, revised Wildlife Act that would be recognized and supported by all interested parties. We will move in an expeditious way, respecting the rights of all parties involved, everyone in the Northwest Territories, and it will be done in a timely way. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 122-14(2): Consultation on the New Wildlife Act**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I was trying to get was whether or not I should be pushing for an amendment to the existing Wildlife Act, or if I can count on changes coming forward fairly quickly. I did not get an answer to that, but I would like to ask the Minister if he will commit to

ensuring that in the discussion paper, there is some discussion of a waiver for people like Canadian Forces members and Royal Canadian Mounted Police members, who are moved by their employer to the Northwest Territories in the service of the people of the Northwest Territories so they could be considered for resident hunting license status in less than two years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 122-14(2): Consultation on the New Wildlife Act**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact is the Armed Forces and the RCMP have their own policies. Very often, they move people far too quickly, before they really get to enjoy and appreciate this wonderful part of Canada they are given to serve.

The exemption for the residency requirement has been an issue for a number of years. We have looked at it. I believe it is important to get the support of the public, of the aboriginal groups before we proceed with an exemption. To include such an exemption could, I believe, violate the provisions of the Charter of Rights. It does have some legal implications. We have chosen instead to seek support for a way that would allow certain members of our public, such as the RCMP and Armed Forces members to enjoy this through revisions of the Wildlife Act. It would probably be a lot faster if they just extended their stay, so they would not have to leave the Northwest Territories before enjoying the hunting privileges everyone else enjoys through their extended stays. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**Oral Question 123-14(2): Guidelines for Developing the Interim Appropriation**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for the Department of Finance. I will do this in the same way I did my Member's statement.

Mr. Speaker, we are out of the training camp stage. We have now set up our first line and second lines. I hope we are on the same team. I see that Mr. Handley's role, the Minister responsible for Finance, is that of the goaltender. He has to prevent us from losing the game.

I would like to know, since he is the one that has signed the letters that directed the departments how to prepare their interim appropriation, did he in fact deliver the message that it would be a "stand-pat" budget based on the 1999-2000 fiscal year? Is that the case?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. I see the Minister responsible for Finance has his helmet on, his stick ready, and his pads on. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 123-14(2): Guidelines for Developing the Interim Appropriation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to compliment the Member today on his choice of tie; it is very striking. In answer to the question, the departments were

given five criteria under which to develop their interim appropriations. They were asked to:

- identify the amount of compensation benefits for staff for the four-month period;
- provide the portion of grants and contributions that must be paid during the four-month period;
- identify any existing contractual commitments or contracts that must be initiated during the four-month period;
- provide the full amount of any contracts that must be committed at the beginning of the year; and
- with regard to capital requirements, to include projects of an urgent nature, projects that were begun in the previous fiscal year, or projects where the commitment must be made because of shipping deadlines or other circumstances.

Those were the terms which were given to each of the departments in preparing their interim appropriations. The question, in terms of “stand-pat” budgets, they were not told in any way to come up with “stand-pat” budgets. They have been advised that we have a schedule during which we will be developing our main estimates. It is the main estimates procedure where any new initiatives will be identified, and reductions and inefficiencies will be identified, finally.

Now, in doing that, we have asked them to indicate to us what they need during this four-month period in order to be able to function. Mr. Speaker, those were generally the guidelines that have been given to the departments. So far, I have not let a goal into the net. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 123-14(2): Guidelines for Developing the Interim Appropriation**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must also compliment the Finance Minister responsible for upping his colour today. As a goaltender, he must have heard the post go “ping” a couple of times now.

If the Minister could inform us, was there an approach in the sense of overall government, when it came to government structures, when we talk about urgency or new initiatives, versus the regions and the communities, was there any direction in that form to the departments?

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

**Further Return to Question 123-14(2): Guidelines for Developing the Interim Appropriation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the departments are very aware of our fiscal situation. There were a number of initiatives that were started in the previous government that we have carried on, and for which we take ownership for the results. I believe the Member is referring to capital projects, and so on.

There was an exercise under the previous Minister responsible for Finance in the previous government to have departments identify a \$10 million savings in capital. We have carried on with that. Departments are dealing with that issue. They have assured us that they will identify \$10 million or thereabouts, reductions in the capital budgets. The details of how they do that is something that will come out in the main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 123-14(2): Guidelines for Developing the Interim Appropriation**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say, Mr. Handley is a pretty good stick-handler as well. I would like to know, since the Minister said that in fact there will be this work done in the main estimates, then in the interim appropriation, is it more in line with a “stand-pat” or status quo, or in fact is there some of that work being done now? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 123-14(2): Guidelines for Developing the Interim Appropriation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the general direction is for a basically a “stand-pat” budget, I expect that as departments prepare their interim appropriations, then they are keeping the whole year in mind. Realizing this is a four-month period of the year, then yes, I expect that there may be some reflection in their priorities as laid out in the interim appropriations, within the guidelines we gave them. That will reflect some of the direction they are intending to move in over the balance over the coming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 124-14(2): Obligations Under Land Claim Agreements**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier and it relates to my opening comments. There have been obligations made by the former Premier of this government that they will seriously consider those land claim obligations that I had mentioned in my statement, especially the economic chapter, to ensure that this government will revisit it.

There is also an obligation to ensure that people within this government, the beaureaucrats, people in different departments, boards, agencies, will set a course on exactly what these land claim agreements really mean, and what the obligations of this government are. There are land claim agreements and treaty rights, yet this government still seems to have the colonial attitude that nothing has changed.

These land claims have been in place for a number of years, and yet aboriginal groups are having to claw their way through to get anything out of this government, especially when it comes to improving their economic and social conditions. We find our aboriginal people in a lot of our small communities in

these conditions. I would like to ask the Premier, what is he doing as the Premier to ensure these obligations will be carried out, and that we will be assured that the land claim agreements will be lived up to? And that people who work within this government will be able to understand exactly what these land claim agreements are all about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 124-14(2): Obligations Under Land Claim Agreements**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that this is one of the potential agenda items for the intergovernmental forum, the recognition, the negotiations, and the implementation of agreements, whether they be treaties, self-government agreements, or land claim agreements. If it is a three-party agreement, the federal government, aboriginal governments, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, it requires a tripartite approach to deciding what the issues are and what the approach should be to deal with it. I agree with the Member, it should be something we all commit to making an improvement on, and it will be suggested to our government to be an agenda item with the federal government and the aboriginal governments. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 124-14(2): Obligations Under Land Claim Agreements**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are already obligations in place. I mentioned the land claim agreements. It is a constitutionally entrenched document. Those obligations supercede a lot of the policies and regulations that are in place by this government and people within this government have to understand that.

With that, there are also agreements in place like the political accord that was signed between the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, this government and the federal government to make sure that they are consulted on all aspects of the implementation of their land claim agreements, to look at the economic opportunities within those jurisdictions.

I would like to ask the Premier again, what is this government doing to ensure that those agreements are being adhered to and being carried out to the full wording of those agreements? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 124-14(2): Obligations Under Land Claim Agreements**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have had discussions between myself and the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Jim Antoine. We have agreed that there should be a comprehensive approach to improving relations between the aboriginal government and ourselves. We are also working to establish a more productive relationship between the federal government and ourselves.

As I have said, it is our intention as a government to make that suggestion. It is the intent of the political accords to improve the relationship between aboriginal governments and ourselves. Specifically, the recognition, the negotiation, the implementation of land claim and self-government agreements is on the agenda.

We need the cooperation and support of aboriginal governments and the federal government to ensure these documents become the basis for improved relations and work as instruments for the improvement of lives of beneficiaries.

We have no difficulty with the suggestion the Member is making. It is the prerogative of the aboriginal governments to pursue that. We intend to initiate that as well. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 124-14(2): Obligations Under Land Claim Agreements**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, due to the commitments we have made, I would like to ask the Premier if he would personally intervene in the case of Chii Construction and the Inuvik Regional Health Board? I feel injustice has been served, in which there was no consideration whatsoever regarding the aboriginal rights under the land claims agreements, especially on the economic measures side.

Also, there was not one aboriginal person on the committee who performed the review. I feel this is another area where injustice has been served. I would like to ask the Premier if he would consider intervening as the Premier of this government to ensure justice is being served? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 124-14(2): Obligations Under Land Claim Agreements**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will follow up on the suggestion the Member is making. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 124-14(2): Obligations Under Land Claim Agreements**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Premier for that. I think we, as a government, should take the time to educate, not only the people in the government, but also ourselves. Many people in this House do not really understand aboriginal rights and land claim agreements.

I would like to have some assurances from this government that they will make a vigorous effort to ensure that takes place. There are many people in this government who have just arrived in the Territory and do not realize there are different ways of dealing with things in the Northwest Territories. Can I have a commitment from the Premier that it will be a priority of this government and this Cabinet to ensure this takes place? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Premier.

### **Further Return to Question 124-14(2): Obligations Under Land Claim Agreements**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for the suggestion. I think it is imperative that we not only work to ensure that all officials and people within the government understand the spirit and intent of land claim agreements, let alone the actual contents, but that we work together with the claimant groups to develop a common understanding of the contents, spirit and intent of those agreements. It has been too long that we have sat by ourselves, becoming familiar with the contents from our own perspectives. It is now time to come together and work together. I understand our government has set up a working group to look at the economic chapters and provisions of the Gwich'in and Sahtu claim. federal officials, Gwich'in officials, and officials of this government have started to work together to clarify what those provisions are, with an undertaking to work together once there is a common agreement on the spirit and intent. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier Kakfwi. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

### **Oral Question 125-14(2): Appeal Process for Health Board Contracts**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services. It is regarding the Inuvik Regional Health Board, which she is responsible for.

I was surprised to hear there is no appeal process in place when they spend public funds, or allocate funds through contracts. I would like to ask the Minister if she will look into the allegation that there is no appeal process in place. As a Minister, can she intervene in the case of Chii Construction, who held a contract for three years and were surprised to find they were listed in seventh place out of nine bidders? They were the lowest bidder, had three years experience, and people already trained and in place. They came in seventh place. If they were the lowest bidder, lower than the person who was awarded the contract, is that the way the government is spending its money in the Department of Health and Social Services? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services. Madam Minister, I heard two questions in there. You can choose which one you would like to respond to. Mrs. Groenewegen.

### **Return to Question 125-14(2): Appeal Process for Health Board Contracts**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hear what the Member is saying. As far as I know, the health boards are required to follow the procurement policies of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Sometimes when contracts are awarded from requests for proposals, price is not necessarily the determining factor. It is one of many components of the proposal that is considered. As far as I know, on RFPs, there is no formal appeal process available as part of the contracting mechanism. I could be corrected on that, but that is to the best of my knowledge. Thank you.

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

### **Supplementary to Question 125-14(2): Appeal Process for Health Board Contracts**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister assure us the health boards are following the procurement policies of this government to ensure accountability on the public funds they do spend? Will the Minister make a commitment to ensure they are following government policies?

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

### **Further Return to Question 125-14(2): Appeal Process for Health Board Contracts**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any evidence to substantiate that the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board did not follow policy on the awarding of this particular contract. I will commit to the Member, and we did commit in the last session as well, to communicate with all of the boards with respect to following the government's purchasing policy.

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

### **Supplementary to Question 125-14(2): Appeal Process for Health Board Contracts**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if she can intervene with the case regarding Chii Construction to see if they do have the opportunity to have an appeal process. I would also like the Minister to ensure aboriginal people will be on the committee that will review the application, so it is not biased and based on who sits on the committees, so it is not seen as a group of people who are not aboriginal. Will the Minister ensure that is considered and will she consider looking at the appeal? Thank you.

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

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once a contract has been entered into, it is not possible to intervene in the awarding that was made. The review mechanism that is set up by the board is determined by the board. That is something that could be taken up with the board by constituents who are concerned about the awarding of the contract.

As far as an appeal process is concerned, that is something that would have to be done on a broader scale as opposed to setting in place an appeal process for a specific contract. If an appeal process is going to be added to our contracting rules and regulations, that is something that can be done on a broader basis. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 125-14(2): Appeal Process for Health Board Contracts**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me if there will be a broad review on how boards and agencies operate, as well as the accountability of the boards and agencies to this government through financial audits? Will there be some means to measure the expenditures and processes that are used to put out contracts? What are the different avenues to deal with policies and regulations to ensure they are following the guidelines? Will the Minister consider looking at reviewing the Department of Health and Social Services' relationship with the health boards to ensure we have accountability? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 125-14(2): Appeal Process for Health Board Contracts**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a mechanism in place. Health and Social Services boards are required to provide financial reporting to the department.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Oral Question 126-14(2): Efforts to Combat Homelessness**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen from Inuvik. It is regarding the problems with homelessness in Yellowknife and the overcrowding we have in a lot of the communities. A lot of people find themselves having to live in tent frames or out of the communities because they are evicted from public housing. We have a problem in Yellowknife and out in the communities as well.

I would like to ask the Minister what his department is doing to deal with the issue of the homeless in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Return to Question 126-14(2): Efforts to Combat Homelessness**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to answer the first part of the Member's question regarding Yellowknife. Just to provide a brief background; the shelter was originally set up to assist long-term homeless people in Yellowknife. Unfortunately, the problem that was created is the original tenants were removed by other transient members.

I would like to talk a bit about some of the concerns. One I took a great deal of interest in was the statement made by Arlene Hache, which expressed some concerns about the homeless. She infers in her article that supports what we believe in, which is that the homeless shelter was being used for other purposes.

Secondly, we have made every attempt to address the issue of the homeless across the Northwest Territories by working with various Members of the House here and in our travels, to determine what those needs are. I am sure by May 15, 2000, we will be able to answer the majority of the questions and address the majority of the problems. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 126-14(2): Efforts to Combat Homelessness**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not hear anything as to what the government is doing about the issue of the homeless. I will ask the question again. Can the Minister tell me what is being done to address the issue of the homeless people when it comes to housing?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 126-14(2): Efforts to Combat Homelessness**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have taken many factors into consideration. One of the important things about homelessness is that we are trying to deal with many of the municipalities across the North.

We are talking to community leadership to try to determine what is the most efficient way to deal with this particular matter. We are trying to determine where and how we can deliver good, secure homes, as I mentioned earlier regarding the article written about Yellowknife's situation. From community to community, we see an important step in trying to address those concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 126-14(2): Efforts to Combat Homelessness**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not too sure what the Minister's definition of homeless is, but I understand that in order to be eligible to get into a homeless shelter here in Yellowknife, you have to get on the income support list. In order to get on the income support list, you have to wait two months before you can get on it after arriving in Yellowknife. This is our capital. This is where anybody in the Northwest Territories should feel at home.

Yet the stringent guidelines they have put in place restricts the homeless who need a place to stay when they arrive here. They should not have to wait two months on the street in order to get into a shelter.

I would like to ask the Minister what he is doing to ensure the policies of this government dictate the needs of those who need shelter? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return to Question 126-14(2): Efforts to Combat Homelessness**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make every effort to answer the question. If we are talking specifically of Yellowknife, then we have other shelters such as the Salvation Army to deal with those problems.

From a territorial perspective, and I understand quite well that the homeless issue in Inuvik is a very important issue, not only in the community itself, but again with the aboriginal groups. We have worked within the system to accommodate this important issue. The idea is to try to alleviate all of these problems associated with the homeless. We will continue to work with other organizations to resolve these problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary to Question 126-14(2): Efforts to Combat Homelessness**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister what his department is doing to remove some of the stringent measures that are in place, to make it a smoother process for people who find themselves on the street and need a home today? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Allen.

**Further Return to Question 126-14(2): Efforts to Combat Homelessness**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure the Member that we are continuing to work with all organizations in all of the communities to ensure the homeless, however they are defined, have a good, safe and secure home. That will take some time. Hopefully, we will be able to provide more definite answers by May 15, 2000. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. The time allocated for question period has expired. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Written Question 10-14(2): Contract Cost Breakdowns**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services and the Department of Transportation. Please provide a list for the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 of all contracts over \$100,000 that were over the initial project estimate.

**Written Question 11-14(2): Contract Cost Breakdowns**

Also provide the initial project estimate, the actual cost to date, any projected additional cost to complete the project, and the primary contract. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 7, written questions. The Chair recognizes the Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The Member for Hay River North is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Delorey. You have unanimous consent.

**REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Charlie Furlong in the gallery, the chief from Aklavik.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Chair recognizes the Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Arlene Hache, a very well-known social activist in the city of Yellowknife.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Welcome to the Assembly, Ms. Hache. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS**

**Bill 5: An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that your Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development has reviewed Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, and wishes to report that Bill 5 is now ready for further consideration in committee of the whole.

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

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**Tabled Document 35-14(2): Letter from Chii Construction Ltd. To Inuvik Regional Health Board Regarding Security and Reception Services Contract**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter to the Inuvik Regional Health Board from Chief James Firth in Inuvik regarding the security and reception services contract.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Motion 13-14(2): Setting of Sitting Hours by Speaker**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 27, 2000, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting

days and hours as the Speaker, after consultation, deems fit to assist with the business before the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 7: An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act

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

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Workers' Compensation Act to permit dependent surviving spouses who marry or re-marry, to retain their compensation entitlements under the act. The bill also restores the compensation entitlements of such spouses who married or re-married on or after April 17, 1985, the date the equality provisions of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms came into force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. To the principle of the bill. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in support of the principle of the bill, but point out to the government that there is an omission. Very clearly, they have addressed one of the components of this with all of the widows post-1985. I do not think it is morally, ethically or politically right. I am not sure legally, but I think in some jurisdictions it is, that we have not recognized the rights of widows pre-1985.

Mr. Speaker, these widows are in the same boat and should not be discriminated against. We should be making every effort to deal with this issue in a careful, caring and humanitarian way. I believe there are only five of them. While I commend the government for finally coming forward with this legislative change as opposed to continuing with a protracted, legal court case.

I hope the Minister will hear the concerns. I know there are letters to that effect. I know in some jurisdictions, such as Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta, arrangements have been made with widows. I hope the Minister will recognize that we cannot ignore this issue. To tie it up needlessly in the courts for an extended length of time will leave a flaw in this legislation. That would be unfortunate. It would leave some long-suffering widows without what is their due reward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to speak in favour of this bill. I am glad to see we are moving ahead to deal with the widows in a more compassionate way than going through the court action. I would have to say that I am also disappointed that we are not seeing a commitment on the part

of the government to deal with the widows before the enactment of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

I would argue that a legal statute should not be the reason for us to react and say that it is right that we treat people who became widows after a certain date in 1985 differently than those who became widows before 1985. I would say this government has a moral obligation to follow the precedent set by the prairie provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and I would hope that we would soon hear from this government that they are prepared to follow that precedent and make decent offers to those widows who would be affected if this legislation were truly retroactive to before 1985. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the previous Members have mentioned, this is a good move. We are recognizing widows post-1985 and looking at reinstating what they would have been allowed. But as others have said, I too have a great concern when we use a timeline on a calendar and disallow people from a certain period before that, especially knowing the numbers are not great here in the Northwest Territories.

I hope that the Minister, out of the kindness of his heart and believing in the people of the Northwest Territories, will make this happen and go back to the pre-1985 widows and include them in the package.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked about this government. Many Members around this table have spoken about needing to address the elderly, the sick, the employed and the unemployed. This is an opportunity for this government to go all the way and show that we truly do care for all of the people in the Northwest Territories. We will not put a date stamp on something and say that unfortunately you re-married before 1985. I hope the Minister will take that under consideration, and include them in some form, and demonstrate true compassion and leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide a bit more clarification on how we are proceeding with this particular bill. Clearly the government has a legal and moral obligation to the widows since or after April 17, 1985. The purpose of this bill is to give to those widows what they rightfully deserve and what the Workers' Compensation Board owes to them. We intend to deal with that immediately.

With regard to the widows who re-married prior to the equality provisions in the Charter of Rights, there are many questions outstanding yet, in my mind, in terms of the precedent we may set in however we may choose to resolve this. Whether it is through a settlement as the prairie provinces have done, or whatever the route is that we choose.

The fact is that the widows who re-married after 1985 should not be asked to wait until all of the questions have been resolved. I think we can deal with that group of people. With regard to the widows who re-married before 1985, it is my intention to seek answers to the outstanding questions and then try to resolve this issue as expeditiously as possible.

I should also add the money we are dealing with here, paying out the widows, is not government or public money. This is money that will come from contributions that employers have made to the Workers' Compensation Board. It is really money that belongs to the workers. This is not an issue that we can deal with very lightly because it is not the public money we are dealing with in this case. We have to tread very carefully and be thorough in whatever direction we take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 7 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Minister's Statement 1-14(2), Sessional Statement; Tabled Document 14-14(2); Bill 3; Bill 6; Committee Report 2-14(2); Committee Report 3-14(2); Committee Report 4-14(2); with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I would like to call the committee to order. We are dealing with Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001. We are dealing with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. At this time, I would like to ask, what is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we continue consideration of Bill 6, Committee Report 2-14(2), Committee Report 3-14(2), Committee Report 4-14(2) concurrently, continuing with the consideration of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, and subsequent to that, Aboriginal Affairs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Is that the wish of the committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We will take a short break and return to deal with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

-- Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Welcome back. Before the break, we were dealing with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. We are on page 5 of the budget items. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses?

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee concur?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

Mr. Minister, could you please introduce the witnesses for the record.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be here again this afternoon. I have with

me to my left, Mr. Dave Murray, the deputy minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. On my right is Gay Kennedy, the director for corporate affairs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. When we left off, we were dealing with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, under total operations and maintenance, \$18,322,000. On page 7, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, \$7,627,000. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as we finished off yesterday, I requested the Minister to provide more information on the break out of block funding for the five tax-based municipalities. I would like to know if he has that information available.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have information on the three years block funding to actually six communities. I have information here.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is it possible to get a copy of that to circulate to the Members? General questions. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as a result of yesterday's discussions, and the department coming forward that they were intending to bring forward reductions to the block funding agreements between five and seven percent, I myself spoke to the mayor of Inuvik, who is the president of the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities. He informed me that at a board meeting held by the NWTAM in late February, the communities were told that during this interim appropriation, there would be no reductions. But they had to have their heads up that during the main business planning process, possible reductions would be reviewed at that time. They were informed that during the interim appropriation, it was a status quo. Can the Minister inform us as to the change in this plan?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the deputy minister attended that board meeting. I would like to ask him to reply to that question. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Murray.

**MR. MURRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I met with the board about three weeks ago with my assistant deputy minister, Vern Christiansen, I was expressing the hope that I did not believe it would be a large cut in the interim. I do not recall saying there would be no cuts.

At the time, the assistant deputy minister and I were not under the impression that there would be massive cuts. These are not massive, but at the same time letters were sent out to all communities last fall, letting them know that cuts were possible. As well, in our consultations on the municipal finance review last fall, it was recognized then that cuts may happen.

The reason I did not go out in the last month since I started and let communities know the exact figures is because this House

has to approve those amounts before we can send out the letters and let them know how much they are getting. There certainly was no intention to mislead or in any way let them know there would be no cuts.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Association of Municipalities became aware of this yesterday evening because of the discussion in this House. They are definitely surprised with this. The fact that the interim appropriation was meant to stand pat.

As I was speaking to the mayor of Inuvik, the financial review the deputy minister referred to was something they were focusing on as well. They have been very concerned. Block funding has been in for a while. They found on a regular basis that those block funds are reduced with little input from the municipalities.

Coming from a tax-based municipality where we have two back to back tax increases to try to make up for the difference of lack of funding from other sources, mainly this government, I am very concerned. We will have to see something happen here because in communities, especially tax-based, any infrastructure that is received you have to pay a large portion of that through your tax base. That is a concern.

For the record, the NWTAM board was informed that there would be some level of reduction. There is a bit of stick handling here between a major amount of reductions or a small amount of reductions. The understanding they had at that meeting was there were to be no reductions in the interim. They were made aware that during the business planning process, some reductions could possibly come around at that point.

Now we have communities reeling because as of April 1, 2000, they are going to have less to spend on municipal infrastructure and operations and maintenance.

Could you confirm for the record that at the board meeting of the NWTAM held on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2000, they were made aware that even during the interim appropriation, there were possible reductions? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not at the meeting. I would like to defer the question to the deputy minister who attended the meeting.

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

**MR. MURRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not recall committing myself to saying there would be no cuts or that there would be cuts. As I recall, I might have said I am hoping there will be a "stand-pat" budget on the operations and maintenance side, but I do not recall knowing enough about the capital side at the time to comment on.

Now that I have seen the press release that is coming out, I can go back and check my own notes. I do not recall exactly three months ago, but I do not believe I would ever say to them there might not be the possibility of reductions. That would be taking the authority away from this House to make that decision. I just would not do that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Murray. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to try to deal with this issue, I know it is a very serious concern, this block funding, since it was discussed in the House yesterday. I would like to suggest we review this issue in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. We would like to look at it over the next few weeks and see if there is a possibility of making adjustments. If it is a concern now for the interim, we would like to deal with it. I think we have a number of weeks before the passage of the interim appropriation and maybe make adjustments throughout the department. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Is the Minister stating that there would be no changes during the interim, but in fact there will be a review done over the next few weeks and it will come forward during the business planning stages?

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. We are very flexible and we respond to the concerns of our citizens out there. We will keep the block funding as is, but it is definitely subject for later on as we deal with the mains. Thank you.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister and his staff for making that very clear and for allowing the municipalities that would be affected to have a number of months for planning. They could build into their financial situations the possibility of reductions as of March 31, 2000. I would like to thank the Minister responsible for taking positive action on this. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. That was more of a comment than a question. I have on my list Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Delorey, and Mr. Dent. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In light of the Minister's comments, my concerns in this matter for the interim appropriation have been addressed. Thank you.

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

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am basically of the same opinion. I would like to thank the Minister responsible for taking positive action on this to address the concerns of the public at large. My comments have been addressed under the statement he has made. Thank you.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am also pleased that the Minister has committed to no reductions for the period covered by the interim. This will come back for further discussion when we consider the business plans and the mains.

One other thing I would encourage the Minister to do is make sure his staff meets with the municipalities that could be affected by the block funding agreements to ensure the department is fully aware of any proposed cuts that they may

wish to come back and discuss with the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will do that. Once we have a very clear idea of where we are going to go, we will do a follow up. That will happen as soon as we have a clear direction on how to proceed. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Any other questions or comments for the Minister? We are on page 5 of the black binders, tab 6, page 5, dealing with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Total Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance, \$18,322,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Moving to page 7 under capital, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, total Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, \$7,627,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** That concludes the department. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses.

We will now move to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs on page 4 under the Executive.

At this time, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the department, the Honourable Jim Antoine, if he has any opening comments.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am here as the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs over Bill 6, Interim Appropriation, 2000-2001.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs requires \$1,480,000 reflecting the Ministry's operating requirements for the four-month interim period. This translates into 32 percent of the 2000-2001 preliminary target. Additionally, the Ministry requires \$75,000 capital on a one-time basis during the interim period. I welcome questions you may have on the details of the Ministry's interim financial requirements. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Would the committee responsible like to make any comments? Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** The committee met with the Minister and his staff on March 17, 2000, to review the proposed 2000-2001 interim appropriation for the department. The committee made note of the following issues.

#### **Request for Additional Staff**

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs requested an additional five positions to assist with negotiations. Two teams, each consisting of a chief negotiator and an assistant negotiator, will be hired to participate in the Deh Cho and Akaitcho self-government negotiations on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Ministry will be further supported by the proposed addition of a policy analyst. (see p. 3, Aboriginal Affairs, 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation)

Committee members suggested that the Ministry may wish to better utilize its current staff given fiscal realities. All

departments should be looking from within for additional resources.

#### **Role of government**

The committee asked the Minister responsible for a definition of the role of the Government of the Northwest Territories at the negotiating tables.

The department replied that the role of the territorial government is to ensure the overall interests of the people of the Northwest Territories are represented and protected at the negotiating table.

#### **Quarterly Progress Report**

Committee members were concerned with the lack of progress at the negotiating tables. The committee recognizes the importance of the negotiations, but are of the perception that government may not be concurrent with the pace of progress.

The committee recommends that the Ministry provide a quarterly progress report on negotiations for review by committee members.

#### **Office Space Renovations**

The Ministry proposed the additional office renovations additional staff. See page 3, Aboriginal Affairs, 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation. See also page 1, capital, departmental submissions, Aboriginal Affairs, 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation.

Committee members recommended that the Ministry utilize vacant space that is leased by the Government of the Northwest Territories before renovating existing space. This will represent significant cost savings for the Ministry and the government.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. At this time I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in witnesses?

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee concur?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here today as the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. I have with me Mr. Charles Overvold, who is the deputy Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs on my left, and Veronica Puskas, the manager of finance and administration.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Welcome. General comments for the Minister? Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have read the committee report and gone through the interim appropriation. I would like to ask the Minister if he would speak

to the specific suggestions and recommendations put forward by the committee.

The issues relate to more staff. I would like to know have they looked within where these staff are supposed to be located, if they do get approval and hire? The issue is of more timely information and reports on negotiations. As well, I see there is a chunk of money here for further renovations to offices. I would assume the intention is to hire more staff in Yellowknife. Considering they are here for the Deh Cho and Akaitcho tables causes me some concern, given what I believe to be are the relatively accurate numbers of the erosion of government in the regions and in the communities. Here we have another department wanting to add more staff to Yellowknife. This is a cause of concern for me, living outside of Yellowknife. If the Minister could speak to those issues, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs does utilize the existing internal resources first. We have looked at the Ministry. It is a relatively small central agency. It mainly functions out of Yellowknife. It provides our representation at the different negotiating tables. The implementation of claims that were finalized.

The request for additional staff is to try to get ready for two other areas, two other First Nations that are on the verge of formal negotiations. The first is the Akaitcho Treaty 8. They have agreed to a framework agreement. They have not finalized it. It has taken them two and a half years to get to that stage. They are poised to begin formal negotiations.

We have existing staff in the Ministry that are negotiators and assistant negotiators, but they are occupied in dealing with existing negotiations that are there. It is not possible to re-assign existing staff to carry out duties that are going to be starting once the Akaitcho Treaty 8 negotiations get into full swing. We need a full, dedicated representative of all of us to represent us at these tables.

The other region is the Deh Cho First Nations, who have been working quite hard over the last year to work on a framework agreement. They are not as far along as the Akaitcho Territory. They are working towards a framework agreement. Eventually, they will be in the position in this fiscal year that they will be ready to get into formal negotiations. As a result, we have put in a request and approved through the Financial Management Board to pursue this through the interim appropriation. It is the first time it comes out.

With the existing staff, everybody is very busy with their task right now. To suggest using existing staff to cover these other areas is very difficult. The nature of negotiations is a very difficult process.

Regarding a quarterly progress report, we are prepared to provide quarterly reports on negotiations to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development. For the information of the Members, we provide monthly reports on each of the negotiations. We also see specific reports following each negotiation session. I anticipate there will be periodic, full verbal briefings and discussions with Ministerial staff. Certainly

quarterly reports are going to be provided to the standing committee from now on for each of the claims.

Under office space renovations, the current space the Ministry is in, I am told, accommodates the existing staff. However, if we are going to add additional staff to the Ministry, we need to seek other spaces. I know the suggestion is there to provide accommodations in existing leases. We checked on it. We are told to put an operational unit of the Ministry into existing leases in other buildings is a bit difficult to do. We would have to get this facility ready to accommodate the staff. What the Ministry is requesting here is one level of office space above the existing floor, and renovate it with the amount we are requesting. We would like to keep the Ministry staff closer together. There is a lot of inter-Ministry discussion going on when you are dealing with land claims and self-government and implementation. It is a fairly small unit, but it requires additional space.

As for putting some of these positions in communities outside of Yellowknife, we work closely with negotiators on developing strategy for sessions. Negotiators work closely with other departments in Yellowknife. For example, if negotiations are about municipal lands, we have to include Municipal and Community Affairs. A lot of issues deal with wildlife, so we have to work with Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. We also provide negotiation training to other staff. As a result, the practice has always been to have the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs all in Yellowknife. We do not have field offices. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am concerned. When you look at all of the departments and the government, I see FMBS coming forward with 22 percent forced growth, followed closely on its heels by the Executive, as we discussed in this House, with 18 percent. Of course, third in line is another headquarters operation, Aboriginal Affairs.

At the same time, I know the layoff policy from the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly is no longer legally on the books, but it exists in some sort of form. There are about 50 to 60 PYs sitting in government as a result of the layoff policy, but there is no sign of interdepartmental coordination where you come forward as a government for new positions. But at the same time you know you have staff sitting there.

Has there been any kind of human resource survey that would allow you to reallocate positions, rather than keep these positions stacked 50 to 60, five to six million dollars worth of positions and at the same time coming forward to ask for some more?

I see no sense of interdepartmental communication or how you are looking at this as a government. That is the concern I have because there has been nothing but cuts in the regions and communities. Nothing but cuts. There are a thousand good reasons to put more jobs in Yellowknife but there is not one good reason to have this government putting jobs back into the communities yet.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is requesting these positions in Yellowknife for the reasons I stated earlier. This department does not have any other field offices. We do not have offices in the regions because of the nature of the work that is required.

The land claims and self-government have always been the priority of the Legislative Assembly and government. We just want to be well prepared to take on the upcoming two claim areas that are poised and ready to negotiate. These two areas have had a very difficult time accepting this Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories as a legitimate government to see us involved in their process.

With the Akaitcho Territory, we were able to take two and half years to finally come to a framework agreement to get to a type of wording that would allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to sit at the table to begin negotiations. We are being accused of dragging our feet, being stumbling blocks and slowing down the process. We take that very seriously.

In these two new claims areas that are coming forward, we would like to be prepared so once these two negotiations are getting into full swing, we are in a position to move as soon as they start up.

That is the position from which I am coming. I do not know if I responded to the honourable Member's concern that there are increases in the Financial Management Board Secretariat and Executive as well as Aboriginal Affairs.

The reason for the request is very legitimate. I will leave it at that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time I would like to recognize two young ladies in the audience, Kayla Chang and also Mickey Marshall up in the gallery. If you are taking all this in, someday you will hopefully be in this House sitting in Ms. Lee's chair.

-- Laughter

-- Applause

General comments. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we all know it has been a number of long years since discussions have taken place within the Deh Cho First Nations, struggling over the decision whether to let the territorial government have a seat at the table. This year, they decided to take that leap of faith and allow the territorial government to have a seat at the table along with the federal government.

I am very concerned, having done that and declared the Deh Cho a moratorium on development until land claims are concluded or at least until a land use process is developed and designed, that this would be honoured. It is being honoured by the federal government but is not being honoured by the territorial government. They are issuing permits against the wishes of the communities. Very little consultation has taken place, if any.

I think by doing this that they may be jeopardizing the whole process. I hear the Minister state there is consultation between the departments within the government. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not they have relayed the message to the

Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development regarding the moratorium?

The other point I would like to make is that I am in agreement that there is a need for dedicated staff, especially when it comes to the Deh Cho region. I think it needs more than that. I think it needs the political element added to it.

The Minister stated himself that the territorial government is viewed as dragging their heels when it comes to land claims discussions. Every region that is in negotiations right now will agree to that.

My second question is how does he plan to rectify that situation?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will answer the second question first regarding the perception that the Government of the Northwest Territories is slowing down and may not be moving as fast as need be as we go through these negotiation processes.

We represent the Government of the Northwest Territories at the negotiating table and all the citizens. In the area of negotiations, there is a process we have in place that sees our negotiating at the table. Once they come to an area where they have a difficult time moving ahead, they have to go back and check with me and sometimes even with Cabinet. There is a process in place to do that. The negotiating instructions to the negotiators are there. We are able to proceed satisfactorily in a lot of areas. We are not the only area where we have been perceived to slow down.

The different parties also have to take some of that responsibility in certain areas. Negotiations is a two, three way process in this area. There are three parties at the table. Sometimes it gets difficult to move as quickly as you want to move. You have to accommodate the other two parties.

We have found a way to do it. I know that some of the areas, mainly in the Dogrib area, where they have come to an agreement-in-principle, and are working towards a final agreement. They would like to move fairly quickly. Along with the Premier, we have made a commitment, and we think we found a way of speeding up the process. We deal with it in that manner. We are very concerned of the perception that we are slowing down the process. Again, the other parties sometimes have to take the responsibility for that as well.

We all want to see land claims and self government concluded once the framework is done, once the agreements-in-principle are done and work towards a final agreement. We would like to move as fast as we can. At the same time, we have to make sure the interests of the people in the North are protected. We have to move cautiously sometimes and re-evaluate.

In regards to the moratorium in the Deh Cho, there is a call for that. I understand that it is part of the framework agreement that the Deh Cho is working out with the federal government and that they will come to some sort of an arrangement to deal with it.

As for communication between departments, I think the government as a whole is aware of the call for a moratorium by

the Deh Cho. In that way, there is communication between the departments. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLeod. General comments, I have Mr. Miltenberger on the list. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not argue with the need and the benefit to move the land claim and self-government negotiations along. What causes me concern as an MLA sitting here looking at government, is the apparent tendency for departments to come forward as if they were some sort of stovepipe, totally cut off from the rest of the government and they ask for more resources at a time, as I have indicated in my previous comments, where there are probably 50 to 60 positions sitting there because of the no layoff policy where resources could be reallocated.

It does not appear there is that kind of inter-departmental communication. I am still very clearly aware that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs just agreed to defer seven percent cuts to the block funding in municipalities. At the same time, once again they are sitting here asking for more PYs. I would like an indication from the Minister, have they looked within government, and not just within their own department. Have they looked within government at under-utilized human resources that could be reallocated? Rather than just following the line of least resistance, which is coming back and asking for more money and more PYs, at a time when we are facing tight fiscal times? We are telling everyone outside of headquarters, outside of this rarefied atmosphere in this building, to be prepared for some belt-tightening. Thank you.

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you. I think the Finance Minister would like to say something about this. Thank you.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a pretty broad question in terms that it affects all departments, the whole government. The quick answer is yes. Certainly before we ask for new additional funding, given our fiscal situation, we do look across the government and make the decision on that basis. Mr. Miltenberger knows each department does do its own budget, to some degree, in a bit of a stove pipe. In the end it all has to come back to the Financial Management Board and that is where all of the pieces have to be put together. In this case, definitely, we have looked across government and have determined the money needed here does represent a new initiative that has to be found through new money.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While it is a broad question, it is just one specific department along with two others out of the 11 or so that are coming forward for new money, forced growth, new initiatives, new positions. Is the Minister telling me then, in fact, all the resources in human resources within government are currently and fully utilized?

There are not 50 to 60 positions that are filled because of the no layoff policy, where there is potential to reallocate resources rather than just coming forward, asking for more money and having this number of positions occupied, but not utilized properly? Is that what the Minister is telling me, that they have done that survey and they can demonstrate that? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Miltenberger, we are dealing with the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and I think your line of questioning is more directed to the Minister responsible for Finance so I suggest you hold your question for the Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you for that direction, Mr. Chairman. I am assuming that the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs is also a Member of Cabinet. As a Member of Cabinet would have taken part in the type of discussions that will directly affect how they are going to resource his department and resource his request for funds. I would expect, Mr. Chairman, that you would appreciate that is the focus of my question, I do not intend, as you state, to get into a general discussion with the Minister responsible for Finance. I want some indication from the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs that they are looking the right way for all these resources that he is asking for today in this House. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Handley, as the questions are relating to the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, I will direct the questions to Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you. I understand where the honourable Member is coming from in regards to surplus staff from the other departments. We probably could try to move staff from other departments if they qualify for the positions. These are specialized positions that we are looking for, not every employee of the Government of the Northwest Territories is qualified to be a negotiator or assistant negotiator. There are special skills required.

Surplus staff from other departments can, and have, applied for the positions advertised in these departments previously. However, even if we did move surplus staff from other departments, we would need the dollars from the existing departments to ultimately be transferred. We are going to have to go through this process anyway. There are additional dollars requested for Aboriginal Affairs and that means there has to be a decrease for wherever they come from.

In the no layoff policy, there are still employees that are there, and when these previous Aboriginal Affairs positions came up, a few applied, most did not. Based on that experience, either way, we still need to come forward and ask for additional dollars, even if we get surplus staff from an existing department. Thank you.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to get the Minister to explain that to me, because it makes no sense. If, in fact, they acknowledge that there are surplus positions, granted that these are specialized functions that the Minister is asking for, and I appreciate that, but there are under-utilized positions.

If there was a human resource strategy where these were identified, my suggestion is that government would have room to move. To start shuffling some of these many, many, many positions if they took the time and had the human resource strategy. That would negate the need for a department like Aboriginal Affairs to come forward having to ask for new positions.

In fact, they should be able to go and take the necessary steps, in a planned way, to make better use of their own human resources that are sitting there. That are being paid for, but are not properly utilized in a time of significant fiscal restraint, when we are telling municipalities to suck it up for seven percent here coming down the pipe. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I do not know if that was a question or an answer. Mr. Antoine, did you want to respond to that?

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs at this point in time, we do not have the positions that are out there. Through the no layoff policy, there are positions that are out there, yet we do not know how many. I do not know how many and I do not know where they are. As for what to do in the human resource strategy, I think it is the prerogative of the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat.

I think the Minister responsible for Finance and the Financial Management Board Secretariat, this interim appropriation is his bill, and it may be appropriate sometimes during questioning, if the questions are general enough that he clarifies some of the information that goes to the Ordinary Members. Just so that the information is accurate and correct. If possible, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance to reply, especially on the human resource strategy. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I think we are dealing particularly with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs so I think we will keep the questions to that. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is similar to Mr. McLeod's question about process and why is it taking so long. Why is it so convoluted and complicated? There are so many different levels of bureaucracy that you have to go through now, just to get a decision made at the negotiating table. I, for one, have had the experience of being involved in many negotiation processes, from the Dene, Metis, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu.

Those processes certainly were not as complicated as they are today. Every time we wanted to negotiate a position or come to an agreement, it was usually done at the table. It seems now, because of the involvement of all the different departments, you are talking about Justice, you are talking about Municipal and Community Affairs, you are talking about Health and Social Services, I, for one, think that that may be causing a slow down in the whole negotiation process in the Northwest Territories.

I am wondering if the Minister has thought about or taken that into account. Is there a way to give the ability to the people at the negotiating table and try to streamline the decision-making process? I have heard this from the Dogrib, from the Gwich'in. Negotiation is a two-way street. You put a position forth, somebody else puts a different position and you try to meet in the middle. It seems like in the Gwich'in self-government process, they suggest things, but are always turned away. It

seems like this government is the one that is holding them up to come up with new ideas and they want to keep the common process of governance in the Northwest Territories.

My personal view of governance in Northwest Territories is that it does not work. If it were working, we would not have the deficit situation we have. We would not have the social problems we have and something has to change. I would like to ask the Ministers what is each department doing to ensure that these negotiations are concluded in a fast pace? In addition, do the negotiators have the flexibility to make decisions at the table without having to come back every time they have to get an answer? Thank you.

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to see the conclusion of land claims and self-government discussions as soon as possible. However, there are three different players at the table. The Government of the Northwest Territories seems to be the bad guy all the time. We are accused of being slow at the table and so forth but in some cases that is not the case.

Other players should take responsibility, because there are different factors at each negotiating table. Sometimes one group may have a problem with a certain negotiating item and may have to take it back and have it checked. The federal government does it all the time. They come to an area, especially in financing and taxation, they have to check with Ottawa, with the different departments out there, with Justice and Finance and the Prime Minister's office.

It is the same thing with us here. When our negotiators are at the table, talking about different items, they cannot go there and go as fast as they can just to get it over with. They have to make sure that whatever arrangements we make there, they want to make sure that they are workable and affordable. The role we play at the table is to make sure that is done.

We see other claims in other jurisdictions where arrangements are made and we find out sure it is a good agreement, however, there is no money, or no way of funding the arrangement. We want to make sure that does not happen here. Therefore, it takes some time. In many cases, especially in self-government negotiations, we are breaking trail, setting precedent.

It has not been done in any other place in Canada. We have to make sure that if we do it, that it is done in a way where it is affordable. In addition, the quality of programs and services to everybody in the North does not diminish because of these different arrangements. We all agreed on it. We have a document, numerous documents that are produced through this Legislative Assembly and through government. The Agenda for a New North and even the new vision that we are all working on, says that. We want a good level of programs and services for everyone in the North. If we are going to do that, then we have to make sure that the arrangements that we have at the negotiating tables are done right.

Certainly I would like to see a speedy process. I think that once the self-government arrangements and land claims are completed by all of the groups in the North, that the economy would pick up, and we may have a better time to grab control of our resources. The whole area of land claims and self-

government arrangements is very crucial for the future for all of us here in the Northwest Territories.

In order to get it done, we have to make sure it is done right. The process that we have in place may seem to be cumbersome, but it has the checks and balances in there to make sure that we have a good arrangement. We are open to suggestion and we are flexible. Perhaps there is a speedier process that could be implemented, and we certainly would like to take a look at it. It is early in the life of this Legislative Assembly. It certainly is a concern that I heard during the last election, which it is something that we all have to work on. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know you need the resources and people in place to do the job, but I am just wondering why do these positions have to be in Yellowknife? Since the negotiations are now broken down at the regional claims level, why are these people not working out of the regional areas that they are negotiating under?

I think that if this government got a little closer to the people, we could hear what the people are saying. I think it also applies to the people that are negotiating on behalf of this government. They have to get a feel for what the problems are that we are dealing with at the community and regional level. And also to deal with the people at the regional level.

If we put these positions at the regional centres, in the regional claims areas, then we will probably get more out of the negotiations and probably see more process. I am wondering why that has not been taken into consideration, if you are looking at five positions located in Yellowknife, and not in the regions?

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the deputy minister to elaborate on the Aboriginal Affairs position on that. Thank you.

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

**MR. OVERVOLD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that the Minister spoke to the reason why most of the regions are located in Yellowknife and it has to do with the way the job is accomplished. We do not just go into a region and negotiate, and have the rest of the time off until the next negotiation session. Most of the work in between sessions is preparing for the next session, and to do that they have to work with our departments.

We have to review positions that are tabled by one or both of the other parties, and we have to ensure that our departments agree with a position. We have to develop a response. Most of the work is here in Yellowknife. We also want to ensure that our negotiators know what is happening at other tables. We are a very close-knit unit, and we are all located on one floor. It is best for our operation if we are all located here. It simply would not be workable to have our staff located in the region. We would have to be bringing them back into Yellowknife so often. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me what the turnover rate is in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, especially when it comes to aboriginal employment?

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am told that there is very low turnover. There is one assistant negotiator from Fort McPherson for whom the job did not turn out the way he thought it was going to turn out, so he left on his own accord. The other negotiator was hired by one of the Ministers and became an executive assistant. That is the extent of the turnovers that I am aware of.

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the lines of some of the previous speakers, concerning the extra position that the Minister has indicated that they need. I was in Calgary with the Dogrib negotiations, and I looked at the people around the table. When I counted the people, we had 11 Government of the Northwest Territories negotiators around the table, four Dogrib negotiators and five federal negotiators. We had three from each department representing us.

We have that many positions out there already doing the work for us, and here we are trying to create a few more. I am just wondering if we could use the same negotiators that we have around the table that are working in the departments, instead of it costing us more. We should try to use other resources that we have. For instance, when I was getting a briefing there, after the meeting, they were in the process of changing their lawyer for the fifth time. Now, that is slowing them down in the negotiations, because the new lawyer has to be briefed and trained as to what he is supposed to be doing there.

Like some of the others have mentioned, the Government of the Northwest Territories is the one that is slowing things down. I would not say that they are intentionally doing it. It is just the process that they are using is not efficient enough. The Ministers are not being made aware of some of the issues that are out there. We should cut out the middle people and put the Ministers there. Because this is a final agreement in my region, it really is time the Ministers took the time to get out there and go to some of the negotiations.

We have talked for the last two or three months about working with the aboriginal leaders. It was an issue in the briefing on some of the things we are doing. By saying that we want to work with them, we should go out there and show them that we really mean it. And by doing that, we can try to make some progress by making the decisions right at the table, instead of all of the negotiating going back and forth between Yellowknife and Ottawa. I know our negotiators do not have to call back to their chiefs or anything like that, because they are already briefed before they even come to the table. They know what they are looking for.

What I am saying here is by creating more positions, I do not see that we are going in the right path. I think we should use the people that are already there who already have the knowledge of negotiating. By working more closely, like some

of the previous speakers said, getting to the origins and having people working close to the negotiating teams, I think that will speed up most of the negotiations. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak to the interim appropriation in regards to Aboriginal Affairs requesting additional negotiators and assistant negotiators. This is seeking additional negotiators for two of the claims that are going to be starting up. Yes, we agreed to work with all of the aboriginal groups and we want to be ready for the Akaitcho Territory once their framework agreement is finalized, and the Deh Cho First Nations once they have concluded their framework agreement.

We have to be ready for them, once they get into a position to negotiate. As soon as we do the Dogrib negotiations, because they were ready with their final agreement and have been negotiating for about four years, I know that they are going through a final agreement. We have met with negotiators, and the Dogribs have suggested that we find a way of perhaps speeding up some of the process. We have agreed that as the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, I am available for our chief negotiator, who is Patrick Scott, to get in touch with me and inform me any time of the issues that have arisen at the table.

We have talked about it and asked for the negotiations at the table. The nature of negotiations is sometimes we, as the Government of the Northwest Territories and especially from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, we normally send a chief negotiator and an assistant negotiator, and sometimes a policy analyst to go to the negotiating table.

If the subject matters discussed are dealing with legal issues, we have a lawyer from the Justice Department who is assigned to that file. You mentioned the fifth lawyer. Lawyers from the department, they come and they go. If they decide to leave, there is nothing we can do about asking them to stay. We have to get another lawyer in place.

Unfortunately, this is not efficient. We would like to have a dedicated lawyer that starts from the beginning and works to the end, but we have to use the Department of Justice lawyers to give us that legal advice. And then we have representatives from the different departments. I do not know who is down in Calgary from the other departments, but sometimes the nature of the department is that if the subject matter affects any of our departments, we make sure there are representatives from the different departments that go to these different negotiation sessions. Perhaps that is why there are the 11, I believe the Member mentioned, that represent the Government of the Northwest Territories at the session that he attended.

If the issues are federal matters and do not concern us, we just send one, two or three people. It all depends on the nature and the items that are discussed. I agree the Dogribs are into their final agreement. They are going to be going hard for ten days at a time, two weeks at a time. I am going to be available whenever the sessions are. I am being briefed by the negotiators and if need be, I will be a standby. I may even be able to attend some of the sessions. That is my plan for the next while, while we finalize the Dogrib final agreement. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going along under the resources area, when the final agreement is approved, hopefully in August, we will have a group of people that will no longer be putting their full attention on the Dogrib land claims.

We will have some people freed up that can go to other claims. I am just thinking of the extra position you are trying to create. I know maybe the negotiators that are there now can take the whole workload for the next four months until the claim is done and then they can turn their attention to the other claims.

Once the claim is done and the final agreement is done, there is a model there that can be used for other claim and claimant groups and for the Government of the Northwest Territories. Maybe it is just a matter of a few words here and there being changed. The workload would be less for future negotiators we will have for the team of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

If we know we all want the claims to go ahead and if our people could just maybe carry the workload a few more months, we will have a lot of resources freed up to put our attention in different areas. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you. The honourable Member mentioned the final agreement will be concluded by August. It is unknown. There is no guarantee the final agreement will be done by August.

I talked to one of the negotiators, Ted Blondin, recently and we are not anticipating any problems. However, you have to be flexible. I would not put that kind of a timeline on it. It may even be in the fall. What do we do if the Akaitcho Territory is ready to go and we tell them you have to wait until the Dogrib claim is finished before we move ahead?

That is when we are really going to be accused of dragging our heels and dragging this thing out. I know the honourable Member's intentions are good. However, it would be very difficult to take that position. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. I have Mr. Braden on my list.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In looking at some of the numbers outlined for the budgets and comparing what the department required last year from the main estimates, and what the target is for this year, I see that they are looking for an increase from \$3.7 million from the main estimates last year to a preliminary target of \$4.6 million. That is about a \$900,000 difference.

I can see this reflected in the job the department is doing and is mandated to do. One way I can measure this, is that we are going from five negotiating tables to seven in the coming fiscal year. The workload is increasing and therefore the resources have to increase as well. I am okay with that.

I would reflect on something that my colleague, Mr. Lafferty, talked about, which was the idea that as we go through the

various negotiations, what are we learning? And with how much more we find, can we streamline the process?

I do not get too much of a sense here that the department is able to apply what it has learned in other processes to upcoming processes. We really almost seem to have to re-invent the wheel each time a new claims process comes to the table.

Another aspect of the escalating cost here is not only that Aboriginal Affairs is seeking new dollars, but in the Executive, there is growth in the area they want to create called regional community relations, which has as one of its major initiatives, looking at transition as land claims and self-government institutions are established.

Also, under the Executive is the start up of the intergovernmental forum. I know there is not a direct relationship with claims negotiations, but there is a lot of similarity between the people and the agendas involved in the long-term goals.

We also know the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and Justice have very specific roles in here. Bear with me, I will get to a question in a moment. I see five different departments very closely involved in essentially aboriginal agendas.

My question is, does the Minister see in the reasonably near future that some of these can be merged? That there may be some efficiencies and economies in bringing what now seems to be some fairly widespread camps into some kind of amalgamation? Maybe use that as a way of curbing some of the growth in this very expensive and fast growing sector of our cost? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** The Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to try and get efficiency, to streamline and look at the different government initiatives that are similar, especially to address the aboriginal relationship issue, there are different fronts there. We, as a government, know this territory with Aboriginal Affairs. We are specifically involved in land claims and self-government negotiations and the implementation of it, especially the land claims that have been signed. We do that function as Aboriginal Affairs.

There are other initiatives. For example, the continuing dialogue with different aboriginal governments. As the Government of the Northwest Territories to the different aboriginal governments, it is outside the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. There is the intergovernmental forum. That is there. That is outside the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. However, it is more of a government to government type of arrangement. As a result, it is with the Executive because of the intergovernmental nature of the relationship.

That forum is a very important process we are working towards. Hopefully it happens in the next two or three months.

There is in the area of community regional development, which is within the Executive, a need, from my view on that and how it relates to Aboriginal Affairs. It is at the community level in the different regions where land claims and self-government arrangements are being negotiated. Once these are concluded,

there is going to be a new relationship out there between the municipal governments and the aboriginal governments. We need to start focusing on it and seeing how this is going to be handled in the future.

There is a need for that. I think basically the community-regional sectors for better communications between our different departments at the regional level and in the communities.

There is the relationship with the aboriginal and community governments that are out in the communities as well. To amalgamate it into one, we really have to take a good close look at how that could be done. We probably have to do some sort of a functional type of review in order to do that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not suggesting an amalgamation of these five departments into one is practical. Maybe there are some overlaps where, over time, we could see some efficiencies here. The point I wanted to make is to ask the Minister to be alert for opportunities where there could be increased efficiencies and streamlining things by avoiding the creation of new pockets.

I would still reflect on what my rough math suggests here. This coming fiscal year, Mr. Chairman, the government, between departments, is looking for \$1.3 million to put into new aboriginal agendas. I fully appreciate that we are in some new situations and some new context here. Along with my colleagues, I am looking at priorities that are on our plate with other areas as well. I would want to keep the departments focused on looking within and trying to achieve more efficiencies and affordability for these otherwise very necessary agendas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you. I take the honourable Member's advice, more or less saying to keep my eyes open to seek out whatever efficiencies we could find as we go along in this process. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments or questions for the Minister. Detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are on page 4, interim appropriation 2000-2001, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, subtotal operations and maintenance, \$1,480,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Moving to page 7, Executive, total Executive capital for Aboriginal Affairs, \$75,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** With that I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to proceed back to the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, knowing we have very little time left on the clock for the day. There were a couple of points we wanted put on the record for the department and the Minister. The points are in the area of more information being provided to the committee and those are in the area of capital projects, as well as sole-source contracts. We are requiring more information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree that we continue with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Minister, would you like to bring in your witnesses?

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Chairman, there is no need to call witnesses. The intent was just to provide a request to provide certain specific information, which the committee chairman would elaborate on. Is that my understanding? So I will just remain in my seat. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does the committee agree that the Minister remains in his seat and take the question that was asked by Mr. Roland?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had stated earlier, due to the time constraints we were faced in review of the interim appropriation, we had requested from the department more information to be brought to the committee that would help in reducing the amount of time it would potentially spend in questions. The Minister and department agreed at the request of the committee to provide further detail concerning funding discrepancies for its capital projects to the committee.

We were hoping to receive those before we come back and deal with this. We were hoping to be provided with that information. Due to the time constraints, we wanted to receive more information on sole-source contracts. We did not have time to address this specifically with the Minister and his staff, but it was an issue that came up as we were wrapping up. I would like to request that information for us when we get back together for Session next week. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we can, we will meet the requests of the chairman, thank you.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is non-debatable. To the motion.

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. We will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of the committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001 and Committee Reports 3 and 4 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent, has seconded the motion. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

#### ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, meetings for Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and at 11:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Orders of the day for Monday, March 27, 2000:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
  - Motion 12-14(2), Support for Pension Entitlements Due Former Giant Mine Workers
  - Motion 13-14(2), Setting of Sitting Hours by the Speaker

## 17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1999-2000

## 18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Minister's Statement 1-14(2), Sessional Statement
- Tabled Document 14-14(2), Our Communities, Our Decisions: Let's Get on With It! Final Report of the Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services
- Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act
- Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act
- Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001
- Committee Report 2-14(2), Accountability and Oversight on the 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation
- Committee Report 3-14(2), Governance and Economic Development on the 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation
- Committee Report 4-14(2), Social Programs on the 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation

## 20. Report of Committee of the Whole

## 21. Third Reading of Bills

## 22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned to Monday, March 27, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

