



# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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## HANSARD

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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>425</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>425</b>
Minister's Statement 26-14(2): Position Reports (Handley).....	425
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>425</b>
Member's Statement on Non-renewable Resources Sector (Roland) .....	425
Member's Statement on Community Energy Planning (Miltenberger) .....	425
Member's Statement on Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Braden) .....	426
Member's Statement on Resource Development Infrastructure and Training Opportunities (Krutko).....	426
Member's Statement on Consultation on Timber Permits (McLeod).....	427
Member's Statement on Regulatory Regime for Resource Development (Dent).....	427
Member's Statement on Community Spirit Demonstrated by Yellowknife Residents (Lee) .....	428
Member's Statement on Budget Resources for the North Slave Region (Lafferty).....	428
Member's Statement on Caribou Carnival Festivities (Bell).....	428
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>428</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>429</b>
<b>RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>441</b>
<b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>441</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>442</b>
<b>FIRST READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>442</b>
<b>SECOND READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>442</b>
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>442</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>456</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>456</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2000****MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

-- Prayer

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Good afternoon everyone, bonjour. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 26-14(2): Position Reports**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to make a statement on the position reports. Mr. Speaker, last week the Member for Thebacha tabled several summaries showing the change in reported headquarter positions and non-headquarter positions between April 1997 and December 1999.

These position summaries were extracted from two position reports provided by the former and current governments. From this information, the Member suggested that the former government had reduced more positions outside of headquarters than in headquarters itself. We have now had the opportunity to review the comparisons made.

Mr. Speaker, based on the analysis and explanations I have been provided, I do not believe there has been a disproportionate reduction in positions in headquarters versus non-headquarters. There are some corrections that need to be made to the summary Mr. Miltenberger tabled. There also needs to be adjustments to the two position reports used in the tabled document to allow for meaningful comparisons. But more importantly, it is the interpretation that must be corrected.

Most of the non-headquarter position changes were not due to cuts or funding reductions, but were due to position transfers, privatization, and other factors. One example is education boards and Aurora College, which control their own position levels and where our position reports show a 134 position decline between 1997 and 1999.

When we examine our formula funding levels to these agencies, we see that we have not reduced the levels of positions we fund since 1997. Clearly, the explanation for these position changes must lie elsewhere than in the funding levels. Mr. Speaker, reviewing all of the corrections and explanations would take too long for this forum. However, I have had a summary prepared that I will table later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS****Member's Statement on Non-renewable Resources Sector**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been discussed a number of times during the interim appropriation as well as in previous Assemblies about the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, where right now there is the potential for the Northwest Territories to see a large development occurring. The concern is that we do not have a known non-renewable resource policy as a government.

Mr. Speaker, the opportunities are there. We need to focus and make clear the role that we play as a government in the Northwest Territories when it comes to private sector development. Right now, in the Northwest Territories, between Ottawa, this government, and aboriginal land claim groups, for a private sector outfit to come to the North and try to do some development, they will have a difficult time in finding out all the processes.

For example, I believe within the next day or so, a new act will come into force that will change the map of regulatory reform and the process that is used. Mr. Speaker, as a government, I think we need to focus on making our role in the non-renewable resources sector clearer.

Later, I will be questioning the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in the area of this non-renewable resource sector. What are we going to do as a government to try and make the way clear for not only this government but for other governments, as well as the private sector, so we know where we are standing. If we want development, we will have to be proactive and work with the aboriginal governments as well as Ottawa and the private sector businesses. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will have the questions for the appropriate Minister later. Thank you.

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

**Member's Statement on Community Energy Planning**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, within the broad framework of the non-renewable resource strategy for the Government of the Northwest Territories, I would like to raise the issue of the need for a territorial energy strategy once again.

As we know, with international conferences, interest tends to peek at the conference, and then drift away. Mr. Speaker, this is not the case with the Kyoto Accord and conference. The issue of greenhouse gases and the need to reduce the emissions of these gases continues to be raised around the world and across the country.

Mr. Speaker, the 1990s was the warmest decade in recorded history. I think we just have to look around our own environment to see that, with the ice road closing in March. To me, that is a very early indication of how important this issue is. The Northwest Territories is a major contributor to the greenhouse gas problem on a per-capita basis. It is a key part of the need for a broad, comprehensive territorial energy strategy.

While I have not talked about it in the past, Mr. Speaker, I would like to touch on this briefly today. That is the role municipalities can play in this strategy. According to the Pembina Institute, municipalities control, either directly or indirectly, more than half of all the emissions released in Canada of greenhouse gases. Direct control comes from municipal buildings and operations, such as the provision of water and waste management. In our case, Mr. Speaker, this is all of our diesel, power plants and the provision of electrical services at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, many communities and municipalities across Canada are already exploring what they can do in this area, through improving building design, shifting to cleaner, renewable energy sources, improving efficiencies in transportation and making good decisions about land use.

Mr. Speaker, many municipalities have joined Partners for Climate Protection, a program sponsored by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. As part of the territorial government's comprehensive energy strategy, they should be encouraging all municipalities to develop community energy plans of their own. The energy strategy should have the municipalities, along with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, as key partners in the design and implementation of the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

#### **Member's Statement on Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to reinforce the remarks of Mr. Miltenberger. I was pleased to hear remarks by the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation on Tuesday regarding the national recognition the Northwest Territories Power Corporation has received for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is an excellent example of what can be done.

I am particularly interested in how we will be able to expand on this good work. Our own greenhouse gas emissions in the Northwest Territories are about 0.2 percent of Canada's, but on a per-capita basis, we are one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gases in the industrial world.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we have a fine spring day. But a check with the weather office shows that our minimum daily temperatures for this week are about ten degrees above normal.

From 1988 to 1998, Great Slave Lake is breaking up an average of three weeks earlier and freezing later in the year. As well, the late opening of the Mackenzie ice bridge is one of the most evident indicators of what is going on in our environment.

Whatever the cause, we will encounter enormous positive and negative effects in the upcoming decade in our northern environment and way of life. The impact on our economy and how we develop our non-renewable resources in our own interests and for the world is something that we are compelled to pay very close attention to.

Mr. Speaker, on a related issue, the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy is an independent agency of the federal government. They are providing decision makers and opinion leaders with reliable information and objective views on the current state of the environment and the economy.

Today, in Yellowknife, the aboriginal communities and non-renewable resource development issue is having a workshop, which is being co-chaired by Cindy Kenny Gilday, well known for her work in the Northwest Territories, especially with the people of Deline. I am pleased to hear they have chosen to meet in Yellowknife. I wish them well in their deliberations.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have to develop a co-ordinated energy and environmental strategy in conjunction with stakeholders, which recognizes our obligation to the reduction of greenhouse gases. These are complex issues and I intend to seek more information on how our government will be demonstrating leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement on Resource Development Infrastructure and Training Opportunities**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government and Legislature, we play a key role in economic development. We play a key role in ensuring that when development happens, we are prepared, we have the people trained and the resources in place to develop the infrastructure needed for development.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to my riding, the Mackenzie Delta, we have the potential of being one of the best oil and gas suppliers, not only to the North American market, but possibly to Asia and other places in the world.

Mr. Speaker, in order for us to do that, we have to ensure we play our part in getting the returns we should be getting. Specifically, ensuring people are employed and ensuring the resources that come from these developments stay here in the North. We need to develop that industry so it is there for the long-term, not just the short-term.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that this government continue to develop the infrastructure in our communities and our regions, especially the college programs we are going to need to ensure our people are qualified in the areas these developments will be demanding, such as engineering, biology, and chemistry.

We have to make sure that those people who are trained are able to expand their knowledge and move up, so they not only work within the industry, but have a say in how the industry is being controlled, managed and developed and sustained here in the North. Also so we can depend on the industry to sustain ourselves.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we, as a government, reach out to industry and see what they need, by way of developing needed infrastructure. We talk about a highway strategy. We talk about improving the airports. We talk about improving the infrastructure in our communities, but what do we do when a major development is on our doorstep, and we need 30 or 40 houses? Is this government ready to take that on? If we are not, I think we should prepare ourselves for a better scenario, because there may be a time where these developments will take place in the Beaufort Delta. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement on Consultation on Timber Permits**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in the House to talk about the definition of consultation. In my office I have a file on timber permits and land use applications relating to logging within the boundaries of the settlement of Enterprise. In this file are letters from the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, its Minister and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, stating that adequate consultation on the timber permit took place with the settlement of Enterprise. Also in this file are letters from the settlement of Enterprise stating that no such consultation took place.

Mr. Speaker, as the MLA representing the settlement of Enterprise I have no alternative but to take their concerns seriously and act upon them. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the department and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board acted within a narrow definition of the word consultation.

The Forest Management Division of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development referred the timber application to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board under Section 125(1)(b) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act citing that they had identified potential public concern over the development.

The settlement of Enterprise was told that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board would be holding public hearings in September of 1999. In late August, Mr. Speaker, the settlement of Enterprise was informed that a decision had already been made. The settlement had no opportunity to comment directly to the Impact Review Board. The department informed the board of the concerns of the settlement.

I looked in the Hay River Hub and I did find notices from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board that the matter was referred to them and that they would be visiting the site of the proposed timber cutting. The notices I saw did not call for public submissions on the proposed timber cutting development. The notices did not ask for interested parties that wanted to participate in the site visit. All the notices said was that if you wanted more information, you could phone the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in Yellowknife. This is consultation? Notices in a newspaper?

Mr. Speaker, the concerns of the settlement of Enterprise, the West Point Dene Band and the Hay River Reserve were dismissed by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact

Review Board because it would not be fair or reasonable to delay the development while a timber inventory or policy was developed. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier and the department are off the hook on this one. The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is available as a convenient scapegoat. There is probably little that can be done to stop the timber cutting permit within the settlement of Enterprise. The operator has his permits and the work is underway. I would suggest however, that all parties involved examine what consultation means and how it can be achieved, so that we can avoid this situation in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Regulatory Regime for Resource Development**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have heard much about the potential that we have in non-renewable resources in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Handley and Mr. Kakwi have told this House about Mr. Martin and Mr. Chretien also being excited about the potential for the Northwest Territories to become a "have" Territory.

This potential and excitement is something that I share. However, Mr. Speaker, even with the rise in the prices of oil and gas, it is far from certain that the Northwest Territories will achieve that potential. As one mine has found out recently, the environmental and regulatory review process can be a lengthy and complex process which can delay the opening of a new mine.

Mr. Speaker, developers must deal not only with regulatory agencies being set up as a result of self-government, but also with territorial expectations and federal regulatory regimes. The lack of a one-window approach to environmental and developmental regulations in the Northwest Territories presents a significant deterrent to investors.

Mr. Speaker, potential investors may choose to invest elsewhere, where the regulatory demands are more clear or less redundant, in spite of our unmatched potential. I think the ultimate best result, in this situation, Mr. Speaker, is one where Northerners own the resources and share the control and the ownership. I think we will make the right decisions. Mr. Speaker, it is important to protect the environment, but I would argue that a coordinated approach for developers would also allow us to ensure that the environment was better protected.

I urge this government, as part of a non-renewable resource development policy and strategy, to take the lead at working to facilitate a one-window approach. With that, Mr. Speaker, we can ensure that we do achieve our potential in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

**Member's Statement on Community Spirit Demonstrated by Yellowknife Residents**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak on a topic a little different from what has been heard here. I have not had a chance to do this, but I want to recognize and show appreciation for the generosity and community spirit shown by the people of Yellowknife following the house fire which resulted in the loss of a great deal for a young family in town.

Mr. Speaker, we are blessed in the North and in Yellowknife to live among friends and neighbours who do not hesitate to come to the aid of people in need. This is only the latest example of a very strong community spirit shown over and over again in Yellowknife.

Another example I can think of, Mr. Speaker, is the efforts by the Literacy Council, which raised \$35,000 yesterday through the Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament.

Mr. Speaker, for the young family, I know that they have gained a lot of strength from the overwhelming support shown by Yellowknife residents, businesses and service clubs. On behalf of all of the Members here, and all Yellowknifers, I would like to especially thank the Elks and Lions Clubs for coming into action, the business of Northwest Transport, as well as all of the other people who have donated goods and cash so that this family can move on from this tragedy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

**Member's Statement on Budget Resources for the North Slave Region**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the past three months that I have spent as an MLA, I have become very concerned about the lack of recognition for the North Slave region in the budget. Money is allocated for the North Slave region and yet that money ends up being spent on items outside of my area.

For example, Fred Henne Park improvements and Ingraham Trail signs are paid for from the North Slave budget. In the actual North Slave region, which is Rae, Rae Lakes, Wha Ti and Snare Lakes, it seems as though there is no funding for parks or anything of the sort. As well, when money is allocated for highways, my region is grouped in with Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the Members know, the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council are negotiating the final agreement right now. We will have our own government and land claim area.

I urge the government to recognize this and to reflect the status of the North Slave region in the June budget and future business plans by excluding Yellowknife from the North Slave area. As well, there is no need to include the North Slave in with the Fort Smith region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**Member's Statement on Caribou Carnival Festivities**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yellowknife's annual winter Caribou Carnival kicks off tomorrow at noon. Our city mayor has declared tomorrow afternoon a civic holiday so residents can come down to the carnival grounds on Frame Lake and enjoy the various events. This year's carnival will boast a number of events, including the 2000 Canadian Dog Derby Contest, set to start tomorrow at noon. Also scheduled to draw considerable attention is the Celebrity Trappers Festival Contest.

Various individuals have been invited to participate in this challenge including heads of corporations, local governments, and Members of this Assembly. As one of the MLAs representing Yellowknife who will be participating in this Celebrity Trappers Festival Contest, I am taking this opportunity to challenge other MLAs from outside Yellowknife in this competition. This special contest includes events such as rat skinning, log throwing, and pancake flipping. Recognizing these events require special skill, I hope my fellow Members from outside our city will prove themselves worthy to such a challenge.

Knowing the compassion of my fellow Yellowknife MLAs, I am sure we can provide a moderate head start so as to not show up other Members of this Assembly willing to take up the challenge.

On Sunday afternoon, the Yellowknife Members will be sponsoring free hotdogs, marshmallows and hot chocolate during a family bonfire scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m. at the carnival grounds. I invite all Members of this Assembly and the public to show their support and community interest and join Yellowknife in the various carnival events which should prove to be an enjoyment for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, indeed, Mr. Bell. It sounds like a fun time for everyone. Unfortunately, we do sit tomorrow. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

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

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I recognize a very special person in the gallery today. He is a great friend of the North, and one who takes a great deal of time, effort, and diligence to write about the North, to speak about the North, and to spend time among us. He is an individual who contributes a great deal to our northern society. He is the founder of an organization that contributes greatly to our literacy here in the Northwest Territories.

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome Mr. Peter Gzowski to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GRONEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today, because I do not know if I will get a chance tomorrow, to recognize Ms. Pat Thomas, who is the president of the Northwest Territories Teachers Association. Some of you may not know that Pat will be retiring from this position soon, and she has been a very faithful attendee in our visitors' gallery. We will certainly miss her when she is gone. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a resident from the Deh Cho, Mr. Julian Andrew from Kakisa, the owner and operator of Kakisa Contracting, band councilor and also the chair of the Deh Cho Health Board.

-- Applause

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since Ms. Pat Thomas may not be with us, as she is retiring, I think we should preserve that seat that she has been sitting in for the last seven years, and put a statue of Ms. Thomas there.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We will see if we can get a picture of her and place it in that. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly, all of the visitors, Mr. Gzowski, and Ms. Thomas. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

## ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

### Question 160-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, non-renewable resources provide the greatest opportunities to create new jobs and increased business opportunities, a stronger small business sector, a larger economic base, increased own-source revenues and increased economic self-sufficiency.

By taking advantage of these opportunities, we do not have to sacrifice the environment, our cultures or traditional lifestyles. Through responsible resource development, using modern technologies, effective regulatory mechanisms, and impact and benefit agreements with communities and aboriginal organizations, mineral development will provide a significant net benefit to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister where is the government's policy on non-renewable resource development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Honourable Mr. Kakfwi.

### Return to Question 160-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories has no jurisdiction in the non-renewable resource sector. It is still under the control and management of the federal government. To that extent, we have no legal means by which to enforce or impose policies. It has not been the practice of the past governments to develop policies where they have virtually no jurisdiction. Thank you.

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

### Supplementary to Question 160-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the statements I made earlier were originally made, word for word, by the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in the committee of the whole on May 14, 1996. Can the Minister summarize for me, I guess there has not been any progress, but has there been any work in trying to develop what we have under our authority in the Northwest Territories, under a non-renewable resource development policy. Thank you.

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

### Further Return to Question 160-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I think we have made some progress. The federal Minister, Mr. Robert Nault was here recently, publicly committing to moving the devolution file as expediently as possible, as well as the commitment to negotiate an agreement on revenue-sharing as expediently as possible. That is a commitment that we have long awaited. We are working now to set up an intergovernmental forum with the aboriginal governments, this government and the federal government as early as May so we can set an agenda that hopefully will include devolution and revenue-sharing, amongst other things.

We have developed an initiative that is near completion. It is an economic strategy for the Northwest Territories that is being drafted as we speak. This economic strategy will be released in the next month or so. It will speak to the things that we must consider, and that we have to take into account in moving our economic development along. We have been working for a number of years now, courting the interests of the oil and gas companies in the North. Not having jurisdiction in the area, but suggesting that there is merit in looking at renewing exploration activities in the Beaufort and Mackenzie Delta, the Sahtu and the Deh Cho.

We know full well that the aboriginal groups have been imposing a moratorium on oil and gas development in most of the Mackenzie Valley for the last 20 years. In spite of that, we have seen renewed activities in the Mackenzie Valley. We

have helped to encourage the federal government to respect that and release lands for oil and gas companies to bid on. We have worked on the development of a policy on developing value-added industry with diamonds in the Northwest Territories.

So there has been some work done. We developed the Protected Areas Strategy, over a year ago, that speaks to setting aside and recognizing the lands and areas that aboriginal people in communities here in the North want to protect. These have been outlined, and are going to be implemented before major development starts to proceed here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 160-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister, in his address to the committee of the whole, emphasized the importance of reaching impact and benefit agreements with communities and aboriginal organizations. Further, there are regions that are still in land negotiations, but yet the government continues to issue permits in certain areas, sometimes against the wishes of those communities.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me how many impact and benefit agreements have been signed between this government, communities and aboriginal organizations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 160-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Member is talking about the most recent process engaged in by aboriginal groups and this government then he would be referring to the application of Diavik, to begin construction of the mine. If that is what the Member is talking about, I believe some of the benefit agreements, I think there are two of them, have been signed off to date, with two or three yet to go. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 160-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was how many agreements overall has this government signed between aboriginal governments, this government, and other land claim organizations. How many have we done in total?

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

**Further Return to Question 160-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member wants some details that I am unable to provide at this time, so I will provide the details to the Member in writing. Thank you.

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

**Question 161-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On many occasions, Mr. Speaker, this government and previous governments have recognized the importance of the non-renewable resource sector, which includes gold, base metals, diamonds and oil and gas. This sector, Mr. Speaker, represents a significant component of our economic portfolio. It also represents real opportunities for increased royalty and tax revenues. The potential for further development in non-renewable resources is enormous, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Minister explain to me why there is not a specific policy in place to address non-renewable resource development other than its brief mention in the Sustainable Development Policy? Even if we do not have the jurisdiction, Mr. Speaker, this government and the people of the North want that jurisdiction. We should have something in place so that if we do get it we will know exactly what it will look like. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 161-14(2): Non-renewable Resource Policy**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government, along with the Government of the Northwest Territories and aboriginal governments, I hope, will agree very shortly on an agenda that will be advanced through the intergovernmental forum. In the intergovernmental forum, I believe, work will be undertaken under the direction of the three governments for officials to start looking at the implications of devolution, revenue-sharing, and the benefits those bring.

We look towards that forum to initiate the work necessary, and the agreement and understanding necessary so that, as a government, we may begin, without prejudicing claims negotiations and self-government agreements, the idea of developing policies that will govern our approach to non-renewable resource development in the future, once devolution is completed. Thank you.

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

**Question 162-14(2): Resource Development Regulatory Regime**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development as well. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my statement, the Northwest Territories is one of Canada's wealthiest jurisdictions in terms of mineral potential. Unfortunately, access to these mineral reserves is hampered,

not only by a lack of transportation infrastructure, but also by the numerous regulatory regimes.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm that the overlapping regulatory regimes in the Northwest Territories currently present a deterrent to non-renewable resource development?

**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 162-14(2): Resource Development Regulatory Regime**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regulatory regime in the Northwest Territories has largely been designed by the federal government. It is our duty as citizens to make the best of the regulatory regimes that we have available to us in order to regulate development, and development applications. It is our wish that our regulatory regimes in the future come under territorial jurisdiction as much as possible. We need to advance this in partnership with the aboriginal governments.

It is my view that we can achieve this and work towards a regulatory regime that would be simple, efficient, yet tough enough to assure everyone that the rules are clear and the costs for development in the North are clear, and upfront. This will be done in the future, in partnership with aboriginal governments, the federal government, and industry. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 162-14(2): Resource Development Regulatory Regime**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister is absolutely right when he says that we need to work to move the ownership and control to the North, and I am encouraged by the continuation of that process. That could take some time, Mr. Speaker.

In the meantime, knowing that we have these overlapping jurisdictions, could the Minister describe for me what initiatives his department has taken, or is prepared to take, to try and bring some coordination to the approach, so the developers get a better understanding of what the hoops are, the different steps are, that they have to go through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**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 162-14(2): Resource Development Regulatory Regime**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Knowing the concern that the MLAs have expressed recently about this government taking on new initiatives, adding additional staff in Yellowknife, so as to take on additional work and responsibilities, I have no inclination whatsoever to take on work that we do not necessarily have to do, that would have no achievable short-term returns.

The intent of this government is to develop a relationship and rapport with the federal government so we can advance our agenda. Our agenda is to work with the aboriginal governments and the federal government to reach agreement on devolution within a fixed timeframe, as soon as possible over the next few years.

On the item of revenue-sharing, we have to take a positive position in support of the pipeline proposal. The Inuvialuit, the Metis, the Dene have unanimously proposed to build a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley. This Legislature has unanimously voted to support that proposal. Those are the things that we want to get done.

Expending resources and energy trying to explain a present regulatory regime and its alleged overlapping boundaries is not something I see a significant return on in the short term. At this time, there are no resources available to me to work on that, but I appreciate the suggestion. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 162-14(2): Resource Development Regulatory Regime**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think you will find any argument from Members of this House that this government needs to work very closely with federal government and the aboriginal governments in order to achieve a consensus on moving control and ownership of resources to the North.

But I think this government needs to take some positive action in terms of developing a policy we can look to in the long term. I do not think that because some Members have been critical of government action in certain areas that there is no support for the government to take action in other areas where we see the long-term potential being great. I think this is one of those areas.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think this government should wait for the inter-governmental forum to start developing a policy for non-renewable resources. I would like to ask the Minister if he would commit to undertaking that sort of policy development, some initial work so we are prepared in the future to take over the ownership as Northerners? I do not mean this government taking over, but for our part in the ownership and control of those resources.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. I would just like to remind Members that when they get into the supplementaries, they should get directly to the question. The question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Further Return to Question 162-14(2): Resource Development Regulatory Regime**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is necessary for me to know if this suggestion is coming from all Members or just from Mr. Dent. I would certainly appreciate knowing the broad support with which this suggestion is being made. In fact, if there is unanimous support for Mr. Dent to suggest this initiative, then perhaps a motion from the Members to direct us to look at this would be the proper way to go. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 162-14(2): Resource Development Regulatory Regime**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would hope the government would hear my questions, my comments and those of others and take the leadership position that is necessary.

The Minister had asked about motions. In this House, we had a motion that he talked about, which was a motion of support for the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. I would like to point out, Mr. Minister, that motion was not unanimously approved. There were abstentions in this House, but there were no abstentions on this side of the House.

-- Interjection

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order. Order, please. Mr. Dent, would you get right to the question please? Thank you.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of that motion, in light of the comments of Members in this House, will the government take the lead in starting some work to develop a non-renewable resource policy? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 162-14(2): Resource Development Regulatory Regime**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has made a commitment to work with all Members of this House as closely as possible. We would not initiate and take on new work until after we have finalized the agenda and priorities of this Legislature.

We have looked for support for the agenda and the way in which we have been advancing the parameters of the direction in the ten weeks we have been in office. It is our hope that if we are going to unilaterally start developing a policy to govern us on how we approach non-renewable resources, we should take the time to discuss this with the aboriginal governments.

We have, as I have said, no jurisdiction in the non-renewable resource sector. It is only because the aboriginal leaders have said they want to own and manage a pipeline that this government has had the confidence to move a motion in support of it.

The policy on how we will develop our oil and gas and other minerals requires the express consent and support from as many of the aboriginal governments and their leaders as possible. I look forward to making sure that it is clear exactly what it is that Mr. Dent is suggesting to us. We will look for the support that we will require in the inter-governmental forum, which I hope meets as early as the beginning of May, to give us the assurance and the confidence we need to perceive in the direction he is suggesting. Thank you.

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

**Question 163-14(2): Stakeholder Consultation on Non-renewable Resource Policy Development**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. As a government, we have been talking about the need to raise territorial dollars through getting control of our northern resources and by opening the door to non-renewable resource development. Examples of this include encouraging oil and gas development and diamond mining.

While a growing interest in non-renewable resources development, we have also talked about the need to develop a policy around this issue. Recently, the government established an Inter-governmental Forum Secretariat. This office is meant to provide a base for the Government of the Northwest Territories, Canada, and aboriginal groups to reach agreement on issues of common concern, in this case, a non-renewable resources policy.

Further input by aboriginal groups, regions, communities, mining interests, environmental groups, and other residents is necessary to complete the stakeholder consultation process. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister assure me that any development of a non-renewable resource policy will involve and integrate not only land claim concerns, but also the general perspective of all stakeholders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 163-14(2): Stakeholder Consultation on Non-renewable Resource Policy Development**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for the question. It is the intent of this government to consult the public as much as possible in the pursuit of the agenda, to assume control and management of northern resources in partnership with aboriginal governments.

Because we are a public government responsible to the public, we have an obligation to do that. We have a keen interest in making sure the development in the non-renewable sector provides a maximum benefit to our communities and our aboriginal people.

We have, in the absence of a policy, been working in partnership for a number of years now with aboriginal governments, aboriginal companies, and northern companies to take advantage of the development of resources, such as diamond mines. More recently in the Deh Cho and the Sahtu area with oil and gas exploration.

We have worked together with industry, with the federal government to develop monitoring programs. We have negotiated impact benefit agreements. We have set up partnerships through businesses, taking industry dollars along with federal and territorial dollars to set up joint initiatives like the West Kitikmeot Slave study, community mobilization, and working on the agreements like a socio-economical agreement that was concluded with BHP. We have set up advisory boards. There are a number of tools and instruments that have already been created because we have engaged aboriginal governments, aboriginal companies, along with industry in a partnership approach to non-renewable resource development.

on a project-by-project basis. Much work has already been done.

In this area, we still recognize that the Dogribs have yet to complete their land claim and self-government negotiations. We are working to support that and expedite that as best we can. The Akaitcho and Yellowknives, the Metis, The South Slave Tribal Council are also pursuing recognition and implementation of their rights agreements. We need to take those into account as we proceed in our work. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier Kakfwi. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 164-14(2): Consultation on Timber Permits**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My comments are to the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. On many occasions, Mr. Speaker, the government has granted land use permits, including timber-cutting permits, without adequate consultation with the local communities and stakeholders.

For example, recently in the settlement of Enterprise, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development identified areas in their timber application that may be of concern to the public. These concerns were listed in the application to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review board as required. The board in turn informed the community of Enterprise that it would hold public hearings on the matter in September of 1999. But in August of 1999, the community was informed that the decision had already been made. As a result, the community did not have a chance to have their concerns heard.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure the views and concerns of the residents of the Northwest Territories are incorporated in the decision-making process that may affect their well-being. For Enterprise to be left out of the decision making process that deals directly with their community is unforgivable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister where is the accountability that this government is so proud of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 164-14(2): Consultation on Timber Permits**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they were not properly consulted, then we should apologize to the community of Enterprise.

On the point of accountability, I have offered to present myself to the community of Enterprise and provide full accountability. We will do that in the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 164-14(2): Consultation on Timber Permits**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Consultation with the stakeholders has to be a required component of the final approval process for significant government initiatives.

There have been occasions where the government has granted land-use permits in areas where the negotiation process is still going on. Mr. Speaker, how do the government's development policies ensure that the interest of other stakeholders, especially communities and aboriginal groups, are respected and protected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 164-14(2): Consultation on Timber Permits**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some cases, there are existing businesses which have been set-up and established, expecting to get annual allocations of timber in order for their businesses to continue. We have always respected that. We have worked as best we can with communities to try to develop management plans so that annual allocations that are sustainable could be identified, so we can manage those resources the best we can.

In some instances, because licenses have been issued and in existence for a number of years, and it is our duty as governments to respect that. In fact, there are existing licenses out there that compel us to move in a way that complies with the needs those licenses create. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 164-14(2): Consultation on Timber Permits**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development tell me how much time is usually given for communities, aboriginal groups, and other stakeholders to consider initiatives brought forth by his department? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Further Return to Question 164-14(2): Consultation on Timber Permits**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know exactly the number of days that are set out as legal obligations. It is my view that our resources in the North, renewable or non-renewable, require a plan on the part of people in the communities and regions. If there is a plan, we do not have to consult continuously on things that go on from year to year. We need to have a management plan in place, so that people can be reassured that they know exactly what goes on in their areas, in their communities, from year to year without any surprises. In the absence of a plan, it becomes difficult for governments to operate and assure people that resources and

development are being managed in a clear, consistent way. Thank you.

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

**Question 165-14(2): Transportation Infrastructure in the Slave Geological Region**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today, also goes to the Minister responsible for Resources Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, I think that when we look at our economic picture and our potential for economic development, it is so frustrating that we do not have control over all leverages that are necessary to build our economy. I refer specifically to the mineral resource potential in the Great Slave area. I would think that in any other jurisdiction, like Alberta, for example, where one is looking at economic potential that we are looking at in diamond mines, with billions of dollars of revenue potential, we should be able to find some money in government, to put towards social and economic infrastructure, such as setting up a training program or building the roads, or even building the bridge in this global warming condition that we are facing, and yet we have a very lopsided economic picture in the North.

We have no money to put this infrastructure in place. The companies are willing to come and invest and extract the resources and the money goes to the federal government. I think this lopsided picture is very clear. My question is, I do know that the Premier has engaged in explaining this situation to the federal government, and I would like to confirm if this is the kind of discussion he had with the Minister, and what his future plans are in making it more clear to them and meeting with them again and about coming up with a focused training program or world project program or some kind of program that links to the economic potential that we have here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 165-14(2): Transportation Infrastructure in the Slave Geological Region**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aside from the need for policy, which I think we can arrive at in the future in partnership with aboriginal governments, we also need the support of the Government of Canada. Our government worked very hard in the last month and a half to get the federal government to notice and pay attention to this emerging, beautiful vision that we started talking about. I must say that we are happy to say again, that we have captured the attention and the interest of the Prime Minister and he has no difficulty in talking enthusiastically about the same type of vision that we have laid out here.

The Finance Minister, Paul Martin, was also, putting it mildly, captivated by the vision we spoke of in our first meeting with him. Mr. Nault is dealing with us in the same way, very eager to move on discussions on devolution and revenue sharing, setting up the inter-governmental forum, trying to move the northern agenda along. Do something real, is the language that he uses.

We have arranged a meeting with the Prime Minister for next week. There is a commitment to meet on Tuesday, so we will have the opportunity to elaborate formally for the first time with the Prime Minister, what exactly it is that we seek, and what it is that we need in terms of support from the federal government in order to make this vision, this dream, a reality in very short order. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 165-14(2): Transportation Infrastructure in the Slave Geological Region**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I could ask a very specific question that I would like the Minister to tell Minister Martin. The latest figure I have seen in terms of the mineral development potential with the three diamond mines is about \$15 billion. I may be wrong on that and I realize that not all that money is going to go to the federal government, and surely we know that hardly any of that comes to the Territorial government directly, but the potential seems huge. Highway No. 3 will cost \$60 million to be reconstructed, and when you look at the big scheme of things, that is not such a big amount of money and yet, that is all of the capital budget we have in the interim budget this year that we have just passed.

I guess what I am saying is, \$60 million is 100 percent of the capital budget that we are going to approve in the interim and yet, that is so minuscule in comparison to the billions that are to be made in the diamond mines. I wonder if the Minister would go to the Minister responsible for Finance and say, "give us \$60 million, because you are going to make \$100 billion or something from the diamond mines." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 165-14(2): Transportation Infrastructure in the Slave Geological Region**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the first time in the history of Canada, we have suggested to the Prime Minister, Mr. Martin and Mr. Nault, that we will have a territory that can contribute more to Canada in terms of revenue and raising of taxes through resource development than it actually gets from Canada. We will become, with the development of the diamond mines and a natural gas pipeline, the first "have" territory in the history of Canada. The returns to Canada for what we see as short-term investment preparing us for pipeline construction through training, through infrastructure investment, through a range of other short-term dollar investments, the returns will be significant. I think this is what captures the interest of the federal government, certainly, the Prime Minister.

Many years ago, he came to the North as Minister of Northern Affairs and served in the portfolio for six years. He saw that many of our aboriginal people needed to establish offices, to set up programs of community development, to work on our education levels and create an opportunity for us to settle our claims, by setting up the comprehensive claims process and to create opportunities to negotiate self-government agreements. These were all done with a view that in the future, aboriginal people will have the confidence, the resources and the means by which to initiate partnerships and projects that would place

them as significant players and beneficiaries of resource development here in the Northwest Territories. Our Prime Minister sees that and wants to reap the benefits of the initial work he did, which started back in the early 70s. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 165-14(2): Transportation Infrastructure in the Slave Geological Region**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that we have the federal Ministers now paying attention to us, but when he is in a meeting with these Ministers, will the Premier tell him that we have this great mineral potential north of our capital, but this place is connected by a country road that has two different speed limits for the small cars and big trucks. We have trucking companies, we have transportation that lays down tonnes of mud to keep the road even and then the trucking companies have to come and wash it all off here. We have the road but it is not ready for this kind of development.

Will the Minister please tell them, if we are going to see the kind of potential that is possible, we need \$60 million to build that road.

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

**Further Return to Question 165-14(2): Transportation Infrastructure in the Slave Geological Region**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for the comment and question. It is my view that the important thing is to elaborate on the vision that we have as a government, as a northern people, as aboriginal people. Once we have captured the attention and developed a partnership with the federal government and aboriginal governments, then we can start developing the specific picture that the vision encompasses.

There would be perhaps a natural gas pipeline, a highway, equity in diamond mines, massive training programs, numerous business opportunities that would place aboriginal people, not on a margin but in a central significant portion of a northern economy in the very near future. I think once we have an agreement, when we see something that both governments appreciate and support, then we will start to work on the different parts of this vision that need to be supported, and how we will engage together to make this vision become a reality. Thank you.

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

**Question 166-14(2): Incorporation of an NWT Heritage Trust Fund**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is clear to us that we need a non-renewable resource policy. As we strive to get greater control of our tax and royalty revenues from extraction of our non-renewable resources, I am worried about fluctuating commodity prices. One suggestion is to set up a heritage trust for these revenues to ensure our programs and services are not way out in front of our revenues. Would the Minister

responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development consider approaching the federal government to discuss setting up such a heritage trust? Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 166-14(2): Incorporation of an NWT Heritage Trust Fund**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that as we reap the benefits of resource development, it is possible that we may not diversify and establish a diversified economy as quickly as we would like. We need to assure ourselves and the people that we serve that during lean times, during difficult times, there will be enough cushion or resources set aside to carry us through those times. The suggestion the Member makes is a very necessary one and one that we must look at. We certainly will do that as we initiate our work. Thank you.

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

**Question 167-14(2): Resource Development Environmental Concerns**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also addressed to the Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and in regard to the need for a non-renewable resource policy. Specifically I will ask some questions relating to the environmental component of that policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that while there is not a broad framework, the government has a number of separate components where they are trying to address the very many initiatives that are underway with diamond mines, oil and gas, timber permits and such. Very clearly, we need to bring those under a broad umbrella framework. We need to protect the environment, so we do not have another Pine Point or another Giant Mine. We have to be ready for when we take over these responsibilities.

My question to the Minister is, in the meantime, with the very many significant major developments underway on the horizon, how does he intend to ensure that the environment is protected for all Northerners? Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 167-14(2): Resource Development Environmental Concerns**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government has recently given an indication that the environment, increasingly, is starting to take on very high priority. There is a federal commitment, as a partner in protocol, to carry out an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is a very significant commitment. We also know that the Minister responsible for the Environment, Mr. Anderson, in the last year, has come to the North specifically to look at sites like Giant Mine with a very strong interest in looking at how the federal government might be able to do a

proper assessment of the extent of the environmental issue that revolves around areas like Giant Mine, and perhaps other abandoned mine sites with a view of assessing them and working towards addressing these specific sites.

We know that, as a government, we continue to take a view that development of mines, oil and gas, any type of resource development projects must assure the people of the North and this government that the environment and wildlife will be protected to the maximum extent possible. The processes that are initiated when projects like this are developed, assure us, and we always participate to the fullest extent possible. We did that with BHP. We did that with Diavik and we will continue to do that on a project-by-project basis. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 167-14(2): Resource Development Environmental Concerns**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that we have been responding on a project-by-project basis. The supplementary to the Minister is are there plans to somehow come up with a broad approach so there is certainty that there is consistency, so that when you go from project to project, it is clear. Regulatory reform and a cumbersome regulations regime puts people off; it puts business off. The same with environmental protection. Can the Minister indicate whether there are any plans to lay out a standard policy that people can see, that people can have input into and that will be a driver for this government that they can be held accountable for? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 167-14(2): Resource Development Environmental Concerns**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is the intent of this government and I believe, aboriginal governments, once we engage in inter-governmental forum, to set as an agenda item the requirement that we set up policies that would govern how as governments, we will approach resource development, renewable and non-renewable in the future. We will do this in partnership and it will be initiated, I believe, through discussion and partnership with aboriginal governments.

It will be done and it will be done as soon as we begin to convene our meetings and agree on the agenda. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 167-14(2): Resource Development Environmental Concerns**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has spoken to the future. Could he also speak to the here and now and indicate what the plans are? Or are there any different plans by the central public government to deal with all the resource development that is currently on our plate that is in our face, that is happening all around us. The future is good, but we live here, today. Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 167-14(2): Resource Development Environmental Concerns**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no future for this government if we act unilaterally, and we try to act alone and presume to have jurisdiction where we have none. The future we have, and I thought that we agreed to, was that the future is working in partnership with aboriginal governments to make sure we have a common agenda and a common approach to that agenda. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 167-14(2): Resource Development Environmental Concerns**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, nobody disputes the need to work closely with the aboriginal governments and all the other stakeholders. Can the Minister confirm then, that until all this bright new future is realized, that it is the intention of the government to respond on a piece-meal, case by case basis to major economic development and resource development? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 167-14(2): Resource Development Environmental Concerns**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not put it in those less than flattering terms. The Member should be more complimentary and look at the results that a co-operative, consultative approach has achieved, for instance, on the BHP project and so forth on the Diavik project. By working in partnership with aboriginal government, by working with industry, although it is on a case by case basis, the results are significant. We have achieved benefits. We have achieved results that speak well to the approach that we have taken. Just because there is no articulated, written-down, established policy, does not mean that we are incoherent and inconsistent and without an overall approach.

If anything, the results should indicate that we have a well-thought out approach, albeit with a lot of different instruments and partners in the approach that we take. Nonetheless, the results are significant. I think that this is why the federal government and aboriginal governments are prepared to partner with us on more projects and with agreements on controlling management of Northern resources as well as sharing of the benefits of non-renewable resources through the revenue sharing agreement. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier Kakfwi. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Question 168-14(2): RWED's Contradictory Departmental Mandate**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is responsible for environmental protection and for resource management and economic development. At times, there is no doubt there are some very interesting and constructive dynamics within the department as they are compelled to balance views and principles between these two mandates. No doubt there is also a continuous tug of war for resources of money and staff within the department depending on the issue of the day between those with a mandate to protect and those with a mandate to promote. My question, Mr. Speaker, how does the department balance these sometimes contradictory mandates? Thank you.

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

**Return to Question 168-14(2): RWED's Contradictory Departmental Mandate**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would say on the head of a pin. This is my first attempt to be funny in two weeks.

---- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, whether we have three departments all dealing with separate and different mandates, in the end it needs to come together. We need to balance the environment with our need for economic development. We need to take wildlife, land, water, air issues and balance them with our need to support job creation through diamond mines, and oil and gas development. We had an extensive discussion about this for a number of years. We have consulted experts, people from different parts of the country. Can you take a department of environment, for instance, and a department of wildlife and put them in the same department as the Department for Economic Development responsible for non-renewable resources, and I believe the answer generally was, it can be done as long as it is managed properly.

The point of it is, in the end, it really needs to go and be brought to be the same table. What we have found is that it gave us an opportunity to develop a department and a staff that take an integrated approach to their work so that they are not just bound by thinking about mallards or just about wolverines, but also about diamonds, about water, about habitat and protected area strategy, about an economic development strategy so that all the staff in the department take an integrated approach to the mandates that the department is charged with. It has worked well.

The exercise was also taken because we needed to reduce staff and resources at the headquarters level of which we have heard a little bit about recently. Originally there were three departments: Economic Development and Tourism; Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources; and the Department of Renewable Resources. By taking the three departments and, as somebody said, smashing them into one, we saved \$10 million. Ten million dollars was cut out of Yellowknife, primarily out of Yellowknife, and that was the reduction exercise we made. It was not pleasant. It was not pretty, but it was done.

There is no interest, I can tell you categorically, there is no interest on the part of this government to take what is now one department, that appears to be running very well, and making two departments out of it. We do not have the money. It would cost, \$1 million, \$2 million, \$10 million to set up another department, simply to address a question that was addressed a number of years ago already. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. The time for question period has expired. However, you are allowed to continue with your supplementaries, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary to Question 168-14(2): RWED's Contradictory Departmental Mandate**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask one more supplementary to the issue. The initiative to merge the two departments, the savings, the streamlining and the principle behind the dynamic of putting the protection and the promotion mandates together, I think, is an honourable one and it demonstrates a willingness by the government to change the way it delivers its service.

My question relates to what I would call the customer side, where there are clients of the department; promoters, protectors, and advocacy groups. Could the Minister give us some indication, from his point of view, is this working from the customer's point of view? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 168-14(2): RWED's Contradictory Departmental Mandate**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for the question. I believe, by taking this approach, it has served to create an overall sense of responsibility within the department and staff that was not there before. It creates a greater sense of responsibility for the broad issues facing this government and the people of the North on a day-to-day basis.

It is true that there are still people, for example in the mining sector, that just take the view that we should get out of the way and let them mine. They do not want us to bother them with our laws and regulatory regimes. But I would say, by and large, companies and individuals in the last decade have become increasingly more balanced and more responsible in their approach to resource development.

If you look at companies like BHP and Diavik and the commitments and extent to which they commit resources, staff and companies, to show how important the environment is to them as corporate citizens and individual companies. I believe it is something that we should all celebrate and applaud, because this is the type of thing we want to see. When our developers and claims come to the department, they know when they walk through the door that a balanced approach with a concern for the wildlife and the people has to be as great as their interest in taking the resources for the greatest margin of profit.

They have to equate that money, resources, respect and attention has to be paid to a number of other factors, not just how much profit they can make out of resource development. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will reset the clock for one more period.

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

#### REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 169-14(2): Cumulative Impact of Resource Development

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think one of the things we have to realize that with all of these developments, oil and gas, minerals, diamond exploration, there comes a problem with the environment. Many times, when we look at the potential of these developments, we forget about the environment, not realizing the cumulative impacts that come along with developments.

I think we have to learn from the experiences we have had in the North, especially at the abandoned mines we have found on the tundra. Also, the experience we have had with the Giant Mine closure, as well as the experience people are having in Deline. There are also people along the coast concerned with the early warning system that was put in place, the DEW line sites.

I think we have to look back at the legacy of development in the Northwest Territories to realize that it was not a pretty picture. There are some learning experiences we have to get through.

Due to that, Mr. Speaker, we have to change the way we do things in the North. I think we have to keep in mind that we are in this business for the long term, and we have to minimize the impacts that come along with it.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, in light of all of the developments that are happening, the diamond mine exploration with Diavik, the oil and gas in the Beaufort and Liard areas, what has the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development done? Have they conducted an environmental scan incorporating potential diamond, and oil and gas developments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

##### Return to Question 169-14(2): Cumulative Impact of Resource Development

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for that question. It is an issue that we need to continually pay attention to.

The cumulative effects of development are something that aboriginal leaders, communities and our government have

focused on for a number of years. We have currently agreed, along with the federal government, that the cumulative aspect of development, particularly in this area of diamond mines, is one that we need to pay attention to the most. We have agreed on that, and now there is some agreement to work with the federal government to look at a framework under which we can work together to assess and manage the cumulative effects of development.

There is some work done to address that. That is the approach that has been taken at this time. Thank you.

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

##### Supplementary to Question 169-14(2): Cumulative Impact of Resource Development

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to realize that the First Nations people are probably the group that has seen the impacts of these developments, more so than any other group. We know that with the Dene, Metis and Inuvialuit, the land plays an important part of their traditional knowledge and lifestyles. I would like to know how will the department ensure the land will be protected for future generations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

##### Further Return to Question 169-14(2): Cumulative Impact of Resource Development

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not mention this, but in fact the aboriginal governments of the region are also involved in the approach I previously mentioned. All of us are concerned about the cumulative impact of resource development. We have agreed to develop a framework for assessing and managing the cumulative effects of resource development. The aboriginal governments are involved in partnering in that initiative. Thank you.

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

##### Supplementary to Question 169-14(2): Cumulative Impact of Resource Development

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the increased economic development, such as building roads into the resources, the potential pipeline, I think one thing we have to realize is the species that is most impacted by any major developments, as we have seen with the Dempster Highway, is caribou. Wildlife in general, particularly the migration routes of these species which have to cross highways and pipelines, are affected.

We sometimes forget that they also have to be protected. I would like to ask the Minister what his department is doing to ensure that species at risk are going to be protected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return to Question 169-14(2): Cumulative Impact of Resource Development**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the recent interest of oil and gas companies to renew exploration activities in the Mackenzie Valley, we have undertaken some work. We have moved to start allocating some resources to support the communities and regions to prepare for these activities and engage in some activities that could return some benefits to the regions and communities.

As well, the government has set up, with aboriginal organizations, a Mackenzie Valley development planning committee. This committee has two assignments.

One is to ensure the limited resources that both the government and the aboriginal organizations have, are used in a way that maximizes the benefits of the proposed development and activities to the communities and regions.

The other major assignment is to look at policies and plans and directions that would maximize benefits from development to the communities and region for the long term. Also, to look at ways in which we could minimize the negative impact, both socio-economic and environmental. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 169-14(2): Cumulative Impact of Resource Development**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, regarding wildlife habitat, we have several species which are not unique to the North. They travel across other territorial boundaries. In some cases, international boundaries. I mention the Porcupine caribou, the Bluenose herd, and other species. There are international agreements regarding migratory birds.

With these developments, we have to also realize we are protecting species not only for the people in the Northwest Territories. We have to ensure we are fully involved in international agreements and relationships with neighbouring governments in other countries.

I would like to ask the Minister; what is the department doing to ensure we are fully and actively participating in dialogue with our neighbouring governments? Are we trying to find ways of establishing co-management boards, to ensure we participate fully in all aspects of wildlife, particularly the impacts these developments have on wildlife, with other jurisdictions?

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

**Further Return to Question 169-14(2): Cumulative Impact of Resource Development**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The land claim agreements of the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu, all contain co-management boards that require us to work in partnership with these organizations to manage use of the land, resources and wildlife.

The Wildlife Act itself is going to be completely revised and re-drafted. Again, this is only in its initial stage, which should be complete in a week or so.

In a few days, there will be the first consultation process with the public on how to proceed with the drafting of a new Wildlife Act. I believe there are compelling reasons to extend a hand to the aboriginal leaders in the regions to ask them to partner with us in the development of this very significant piece of legislation.

As well, we have undertaken to implement the Protected Areas Strategy, which was developed with the aboriginal leaders, with industry, and with environmental groups a couple of years ago. We have taken as many opportunities as possible to work in every way we can to ensure our wildlife, our land and our environment are fully protected. We will use every instrument we can to advance that. Thank you.

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

**Question 170-14(2): Seniors Housing Programs**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, regarding a press release concerning this government constructing a \$1 million senior citizens' complex, which is being sold to Alaska.

There is a five-unit complex, valued at roughly \$1 million, which will be built as a pilot project between the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Alaska Housing Financial Corporation.

It is a great idea, but I think we have a very serious shortage of seniors' housing units in the Northwest Territories. When we talk about pilot projects where a million dollars is going to be spent, I would like to know what portion of that million dollars is the government's investment into this pilot project.

I would like to ask the Minister what portion of the million dollars that is being spent is coming from this government?

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

**Return to Question 170-14(2): Seniors Housing Programs**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I cannot determine how much profit we are going to realize from this project, but the intent here is to ensure we realize some revenue that we can re-invest into our own housing projects in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 170-14(2): Seniors Housing Programs**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to simplify the question to the Minister and put it down in layman's terms.

What percentage of the million dollars being spent on this project is being put forth by this government?

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

**Further Return to Question 170-14(2): Seniors Housing Programs**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand and from what I was briefed on, we are not putting any money up front. The agreement is between our Housing Corporation and the village of Stebbins, Alaska. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 170-14(2): Seniors Housing Programs**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know what line I am reading from, but it clearly states the pilot project between the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Alaska Housing Financial Corporation.

It looks to me like this is a pilot project. As a pilot project, the three parties come to the table and put down a portion of the expense. I would like to know what portion of this million dollars is being spent by this government?

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

**Further Return to Question 170-14(2): Seniors Housing Programs**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the definitive numbers with me, so I will take that question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Question 171-14(2): Pilot Projects**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister responsible for Finance. How many pilot projects is this government involved in at this time? How much money has this government put forth for pilot projects?

We are making major cuts in certain areas of the government. We are taking projects out of the communities. We are saying this government is broke. I would like to know if there is a slush fund for pilot projects this government is in at this time? What is it?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. It is a new question directed to the Minister responsible for Finance. There is a lot of detail in there, but I will allow the Minister to respond to it if he so chooses. It would be better as a written question. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return to Question 171-14(2): Pilot Projects**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard two questions there. I will answer one. There is no slush fund for pilot projects.

With regard to the first question that was asked as to how many pilot projects there are, I do not know. I will have to take the question as notice. Thank you.

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

**Question 172-14(2): Interjurisdictional Agreements**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier know how many agreements we have with other governments or jurisdictions, such as Nunavut, Yukon, Alberta or the state of Alaska? Does the Premier have any idea as to how many agreements this government is involved in at this time?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I will have to rule that question out of order. It is a very broad question. It is not very clear what the honourable Member is asking. If he wishes to re-visit the question in a more direct form that the Minister could possibly answer, I will allow it. Mr. Krutko.

**Question 173-14(2): Interjurisdictional Agreements and International Contracts**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Premier tell me how many international agreements this government is involved in with jurisdictions outside the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. A question like that is probably better as a written question. I will allow the Premier to answer if he chooses to do so. Premier Kakfwi.

**Return to Question 173-14(2): Interjurisdictional Agreements and International Contracts**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would guess somewhere between one and 200. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not clear. Is that \$1 million and \$200 million? He mentioned one and 200. Are we talking millions here? Are we talking about \$1 million or \$200 million, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I think your question was how many projects or agreements are there, and the Premier did answer anywhere between one and 200. He did not speak of dollars. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 173-14(2): Interjurisdictional Agreements and International Contracts**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like clarification. Can the Minister clarify as to whether he was talking about one project to 200 projects, or was he talking in dollars and cents, \$1 million to \$200 million? Could he please clarify that?

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

**Further Return to Question 173-14(2): Interjurisdictional Agreements and International Contracts**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was not talking in terms of dollars. I was talking in numbers, which is what I think the Member had originally asked. I thought he had asked how many, and I said between one and 200. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 173-14(2): Interjurisdictional Agreements and International Contracts**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier give me a list of the contracts he mentioned, the one to 200 contracts? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 173-14(2): Interjurisdictional Agreements and International Contracts**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think between the Member and myself, we have lost sight of what it was we were originally talking about. What I will do is review Hansard and respond to the object in his first sentence, and give him the numerical response that is required. I will take the question as notice and give the Member the information he is seeking. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. That question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Return to Written Question 12-14(2): Residents of the Home for the Homeless**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 12-14(2) asked by Mr. Bell to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation concerning residents of the Home for the Homeless.

In response to your specific questions:

1. Is the Minister aware that the homeless residents were to be evicted on March 27, 2000?

I was not aware that the occupants were to be out of the shelter by March 27<sup>th</sup> specifically. However, I was aware that the occupants were to be out of the shelter toward the end of March. The Housing Corporation advised the homeless shelter's supervisor verbally at a meeting in early March that the 27<sup>th</sup> was to be the cut off date.

The shelter supervisor was again contacted on March 27<sup>th</sup> and told that it was okay for the remaining five individuals to remain in the shelter until March 31<sup>st</sup>. This will allow them time to access income support and the Salvation Army.

Captain Al Hoefft at the Salvation Army has been contacted and he advised that none of the remaining shelter occupants have inquired about shelter and that the claims of no vacancies are unfounded. There has been room for people provided they show up by curfew.

2. Were the shelter residents previously aware that they had until March 31<sup>st</sup> to find alternate living arrangements?

No. Instructions to the supervisor were to have the occupants out by March 27<sup>th</sup>. However, he may have misinterpreted this and advised the occupants otherwise.

3. What is the Minister prepared to do to assist people who are now without any place to stay?

Prior to announcing that the people were to vacate, arrangements were made with the Salvation Army to ensure people had a place to stay. None of the remaining occupants have contacted the Salvation Army to date.

4. Is there any form of emergency assistance these residents can access if there is no room at the Salvation Army?

There has been room at the Salvation Army as long as people access it in accordance with their rules. Additionally, the Salvation Army has stated in the past, that they will not turn people away during the cold weather.

5. Will the Minister ensure he will look into how this situation took place to ensure residents are not placed on the street with just hours of notice given?

I have looked into the situation further, and the occupants of the shelter can remain until March 31<sup>st</sup> to allow them time to make alternative arrangements such as contacting the Salvation Army and/or income support. In addition, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has arranged for an additional five beds at the Salvation Army to help deal with the closing of the shelter.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. 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 honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

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

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has reviewed Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, and wishes to report that Bill 7 is now ready for further consideration in committee of the whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5), and have Bill 7 ordered into committee of the whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5). Are there any nays?

There are no nays. Bill 7 is ordered into committee of the whole for today.

Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents to table today.

##### **Tabled Document 37-14(2): Workers' Compensation Board for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut 2000-2004 Corporate Plan**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Workers' Compensation Board for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut 2000-2004 Corporate Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

##### **Tabled Document 38-14(2): Changes in Growth, 1997 to 1999, for Headquarters and Regions**

As well, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Changes in Growth, 1997 to 1999, for Headquarters and Regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

##### **Tabled Document 39-14(2): 2000-2001 Capital Plan Comparison**

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to table the following document entitled 2000-2001 Capital Plan Comparison. I would like to note for Members that the projects shown under the current 2000-2001 capital plan column are still subject to change as we develop the June budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

##### **Tabled Document 40-14(2): 2000 Housing Needs Survey**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled 2000 Housing Needs Survey, prepared by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Allen. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motions. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

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

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1999-2000, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in

favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 8 has had first reading.

Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

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

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

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1999-2000, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Bill 8 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole.

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), "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 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, no. 4, 1999-2000, 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, 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 have several items to deal with. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that the committee continue consideration of Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, along with Committee Report 2-14(2), Committee Report 3-14(2), and Committee Report 4-14(2) concurrently, specifically to start with the consideration of the Legislative Assembly, followed by Health and Social Services and then we could return to the Executive.

Should we conclude Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, I would like to recommend the committee consider moving on to Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1999-2000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** With that, we will take a short break. When we return, we will start with the Legislative Assembly.

-- Break

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Welcome back. Prior to the break, we agreed to start with the Legislative Assembly. I would like to ask the Speaker if he has any opening remarks. Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Colleagues, I am pleased to appear before the committee of the whole today to present for your consideration and approval the interim appropriations for the Legislative Assembly.

The interim for the Assembly is based on instructions given to all departments by the Financial Management Board.

The main estimates that the interim is based on, funded a 14 Member Legislative Assembly, election year costs and Members' compensation based on the old provisions of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

Mr. Chairman, the Legislative Assembly did not submit requirements for forced growth or new initiatives for inclusion in the interim before you today. Due to the timelines for submitting forced growth, we still did not have budget calculations for such activities as funding for committees, Caucus and Board of Management and implications associated with the new compensation and services to Members.

It is my intention to bring forward a business plan and main estimates that reflect accurately our costs and will include reallocation of funds that are contained in our current level of appropriations and justified forced growth.

Mr. Chairman with those comments as a background, the interim request is for \$5,787,000 for operations and maintenance, and \$150,000 in capital.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to respond to any questions the Members may have. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any comments from the committee overseeing the Legislative Assembly? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight met on Saturday, March 19, 2000, to review the interim appropriation for the Legislative Assembly and to review issues with government-wide implications that arose in the Standing Committee of Governance and Economic Development and the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Under the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Chairman, we noted under the office of the languages commissioner that the term of the languages commissioner expires on May 31, 2000. This requires a timely response from the Legislative Assembly. Further noted is that the Official Languages Act is required to be reviewed in the first sitting of the Assembly in January, 2001.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the remarks from the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. I would like to ask the Speaker if he would like to bring in any witnesses?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, with the permission of the Assembly.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Sergeant-At-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses in?

For the record, Mr. Speaker, could you introduce your witnesses please.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce to the committee Mr. David Hamilton, clerk of the Assembly, and Mr. Myles Moreside, director of corporate services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Welcome, witnesses. At this time, I would like to ask the committee if they have any questions or comments for the Speaker? Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, during the committee review, the issue of staff came up. In the switch from a 24 Member Assembly to a 14, and then up to a 19 Member Assembly, and the no-layoff policy.

At the time, it was indicated by the Speaker that the issue of staffing and the no-layoff policy in the departments had been looked at. I would like to ask the Speaker, when? When can we expect to see a document that would outline the staffing requirements with all of those factors in there for us?

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would suspect as soon as the government comes out with a new layoff policy.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, are we to assume there was a slip of the tongue and that there is going to be a new no-layoff policy? The question to the Speaker then would be, could he indicate whether he would anticipate having that kind of information for the business planning process?

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I may have said something there that was not intentional. We do not intend to lay anybody off because there is a policy that does not allow that, unless that changes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there was another question, but I will ask Mr. Miltenberger to clarify his last question. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question was, given the issue of the no-layoff policy that was there for the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly, and the lack of clarity as to what is in place at this point, I was asking the Speaker whether he anticipated that he would be able to have his human resource plan ready for the business plans in our next gathering in May. Thank you.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be ready sometime in May.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a question in regard to the money in the budget for the pension reform. Given the fact that we were told in the House that we were given three years of extra coverage by the federal government, are the requirements anticipated to be the same for the need to plan for what we thought was a one-year window and is now a four-year window. Will that change the budgetary requirements in the budget?

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer the question to Mr. Moreside.

**MR. MORESIDE:** Mr. Chairman, the Assembly has been transferred, from the Financial Management Board Secretariat, \$35,000 that goes into the interim appropriation. I believe it is \$106,000 for the fiscal year 2000-2001.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question is, I think these figures were done on the assumption we only had one year of breathing space. The Minister responsible for the Department of Finance indicated in the House that we had three.

I was wondering if those financial projections are going to change because of that extra three years the federal government has given us to get our pension house in order. Thank you.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there is no change to that.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The final question for me is in regard to the sunset clause in our legislation and the possible special committee that may be struck. Could the Speaker indicate whether that money is in the interim appropriation or will that be dealt with when we deal with the business plans in May? Thank you.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there are no special provisions for that as of yet. We have to do that upon request, if it is not in our budget.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Are there any comments or questions for the Speaker? Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Speaker's opening remarks referred to the main estimates being based on a funded 14-Member Legislative Assembly. Are there any ideas as to what the potential impact is with 19 Members now? In fact, we are operating now with 19. Are you able to carry the gross from 14 Members to 19 Members within the interim?

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer the question to Mr. Moreside, who has this information.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Moreside.

**MR. MORESIDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The additional funding for Members for 2000-2001, after reallocation from moving money within activities, there is still an additional \$77,446 required to fund a 19-Member Assembly under the new legislation.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All we will require is \$77,000 more as a yearly basis for 19 Members? I know there have been many changes from the previous Assembly, with the way Members are paid, living allowances and so on. Now it has been consolidated. So with all of the changes, we can operate with 19 Members on an additional \$77,000 per year? Is that the understanding? Thank you.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Moreside to respond to that.

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

**MR. MORESIDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$77,000 is over and above, after we reallocate money from other activities. The additional funding from 14 to 19 Members is \$591,466.

**CHAIRMAN (MR. KRUTKO):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that is not accounted for in here, at least in the first quarter or first third of the budget? In fact, we are going to live within our means in a sense for the interim, and then as the main business plans come through, we will see the requests and the growth from 14 to 19?

**CHAIRMAN (MR. KRUTKO):** Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments the Member has made, because that accurately reflects the intentions of the interim.

**CHAIRMAN (MR. KRUTKO):** Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for further clarification, that includes a Member, constituency assistant, constituency assistant office, those issues in the Legislative Assembly budget within that \$500,00 for the year? I am thinking we have five new Members, and it is from top to bottom, in a sense. Could I have some clarification? Thank you.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Moreside for more detail.

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

**MR. MORESIDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In fact, the \$500,091 does not include constituency office lease because that is paid from the administration. It is not charged to the

Member. If you want to include that for additional costs, there is an additional \$93,000 if you were to include constituency office leases.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So just for clarification, what we will expect to see, it is not included right now in this one, and we are living within our means in a sense for the first third of the budget. The rest of that money to account for 19 Members, which is the growth of the Assembly, five new Members, everything from top to bottom trying to get it in there for operation as a Member, so it is not \$500,090. Is it \$680,000 or is it \$500,090? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, I will ask Mr. Moreside to respond to that.

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

**MR. MORESIDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Members, the answer is yes, it is \$680,000. You have to remember there is money being moved around from other activities. So the net amount for the Assembly's budget will not be 600 and some odd thousand dollars. But for the Members' expenditure activity, it will be \$680,000.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Any questions or comments? Detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are on page 4, Legislative Assembly, total Legislative Assembly, operations and maintenance, \$5,7887,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Top of page 7, Legislative Assembly. Total Legislative Assembly, capital, \$150,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** With that, I would like to thank the Speaker and your witnesses. Thank you.

Next item on the list, we will deal with the Department of Health and Social Services. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if she would like to bring in her witnesses?

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Yes.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Sergeant-At-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses in?

Madam Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses please?

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my right, is the director of finance for the

Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Warren St. Germaine.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Welcome. We are dealing with the Department of Health and Social Services. I would like to ask at this time if there are any questions or general comments for the Minister? Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if the Minister could elaborate on this project that has appeared. The concern was there was money but no project. I am not sure how it was done, if it was done alphabetically because it begins with "a". I was wondering if the Minister could elaborate on how they came to choose Aklavik. If in fact the document they talked about, their strategic functional review, was done, were they able to make a decision based on some sound facts and figures and assessments? Thank you.

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

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the selection of Aklavik for the replacement of the health care centre there, was on the basis of the review which took place. The review was completed. It was identified that Aklavik was the highest priority for replacement of their facility. And it is in Mr. Krutko's riding. Thank you.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is always good to be reminded that Aklavik is in your riding. I appreciate that. Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate the information they used? Obviously when they came here to do their interim appropriation, they indicated they had not made up their minds. They were still thinking about it. They were waiting for some more information. Is the Minister now saying since we had our initial go around with the interim appropriation and we deferred the budget because of the uncertainty, they have since had the review process complete? Thank you.

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

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the review was very close to being completed. I did indicate that. If you check Hansard, I did indicate the decision was very close to being made. We communicated with the Department of Public Works and Services to give its response and the assessments that were the result of the review, so we could answer that question. Yes, the review was completed. Thank you.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate the number of years this project is anticipated to take? Are the plans for this year just to do the initial design and architectural planning? Is that the plan?

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

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the community consultation is scheduled to take place in April, 2000. The architectural and engineering phase will be in the summer of 2001. Material and supply delivery in

the winter of 2001, and construction in the summer 2001, with occupancy by the winter of 2001-2002. Thank you.

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

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate as well, whether the full findings and results from this review by Public Works and Services will be included in the business plan, so we will have a clear look at those priorities and the need and justification for their assessments? Thank you.

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

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, there will be a final report forthcoming. We can make that available for the planning process.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Any general comments or questions for the Department of Health and Social Services? Detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are on page 5, Department of Health and Social Services, total Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance, \$63,417,521. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Moving on to Page 7, Health and Social Services, total Health and Social Services, capital, \$3,160,500. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** At this time, I would like to thank the Minister and her witness. Thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some people in the Gallery. Mavis Arey, from Aklavik, now living in Norman Wells, and Sandra Hannah. Welcome to the House.

-- Applause

Before we break, we will move on to the Department of the Executive. At this time, I would like to ask the Premier if he would like to bring in any witnesses?

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I am waiting for my officials, I would like to make a comment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We will proceed with the Premier. If the committee concurs, I believe the Premier would like to make a few comments for clarification.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Would you like to do it from your seat, or would you like to do it from the witness table, Mr. Premier?

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** I can do it from here.

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

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it has been ten very short and hectic weeks since we assumed our jobs as Members of the Legislative Assembly

and selected Cabinet. Since then, we have agreed as a Caucus that our first priority would be to develop a vision and establish our priorities for the life of this Legislative Assembly. This approach, I believe, was to set us apart as different from previous governments.

Tomorrow, we will be releasing copies of that vision and priorities, which we have labeled "Towards a Better Tomorrow", to the public. These are visions and priorities developed by all of us to show leadership and unity to our citizens, and to provide a measure by which they can hold each one of us accountable.

This vision of priorities will set us on a course of change to take advantage of the great opportunities that are emerging in the Northwest Territories. We can only do this if we all work together. I believe we have also agreed that change should not and cannot happen overnight.

Over the last two weeks, all of us have had the opportunity to review the interim budgets of the departments, including the Executive. By necessity of timing, interim budgets had to be developed to provide the necessary short-term funding to maintain programs and services to residents and to provide for the operation of government and the Legislative Assembly.

This provides us with time and breathing space to take stock of where we are and to begin to change course to reflect our current vision. We are already beginning to implement the road map of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly through the business planning and the budget that will be developed and reviewed in standing committees and this Legislative Assembly in June. While change will not happen overnight, it will set the direction on which we will be held accountable.

At this time, I understand there is a particular concern on the part of Members about the interim budget of the Executive. Although it will affect the ability of the department to carry out what we see as important tasks, we have discussed it. We have asked the Minister responsible for Finance to bring forward a motion at the time we are considering the Bill to make the necessary amendments as was agreed to last week, to reduce the Executive's interim budget by \$100,000. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Premier. I believe the witnesses are here. Sergeant-At-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in?

I would like to ask the Premier to introduce his witnesses for the record.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, on my left is the deputy minister of the Executive, Ms. Elizabeth Snider. On my right, the director of corporate services, Mr. Carl Bird.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Just to remind Members, we are on page 4, Executive. We have the subtotal of the Executive, but we also have to deal with the total of the Executive. We will be approving it based on the whole total. Are there any questions or comments for the Premier? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Premier made a verbal commitment that there would be a motion coming forward to delete \$100,000 from the total. I just wanted

to confirm that the Minister responsible for Finance will be bringing that forward after we conclude discussion. Is he planning to do that before we approve the amount under detail, or is he planning to do that with a motion at the end when we are reviewing the clauses of the Bill?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I will direct the question to the Premier, and you can defer it from there. Mr. Premier.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it can be done when we are going clause by clause.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the willingness of the government to come forward and make that offer. I think Members had expressed a significant concern about the growth in the Department of the Executive. Since we have announced that we have deferred \$10 million in capital projects that are important to people for jobs across the territories, we need to see some leadership, particularly in the Department of the Executive. I hope we will continue to see that example be set as we consider the business plans and the full budgets in May and June.

I just wanted to express our gratitude that the government is prepared to come forward with this motion at the appropriate time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Any further questions or comments? Detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Executive offices, no capital, subtotal \$3,248,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total Executive, \$14,382,841. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

We are reviewing Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, Clause by clause. Clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 3. Mr. Handley on Clause 3.

**Committee Motion 3-14(2): To Amend Clause 3(2) of Bill 6: Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001 (Carried)**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move Clause 3 (2) of Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, be amended by striking out "\$336,347,944", and by substituting "\$336,247,944". Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The Motion is carried.

Clause 3, as amended?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Schedule, interim amounts appropriated for 2000-2001 fiscal year, part 1, vote 1, operations and maintenance. Mr. Handley.

**Committee Motion 4-14(2): To Amend the Schedule to Bill 6: Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001 (Carried)**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move, that the schedule to Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, be amended to:

- (a) decrease by \$100,000 the appropriation amount set out in Part 1, item 2, "Executive" by striking out "14,382,841" and by substituting "14,282,841";
- (b) decrease by \$100,000 the amount set out in Part 1 as "Total Operations and Maintenance", by striking out "\$285,572,444" and by substituting "\$285,472,444"; and
- (c) decrease by \$100,000 the amount set out at the end of the schedule as "Total Interim Appropriation", by striking out "\$336,347,944" and substituting "\$336,247,944". Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

-- Applause

Part 1, Vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance \$285,472,444.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Part 2, vote 2, capital, total capital, \$50,775,500. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total interim appropriation, \$336,247,944. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does the committee agree that Bill 6 is ready for third reading as amended?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Bill 6 is now ready for third reading as amended.

Does the committee also agree that Committee Report 2-14(2), Committee Report 3-14(2), and Committee Report 4-14(2) are also concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend the committee continue with consideration of Bill 8.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Would the Minister responsible for Bill 8 please introduce the bill?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 4 1999-2000, requests authority for additional appropriations of \$3,781,500 for operation and maintenance expenditures.

These requirements are within the estimated supplementary reserve established in the budget and will not change this year's forecasted deficit of \$34 million. The supplementary appropriation requirements include the following major items:

- \$1.3 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to meet the obligations arising from changes to the recently signed collective agreement between the NWTTA and the Government of the Northwest Territories;
- \$1.2 million for the Department of Health and Social Services to fund increased costs resulting from higher than projected demands on existing health and social services programs and the Government of the Northwest Territories share of the costs for the new Canadian Blood Service Agency; and
- \$1 million for the Executive to fund transition costs associated with the establishment of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. There is no committee report. Would the Minister like to bring in any witnesses?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the witnesses in please?

Mr. Handley, can you please introduce the witness?

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Lew Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Are there any comments on the Bill by Members? Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on initial review of this interim appropriation, there was a concern that so early in the life of our government we are coming in for a supplementary for the first portion of our Assembly.

Since January 19<sup>th</sup> to this date, we are requesting a total of \$3.7 million. We have heard the Minister in committee raise the issues of where these expenditures would go and why they were needed.

As I looked at the numbers upon my initial review, I saw an area that caused me to look at the interim appropriation and do a comparison. I saw the numbers being very similar those under Executive Office, Minister's offices and Cabinet Secretariat. There were very similar reasons for the supplementary appropriation as well as the interim appropriation and the same figures in that area. It leads me to question why there is such a similarity?

The interim appropriation is meant to carry us until July. This interim appropriation is for the period from January 19<sup>th</sup> until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. Mr. Chairman, I would like some clarification on that area. Thank you.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask Lew Voytilla just to explain the details and numbers. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Mr. Voytilla.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fact that the total amounts may be similar between the supplementary and the interim may be more coincidence than anything else, although they do cover some of the same areas.

The amounts in the supplementary are based on one third of the operating requirements for the full year. Since the committee review, we have reviewed those to verify that. Thank you.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, I did not get the portion. I know the interim appropriation is one third of the budget, but the supplementary is for just over two months. So we are talking about a difference of two months, and they are very close. I did not quite get the rest of the detail. Will Mr. Voytilla or Mr. Handley clarify?

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

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To provide the detail for the Member, speaking specifically to Minister's offices, which I think is the area where we are looking at salaries, the supplementary is to fund an additional Minister, executive assistant and executive secretary for the three-month period. The amount required for those salaries would be \$34,500.

For other operations and maintenance, operational requirements and for the initial purchase of equipment for the additional Minister's office, the amount is \$26,000 for the period, of which \$20,000 is equipment and other one-time expenditures.

In addition, there is provision in there for home travel for the three-month period and accommodation for a total change of \$76,500. That is pertaining to the first item in the supplementary with respect to adding a new Minister.

Then there is a requirement in there for \$75,000, which is related to an additional executive assistant and secretary. Again, that is broken down as part-year funding, which totals \$75,000.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Voytilla. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He has broken it down into a bit of detail. Something that caught my ear was \$20,000 for equipment. Can they be more specific? What equipment are they referring to for Minister's offices? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Voytilla.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have a detailed listing with me, but based on the information and the normal setup for an office, I believe that would be a computer, a fax machine; it would be general office equipment. We could certainly supply the Member with a list, but it totals \$20,000.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Twenty thousand dollars for equipment, and it sounds like computer and faxes. It must be one heck of a computer system for \$20,000. Maybe it has something to do with PeopleSoft. I would like to see what kind of computer system this is. I have just recently purchased one at home for my family, and it was nowhere close to this. A list of the items would definitely be appreciated.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can provide a list.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just passed the interim appropriation. We just had the Legislative Assembly up for review. I found it interesting. For the addition in Members from 14 to 19, for a whole year with some re-allocations internally, came up to \$590,000. I found that rather interesting. It is approximately \$115,000 per Member for a year.

I find that quite striking when we do a comparison to Ministers' offices and their growth. Maybe the Finance Minister can give

us information as to the costs on a yearly basis for a new Minister, all-inclusive from top to bottom? Thank you.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to summarize the costs for an additional Minister, for the compensation and benefits, it works out to \$178,000. That is for a Minister, an executive assistant and an executive secretary. For other operations and maintenance, operational, for travel, material, supplies, purchases, services, contracts, fees and payments, computer hardware and so on, \$29,000. Ministerial benefits, including home travel and residence and so on, \$74,800. It gives a total Minister's budget of \$281,800. Thank you.

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

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is \$178,000 for a Minister, executive assistant and an executive secretary. In this supplementary appropriation, under Ministers' offices, we have \$151,500. This is one third of the budget. This number does not compute, if we are just going to do a comparison on offices, unless I am misinterpreting the numbers here.

If this is one-third of the budget, we are calling for \$151,500. We are looking at \$450,000 and change. But, in fact, what you just repeated to me and I need some more clarification on this, \$178,000 for a Minister, executive assistant and an executive secretary.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The figures to use for comparisons, if you want, is the \$76,500, that was already referred to as a supplementary requirement for the period of time we have.

Then you have to compare that to the \$281,800 for the costs for the additional Minister. The other information that is not included in the additional Minister, include adding an executive assistant and secretary for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. That is the other \$75,000.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** General comments on the bill. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister give me a better understanding of what the home travel amount is? I thought I heard you say \$74,000, but could you elaborate more on this executive travel or home travel, compared to say a Minister traveling on Ministerial business? Are those two separate costs? Could you give me an idea of what this home travel is? How much is the amount?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount I quoted for home travel is \$46,000, and that is the entitlement in accordance with the guidelines for Ministers' travel to home and back. I do not have the guidelines with me, but this is done by the entitlements. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** What is the difference between this amount for the Executive and the amount for a Minister of a department. Are those two amounts of money separate?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, yes, these are different because what is in the departments is for the departments' purposes. This amount here is for Ministerial home travel, which is for the Ministers' themselves, in accordance with the guidelines. They are two separate items. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me if this \$46,000 is the total for the Executive? How many positions are we talking about?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount I am quoting is for the one Minister. Of course, it varies depending on where the Minister is from.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister give me the total of the home travel budget for the Executive?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have that with us now. It is something we could provide. We do not have it today.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the other matter and the whole question of using supplementaries, on the interim, I know there is a reason for them. But I think we should try to follow cases that avoid the use of supplementaries or special warrants. We have not had the opportunity to go through the business planning process yet for the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

I think that whenever possible, we should make sure the dollars are allocated within the business plans, and try to use the special warrants for the appropriations to allocate the money.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly, we tried to put some controls in place for Cabinet's expenditures, particularly the misuse of special warrants. I think the direction we should take with the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly in all cases is we should try to use the business planning process first, and use the warrants strictly on an emergency basis.

I would like to ask the Minister, what is he putting in place to ensure there is no misuse by departments? In particular, departments trying to use this process rather than having to go through the main estimates planning process so we know what they hold. If a cost to a department is going to be for the whole year, they should not try to sneak it in by using special warrants.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member that we should not use supplementaries where

they are not necessary. When the 1999-2000 budgets were prepared, there was no way of predicting we were going to have seven Ministers. So in this case, this was the only way of doing it.

In terms of what we are doing to reduce the use of supplementaries and special warrants, I can assure the Member we will take every step we can to include everything we can possibly estimate in the main estimates. I think that as a sign of what we are doing, we have already included in the interim appropriations items that the accountability and oversight committee recommended we put into the estimates, even though it would have to be an area where they needed. I think that collective bargaining was a good example.

We are going to keep moving in that direction and get everything we can into the main estimates. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any plans in place to make amendments to the Financial Administration Act to ensure that control or restriction is in legislation? That way, people within the departments know there will be accountability. Even for ourselves, so we realize we are getting close.

We have a deficit. I do not think we should believe we are out of the woods yet. I have gone through this once and I hate to have to go through it a second time.

I would like to ask the Minister, are there any plans to look at developing controls through the Financial Administration Act so we know there will be some teeth there to control the misuse or expenditures within different departments? So they know there is legislation that protects us from going any further into a deficit situation?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My experience is that the Financial Administration Act is a pretty stringent document right now in terms of its controls. We are certainly open to looking at it.

If there are ways of making it even more clear and laying out the rules very clearly, then we are open to doing that. I think the main thing is going to be the vigilance of myself as the Minister responsible for Finance, as a Member of Cabinet and of this Assembly, in making sure we do follow the intent. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments on the bill. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the last bill we were considering, the government demonstrated some leadership and came back and offered up a reduction in the amount that was in the door for the Executive offices. Unfortunately, I did not hear that offered up in the opening comments by the Minister.

I would like to first ask the Minister if, in the spirit of leadership and the spirit of recognizing that we have deferred \$10 million in capital projects in the interim bill we just went through, are they prepared to come back and find ways to reallocate monies from within? There have been reductions that have hurt people

in the Northwest Territories. Are they prepared to demonstrate the same sort of leadership in this supplementary appropriation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Tomorrow is the end of the year. The money that is in this supplementary appropriation is essentially spent or committed. There is no money to offer up. It is the end of the year. We have no flexibility here to be able to do what the Member is requesting. If we had, we certainly would. But in this case, it is not there. Tomorrow is the end. The period is over. Thank you.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed that while the Minister says that this money is essentially spent, it is coming forward as not previously authorized. So maybe I could ask the law clerk. As I understand it, unless it is done as a special warrant, it is within the purview of this Legislative Assembly to delete the monies from this bill as it is presented.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Ms. Kay.

**DEPUTY LAW CLERK (Ms. Kay):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is essentially the general practice.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am afraid I could not hear the law clerk. I am wondering if she could please repeat the answer?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Ms. Kay.

**DEPUTY LAW CLERK (Ms. Kay):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When expenditures come forward in a supplementary, it is to cover off the future needs for the period that is in question and covered by the supplementary.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the way I remembered the process. So in other words, the government has not had the authorization to spend these funds at this point.

Since the Minister is not offering up any reduction here, I would like to point out the areas that I have some concerns with. I would agree that the Members of this Legislative Assembly agreed to add a Minister to Cabinet over what is there. I am willing to accept that there are some expenses that entails.

I have to say I am somewhat surprised by the numbers that have been presented to us today to justify this. Things like computer and hardware equipment for \$20,000 for a two and a half-month period. Even if they are one-time expenses, it seems relatively high. Home travel is apparently something that is being used to justify the total of \$76,500 that the Minister has mentioned for the additional costs for a Minister.

When I look at this Cabinet, there has not been anyone added that should be increasing the cost of home travel. In the previous Cabinet of six, we had the same number of Cabinet Ministers from outside of Yellowknife. Home travel does not affect those within Yellowknife. Why is there a need for an extra \$10,000 for home travel? We have not increased the

number of Cabinet Ministers outside of Yellowknife. Why is there an increase needed for two months for \$6,000 for maintaining duplicate residences. I do not understand where this extra cost is coming from when we have not added Cabinet Ministers who need to take advantage of that.

Going on under Ministers' offices, Mr. Chairman, they keep coming back to what are we taking out of the budget that affects the people of the Northwest Territories. Earlier this afternoon in a response to me, the Premier said that his government would not initiate or take on new work without the support of Members. Mr. Chairman, I had expected that there would be two empty offices at the Minister's end. This is not so. I look at the \$75,000 that is left after we take the \$76,500 off for a new Minister and say that was not something that I was consulted about. It is an ongoing expense. The extra \$75,000 will keep going on for more than two months. It multiples significantly in the new year.

This was not something that was taken on with any consultation that I am aware of by the Members in this Legislative Assembly. We are looking at something that is not previously authorized. It was not something that had been discussed by this government with all of the Members. I have to express a significant concern about seeing that amount in there. I leave it to the Minister to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only thing I can say, Mr. Chairman, is that we have brought this forward in the appropriate form at the earliest possible opportunity we had. The figures we are using here are based on our best calculations. Mr. Chairman, if there is any surplus money in here, tomorrow is the end of the year, the money will lapse. I do not understand the point of what the Member is getting at. I think what we are doing here is appropriate. I think we brought it in at the proper opportunity. If there is any surplus, if we have over-estimated the cost of computers or something, then it will lapse. When it comes to the balance of the fiscal year, we will be doing the main estimates in June and, at that time, there is an opportunity to look at what the ongoing costs of this are. We will have the same opportunity. For this period, I do not understand the Member's motive. Thank you.

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

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, my motive is fiscal responsibility.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear.

**MR. DENT:** It concerns me that we authorized this expenditure which leads directly into the next fiscal year. If, in fact, we say yes to this, then how can we turn around and say no to it in the business planning process. I want to send a very clear message that I am not prepared to let this go. This afternoon, the government started on the right foot when it reduced the interim appropriation and I sincerely wish they would do the same here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I guess I will just have to repeat myself. Tomorrow is the end of the fiscal year. The supplementary appropriation period ends then. If there is any

surplus money, it will be lapsed. I do not understand how taking another estimate of what might be in that lapse is useful. Thank you.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I really would like to do is put some pressure on the government to make sure that they reallocate from within, that they look for opportunities to economize and that they try not to run a surplus but to live within their budget. I will not know, because under the terms we operate, we will not see an interim financial statement until usually the end of September. Sometime in September, we are expected to get a copy of the interim financial statements.

So, I will not know until next September whether or not there has been a lapse. Yet I am going to be expected, in May or June, to approve a budget in which the government could quite easily point to the numbers and say what it took to operate until the end of the year and, therefore, multiple that by whatever the ratio is for the full year and justify their expenditures this way. I am not anxious to see that. I would like to make it difficult for the government to avoid being very vigilante about monies. They should make sure they look in every nook and cranny to ensure that they have expended what is within their budget right now rather than agreeing to an increase in funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I think to try to help the Member overcome the problem he is identifying for himself, we could offer, in June, as part of the main estimates, a report. This report would have to be unaudited and would be on what the actual expenditures are. We cannot speed up the audited report but we could provide more detail at main estimates time. It would be unaudited but it would certainly be helpful to overcome the problem that has been identified. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I, as well, have concerns about the supplementary appropriation. Based on the spending habits I have seen so far, I do not share the Minister's optimism that there, in fact, will be any lapses, that if the money is given, it will be spent. I also know with a budget the size of the Executive's, knowing government and knowing how programs are set up, there is slippage and fudge factors built in all over the place to move that kind of money around to be able to do things. The issue to me is very clear. If this goes through the way it is, we are basically agreeing to all the things that caused me such concern in the interim appropriation, which the Executive recognized by making the motion to cut \$100,000. We are going to set the foundation. I do not think this is too big a contradiction.

I also have the continued problem of leading by example. Spending this kind of money is over and above when we look at the interim appropriation. It has 18 percent deliberate growth and tells the people we are deferring \$10 million in capital. We have no money for adult education programs. The municipalities are on notice that there will be cuts coming. For us in the Legislature and in the Executive to say do as we say, not as we do, we will spend and you show restraint...it is too

much for me, Mr. Chairman, and it is unsupportable. I think there has to be some demonstration that they have heard. They have heard on one hand with the interim appropriation but they want to lock it in by having all the key pieces in the supplementary appropriation. I, as well, have significant concerns about the Executive portion of the supplementary appropriation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear very loud and clearly what the Members are saying in terms of the need to be operating in an atmosphere of restraint and responsibility. We hear that. I agree with that. I do not have a problem with that at all. I think we will need to operate that way for not just this supplementary period but for the next fiscal year and for years to come. I agree with that. The problem we have, Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier and I will repeat myself, is the supplementary period is over tomorrow. We can be very diligent tomorrow on what we spend, I guess. This period ends here. There is not much more we can do. I am not being glib in saying that. I am serious. This is for this supplementary period. We will do everything we can when it comes to doing our main estimates in June. As I said, we can give an unaudited report and provide all the information we can to make sure that you are comfortable that we are being responsible. As I said earlier, if there is surplus money, it will be lapsed. We will identify what that is. There is not a lot that I can do on the last day of the fiscal year to change this. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The debate that we are having right now really defines a classic conundrum in what I anticipated political life might be about. Here we are, literally at the eleventh minute or the eleventh hour, facing a situation that the government says is intractable, cannot be remedied or addressed. Yet, I reflect back on the day in this Assembly, about ten weeks ago, when we elected the Cabinet and asked them to go forward with confidence to be a good government. They had our vote. The expectation, Mr. Chairman, knowing that we were facing a big money problem, was that the new Cabinet would go ahead with confidence but also with care and prudent action in how they were going to set the tone. The expenditures and the programs in the interim budget all have merit. The programs, likewise, for this supplementary appropriation, on their own, have merit.

On the whole, Mr. Chairman, they do not reflect the spirit of recognizing our situation, of really and truly going that extra mile and demonstrating that leadership that could have been there and should have been there. It could have sent a signal, not just to the Members on the other side, but to all of the people in the Northwest Territories, that we are paying attention. The signal we are sending, I do not think, is one of prudent management, even in this relatively small amount, and I do respect the Minister's comment about micro-management. But in the light of the program, the capital and the service reductions that we have recognized and that the government has incorporated in the coming four months of expenditures, we were, indeed, looking for more care and more prudence in how things were going to be managed in the last few weeks of this fiscal year. The challenge was to look within and manage existing resources. This is where we have this conundrum.

The Department of the Executive seems to have been singled out here. This is not by accident. I would reflect on an aspect of the department, where the opening budget, when it started out for the fiscal year 1999-2000, was for \$30.3 million. Mr. Chairman, if we pass this fourth supplementary, the budget for the Executive will be \$38 million. Mr. Chairman, this is an increase of \$8 million within one fiscal year. I know that this government cannot and should not take full responsibility for that very substantial increase but it is a reflection on the Department of the Executive. Mr. Chairman, this is one that, indeed, has the biggest scope, the biggest opportunity to do things and stretch great new initiatives, do good things. But with that opportunity is a responsibility to manage prudently and carefully.

I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if I have really contributed anything new to the argument or the discussion, but I wanted to state my position on the committee's difficulty with this expenditure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think any government is measured on two things. First, it is based on what it achieves and secondly, on the level of fiscal responsibility it shows in managing public money. In terms of our government, we have set up what we believe is required to achieve a tall order of priorities that we have collectively set. This is a big piece of what our purpose is. We need to have the ability to achieve that. Otherwise, if we just zero in on the fiscal responsibility, which is very important, then we are not fulfilling our obligation to the public. On the fiscal responsibility side, I hear the Member loud and clear. I agree with him. I agree with all the comments in terms of the need to be fiscally responsible. At the same time, we have to achieve what we said we would achieve. It is a matter of having a balance between the two. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering if I could get some information from the Minister. May I get a clarification as to what period this Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, is covering?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, covers the whole year. It covers some of the items that have not been included in earlier supplementaries. I think the main items that are in question really cover close to a three-month period. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should probably not speak for others, but for the benefit of the new Members, and especially for myself, I would ask for some clarification. I see this is the fourth supplementary appropriation, it is not the first one this year. Could the Minister explain the circumstances under which a supplementary appropriation is brought into the House?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will ask Lew Voytilla to explain this. He is the expert of all supplementaries. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Voytilla.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary appropriations, of course, are anticipated in the Financial Administration Act as being a normal part of doing business. What gives rise to them is the fact that we do most of our planning quite a ways in advance for a fiscal year. We do our business planning in a normal cycle, upward to a year in advance of the fiscal year. Then we do our main estimates. Usually we are putting them together and doing the calculations and forecasts from three to six months in advance of the fiscal year. The budget is approved before the start of the fiscal year. You are always looking forward anywhere from 12 to 24 months. You are forecasting many variables, such as programs and enrolment. There are many things that you are anticipating and forecasting. It is a planning process and an estimating process.

As the year rolls out, those estimates sometimes need to be adjusted. Reality or actual results or enrolments may differ from what we forecasted 18 months in advance. These are all factors the government has to react to. That is why we have the concept of supplementary appropriations built into the Financial Administration Act. It is in recognition that the main estimates are that. They are estimates. As the year progresses, those estimates will be refined and we will have to adjust to that. Unforeseen events may come up. We have a perfect example to illustrate this for the Member. In regard to forest fire seasons, we anticipate what an average might be. We build that into the estimates. Then each year is different, depending on the conditions in the year. That is why supplementary estimates are required.

Why we need four is more tied into the Legislative Assembly schedule than anything else. The act requires that for every sitting of the House, we have to bring forward any special warrants we may have approved in the intervening period and that then provides us with the opportunity to refine our estimates and to advise the House, at the earliest possible time, of changes in those estimates. The supplementaries include both increases and decreases. I hope this gives as thorough an explanation as the Member was seeking. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Chairman, earlier we had legal advice from the counsel who stated that there is no legal authority to spend money until it is approved in the House. I would like to know, from the Minister or the deputy minister, under what authority they would have spent this money in the meantime.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I will ask Mr. Voytilla to answer this. Thank you.

**MR. VOYTILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When an item is urgent, there is provision in the act for the Financial Management Board Secretariat to recommend a special warrant to the Commissioner. That is for emergencies that arise. There are other requirements that arise that generally we try to anticipate and seek approval through a supplementary appropriation in advance of the liability being incurred.

After having said that, it is not always possible, with the schedule of the House and the knowledge that comes to us, to

get things in front of the Legislature exactly before a liability is incurred or an expenditure is made. We make our best efforts in that regard. The recognition is, that if the Assembly, in the course of the year, disapproves a supplementary that has not been authorized by a special warrant, then we would have to, as a government, look for some other way to finance that need from within the already approved estimates through reallocations. Essentially, we can incur the expenditure in advance of the authority but if that authority is denied, then we have to be ready to reallocate. Of course, that gets much tougher the closer you get to the end of the fiscal year, which is the situation we face on this supplementary. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I ask the Minister what would happen if this supplementary was not approved as it is presented?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, one of two things would happen. First, we could use other funds that are lapsing to cover off the shortfall resulting from the nonapproval. Second, we would overspend, in which case we would have to answer to why we overspent without the authorization. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** I just need one further clarification, Mr. Chairman. The Minister mentioned that this money was already spent but, at the same time, that some money could lapse. Could the Minister confirm as to whether or not the money has been spent?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I cannot confirm that every dollar has been spent. This is an estimate. We will know in the near future how much of the money has actually been spent. If there were a lapse at all, we would then find out how big it would be. We never know until all of the accounting is done at the end of the year. This is the best estimate we have. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Could the Minister or the deputy minister tell us when the last time was that a supplementary was not approved?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, not in our recollection was there ever a supplementary not approved.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Have we agreed to go cost by cost?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** No.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Page 6 of the detail – Executive operations and maintenance not previously authorized. Ministers' Offices - \$151,500. Mr. Braden.

**Committee Motion 5-14(2): To Delete \$75,000 from the Ministers Offices in the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1999-2000 (carried)**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Chairman, I move that the amount of \$75,000 be deleted from the Supplementary Appropriation, No. 4, detail, under operations and maintenance, for the Department of the Executive under the activity Ministers' Offices.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Lee

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know the rules, but is there not a requirement for someone to explain why this motion is here?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** There is no requirement to explain the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you.

Executive Offices, not previously authorized for \$76,500. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Cabinet Secretariat, not previously authorized, for \$861,000. Mr. Braden.

**Committee Motion 6-14(2): To Delete \$85,000 from the Cabinet Secretariat in the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1999-2000 (carried)**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Chairman, I move that the amount of \$85,000 be deleted from the Supplementary Appropriation, No. 4, detail under operations and maintenance for the Department of the Executive, under the activity "Cabinet Secretariat".

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

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Chairman, may I ask for a recorded vote for this motion, please?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Yes, when we get to the vote, we will have a recorded vote. Agreed? A recorded vote has been asked for the motion. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Braden. Mr. Krutko. Mr. Roland. Mr. Dent. Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. McLeod. Mr. Bell. Mr. Nitah.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** All those opposed, please rise.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Ms. Lee.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** All those abstaining, please rise.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Steen. Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Handley. Mr. Allen. Mr. Ootes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Recorded vote, eight in favour, one opposed, six abstentions. The motion is carried.

Cabinet Secretariat, \$776,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total department \$852,500. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance, health insurance programs, not previously authorized, \$1,180,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total department, \$1,180,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Education, Culture and Employment, operations and maintenance, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$1,288,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total department, \$1,288,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operations and maintenance, resources, management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$301,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total department, \$301,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Are we ready to go through the bill clause by clause?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** We are now dealing with Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 4, 1999-2000. Clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Schedule, part 1, vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$3,781,500. Mr. Dent.

**Committee Motion 7-14(2): To Amend the Schedule to Bill 8: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1999-2000 (Carried)**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the schedule to Bill 8 be amended to:

- (a) decrease by \$160,000 the appropriation amount set out in Part 1, item 2, "Executive", by striking out "\$1,012,500" and by substituting "\$852,500";
- (b) decrease by \$160,000 the amount set out in part one as "Total Operations and Maintenance", by striking out "\$3,781,500" and by substituting "\$3,621,500"; and
- (c) decrease by \$160,000 the amount set out at the end of the schedule as "Total Supplementary Appropriations", by striking out "\$3,781,500" and by substituting "\$3,621,500".

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

Schedule, Part 1, Vote 1, Operations and Maintenance, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$3,621,500.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Total supplementary appropriations, \$3,621,500.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does the committee agree that Bill 8 is ready for third reading as amended?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Bill 8 is now ready for third reading as amended. Thank you, Minister Handley and thank you to the witnesses. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I move we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will now rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of the committee of the whole. The Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act 2000-2001; Committee Report 2-14(2), Committee Report 3-14(2), Committee Report 4-14(2), and Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1999-2000 and would like to report progress with five motions being adopted. That Committee Report 2-14(2), Committee Report 3-14(2) and Committee Report 4-14(2) are concluded. Bill 6 and Bill 8 are now ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We have a motion. Do we have a seconder? The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland. 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, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Orders of the day for Friday, March 31, 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 14-14(2), Request for Comprehensive Audit of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
  - Motion 15-14(2), Enactment of Human Rights Legislation
17. First Reading of Bills
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 4, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act
- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act

## 20. Report of Committee of the Whole

## 21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-20001
- Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1999-2000

## 22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 31, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:00 p.m.