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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER.....	235
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	235
CANADIAN YOUTH AGAINST IMPAIRED DRIVING CONFERENCE (BRADEN)	235
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES (DENT)	235
TRIBUTE TO WISE WOMAN AWARD RECIPIENT MARGARET THOM (MCLEOD).....	236
INCREASES TO CIVIL SERVICE HEADQUARTERS POSITIONS (MILTENBERGER).....	236
IMPACT OF FUNDING REDUCTIONS ON SMALL COMMUNITIES (KRUTKO)	237
VISION FOR THE 14 TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (LEE).....	237
BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRAPPING SEASON (ALLEN)	238
GNWT RATIONALE FOR ALLOCATING SCARCE RESOURCES (ROLAND).....	238
CANADIAN YOUTH AGAINST IMPAIRED DRIVING CONFERENCE (BELL)	238
TRIBUTE TO BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR, HARRY DENERON (ANTOINE)	239
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	239
ORAL QUESTIONS.....	239
REVERT TO RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	249
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS	249
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	249
NOTICES OF MOTION.....	249
FIRST READING OF BILLS	249
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS.....	250
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.....	266
ORDERS OF THE DAY	266

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2000****MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

--Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Good afternoon, colleagues. It is such a lovely day outside. I was looking in the rules to see if I could give you all a day off. However...orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Braden.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement on Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving Conference**

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our sparsely populated Territory, I am sure each Member of this House knows a young person in their constituency who has met with tragedy while operating a motor vehicle, be it a skidoo, motor boat, automobile, motor bike or ATV. In the last ten or so years, alcohol was a contributing factor in 60 percent of the fatal collisions in the Northwest Territories. A Department of Transportation report believes too many people are being killed and injured as a result of drinking and driving. I would like to thank the Member for Mackenzie Delta, David Krutko, for sharing with me the grim tragic accident facts that have been collected by the Department of Transportation.

In Yellowknife, we are fortunate to have Students Against Drinking and Driving, an organization active in our high schools. I believe there is also a chapter of this organization in Hay River. Through their efforts, these communities are made more aware of the devastating effects of mixing alcohol and motor vehicles.

I am pleased to say that other Yellowknife MLAs and I met recently with representatives of St. Patrick High School's Students Against Drinking and Driving, who have been successful in their bid to host the 11th Annual Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving (CYAID) Conference in Yellowknife in March, 2001. Conference organizers are anticipating 500 student registrants from across Canada for this conference, which may be one of the largest conferences ever to be hosted in our Territory.

Students Against Drinking and Driving Northwest Territories, as part of this initiative, has a goal of expanding this student led program into other northern communities.

I know various government departments and agencies such as the Coast Guard and Coroner's office have been most supportive of Students Against Drinking and Driving.

I believe that this initiative by Yellowknife SADD students has a tremendous opportunity for positive results and they would like

to bring their message to the Members of this House and to all northern communities.

As this is primarily a youth initiative, I have raised this matter with the Minister responsible for Youth, the Honourable Roger Allen, and later today I will ask the Minister how this government might further this important youth initiative.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement on Eligibility Requirements for Resident Hunting Licenses

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has been working on a new Northwest Territories Wildlife Act for some time. Departmental representatives have been holding public meetings and open houses in communities around the Northwest Territories. As I understand it, the public consultation period is due to end near the end of this month and the department will then proceed with the drafting of a new Wildlife Act.

Many constituents in Frame Lake are members of the Armed Forces or members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Currently, a person must reside in the Northwest Territories for two years before becoming a resident hunter. I know that many members of the Armed Forces and many members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police seek northern transfers because of the wilderness experience that the northern lifestyles can offer.

It is difficult for members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian Forces who are transferred often to sometimes enjoy the full benefit of living in the North because they may only spend one or two years in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, these people provide a vital service to all citizens of the Northwest Territories and Canada. I believe that it is unfair that their duties may take them elsewhere before they become eligible to purchase a hunting license.

I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that in six Canadian provinces, members of the Armed Forces have no waiting period before qualifying to purchase a resident hunting license. Other jurisdictions in Canada offer members of the Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police waiting periods of only two to six months, with the Yukon standing out as being a year long.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the current Northwest Territories residency requirement is punitive for people who are

transferred to the Northwest Territories by their employer to work in the service of Northerners.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I have made a submission to the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development urging consideration of special status for members of the Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the new Wildlife Act. I believe the residency requirement should be waived or reduced to a minimal waiting period for members of those forces.

Mr. Speaker, having noted that the consultation period ends shortly, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of my constituents to take notice of the chance that is offered to them right now to submit a position to the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and hopefully influence the outcome of what a new Wildlife Act might look like. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement on Tribute to Wise Woman Award Recipient Margaret Thom

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to take the opportunity to honour a member of my constituency, Mrs. Margaret Thom of Fort Providence. Mr. Speaker, Margaret has earned the Wise Woman Award from the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories. Margaret is employed as a school and community counsellor at Deh Gah School in Fort Providence.

A mother and grandmother, she is a prominent volunteer, serving as vice-chair with the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Board. She is a member of the Deh Cho Educational Council and a board member with the Hay River Reserve Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centre.

She has also recently initiated an anti-smoking campaign for the youth called the Non-Puffers Program, and was recently appointed as a representative at the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

Margaret also works on self-esteem development with a group who have dropped out of school. Her past consists of band councillor and co-ordinator of the Brighter Futures program. She has worked with the Friendship Centre and the Healing Lodge. She has had many opportunities to travel and participate in many gatherings, assemblies and workshops.

Mr. Speaker, we are very proud of Margaret's accomplishments. Margaret is a role model for our community, and the Northwest Territories has benefited. We pass on our congratulations to Margaret.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Increases to Civil Service Headquarters Positions

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker over the last few weeks, I have raised in this House, and every

other public forum that I was able to, the issue of positions and the shift of government services out of the regions and communities and the subsequent inflation of headquarters' numbers.

I have heard many rumours in this creep in headquarters' positions over the last few months. I suppose the good news is, it is not a creep. The bad news is it is a big shift from regions to headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, I had the information from 1997 after the initial major deficit reductions took place. I wanted to see how they compared with the here and now. I requested information from the Financial Management Board Secretariat on the number of positions as of December 31, 1999.

The first report I received from the Financial Management Board Secretariat, straight off the much vaunted PeopleSoft system, showed a very dramatic picture, Mr. Speaker. There have been significant increases in headquarters' positions and a commensurate large decrease of positions in the communities and in the regions.

The Financial Management Board Secretariat had the departments re-check the numbers, massage them, work them, and they subsequently published their own geographic tracking document, the official one. This time, for some reason that I am not quite sure of yet, there was a small decrease of headquarters' positions of five percent. Of even more concern, Mr. Speaker, in spite of how the numbers were massaged, there was still a ten percent decrease of positions outside of headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, this tells me two things. First, that there is still a problem getting blue chip information out of the government, which I intend to talk about in a later statement. Further, and more importantly, the figures indicate to me a trend and a problem that we have to look at very seriously. Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that after 1997, after the reductions to all of the government, there should have been a more significant decrease in headquarters' positions, due to division.

On the other hand, the regions should not have been affected by division. There should not be the same kind of erosion that we now see has taken place at ten percent. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The numbers still point to a problem. There has been constant and ongoing erosion since 1997, even though we all paid the price as communities to help balance this budget of services and government positions out of the regions. Somehow, in spite of division, headquarters has managed to be buffered.

Half of the departments have had an increase to headquarters since 1997, according to the official document put out by the Financial Management Board Secretariat. Departments like the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, Aboriginal Affairs, Municipal and Community Affairs, Justice, Transportation, Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and the Workers' Compensation Board.

Mr. Speaker, the work at the regional level has not changed. There was no political direction that I can recollect in this House to further cut positions in the regions and the communities. I can see no reason why there has been a continued decrease to the level there has been to jobs and government positions outside of headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, since there is such a significant discrepancy in the numbers, I will be asking the government, for my community, specifically to try to identify for me where these jobs are, where they were, and what positions are there.

Mr. Speaker, I think that as a Legislative Assembly, we have to look at a way to address this trend. It was never the intent of this government to talk on one hand of decentralization and moving things to the communities, but have the hard numbers show in fact that the trend is the other way. Mr. Speaker, later today, I will table the documents I used to make these assessments. They are all government numbers but I will table them in this House. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement on Impact of Funding Reductions on Small Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to speak on the question of the have and have not communities in the Northwest Territories. In the prayer that is usually read in this House, we talk about how we represent and serve the people of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I have been here for four years. In those four years, I have fought hard and vigorously to ensure that the communities, in a small way, would be served by this government through programs, services and economic opportunities such as contributions to highway maintenance grants. We have tried to ensure that there are economic opportunities for the unemployed in our communities. We have tried to ensure and the situation for the people that are unemployed and on income support and other means of dependency on this government will be changed.

Mr. Speaker, I have not seen that in the former budget that has been put forth by this government. All I see are increases at the headquarters level and increases in the government itself. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know when this government will reinstate the cuts that were made to the small communities.

Mr. Speaker, I feel awfully annoyed when I see the increases at the senior level of government, yet, we talk about setting an agenda to be fair to everyone. I have seen the fairness that has taken place in the last four years, which was the majority of cuts to the small communities so that we have limited resources to take care of the problems that we have. We have a major problem in the delivery of health care and education services in our small communities. But yet, Mr. Speaker, the funds that keep flowing from this government seem to all be at the central level.

I will continue to fight hard for the small communities. I have grown up in a small community and I have seen what the day to day impacts are on people. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people in this House who did not have that experience. I think it is time that people took the blinders off and looked outside the boundaries of Yellowknife to see the impacts of these cuts on

our small communities. At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Premier a question on this matter, ensuring fairness in this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement on Vision for the 14th Legislative Assembly

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you are well aware, the Yellowknife MLAs experienced a very productive constituency meeting earlier this week. The issues that were raised in that meeting have been reported already to this House by my Yellowknife colleagues.

There was something else that was said in the meeting that has had me thinking for the last few days, and I wish to bring it up in this House. After hearing answers about why we need devolution of powers from the federal government to do our job, one of our constituents asked a question. "You want all this power, but what are you going to do with it? Do you have a vision?"

As I indicated at the meeting, my answer is an emphatic "yes", Mr. Speaker. My vision for the future of Yellowknife and Northwest Territories is very clear. I believe we have the potential to create an economy that generates enough wealth to pay our way. As a "have" Territory, we can better take care of the basic needs of all our citizens and be competitive nationally and globally. I believe a plan for a healthy economy must go hand in hand with a plan for a healthy people.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I know that Yellowknife cannot do it without the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories cannot do it without Yellowknife. Some may say that this is not a vision but a lofty dream that people have been saying forever. Why should it be any different this time around? Well, I can tell you Mr. Speaker, that I am one of those blessed people who have personally experienced dreams and visions turning into reality time and time again. I feel it deep inside that great things are going to happen in this 14th Assembly. My observation so far is that the ducks are lining up, so to speak, to make this happen more than ever before, Mr. Speaker.

Division is behind us. We are seeing an intergovernmental process that will bring aboriginal governments to work with us on resource development and mutual governance issues. We have the resource industries willing and poised to invest a lot of dollars in oil and gas and diamonds. We have a Prime Minister interested in looking at the possibilities in the North with a fresh eye. We have a federal Finance Minister who is seeing the North as an investment potential and not a recipient of handouts. Mr. Speaker, may I ask for consent to complete my statement?

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further, we have a Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Minister with a commitment to devolution of federal powers.

On the home front, Mr. Speaker, we have a government headed by a Premier with years of proven leadership

experience and strong support in and out of this Assembly. We have a cohesive Cabinet that is working cooperatively and well together. We have a senior civil service with morale higher than any I have seen in a long time. And most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we have a strong group of Ordinary Members in this side of the House who are going to make sure the job is done right.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Speaker, an older gentlemen came up to me and said, "I liked hearing about your vision. Make sure you hang on to it". I intend to do everything as a Member of the 14th Assembly to lay a solid foundation to make this vision a reality.

I would like to add one more thing. There is one cardinal rule I live by in making my dreams into reality time and time again. Dreams cannot be achieved by using negative energy. A vision is turned into reality when it is broken into manageable pieces and by going after them relentlessly with hard work and tenacity.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement on Best Wishes for a Successful Trapping Season

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I originate from the trapping economy, I would like to speak a little about the importance of this time of year for our people of the Mackenzie Delta, as they traditionally spend the spring months out trapping muskrats.

Those who need special attention, Mr. Speaker, are Gilbert Kasook, Rhoda Joe, Roger Selamio, Big John Coyen, Sandy Stefansson, Mary Jane Dillon, Ernie Dillon, Lulu Loreen, Victor Allen, the Dick family and both Harry and John Carmichael's families. These are just many of the people who carry out the practice of trapping each spring and keep our trapping industry alive. For those I have missed, I wish you well and a prosperous trapping season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. I am sure that spring and the spring hunt does spark the memories of a lot of people in this House. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement on GNWT Rationale for Allocating Scarce Resources

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the issue of a vision as well; a vision of a strong Northwest Territories where all regions are equal and where there is not one side that is better off than another because of decisions made politically.

Mr. Speaker, I say this because I come from an area that is quite remote from the capital of the Northwest Territories. I have said since I have become elected in the 13th Assembly, and will continue to say in the 14th Assembly, that if we are going to truly build a strong Territory, it has to be done through teamwork and by committing to work together, not to just say,

in areas of policies, that everything will go to where needs are the greatest.

Mr. Speaker, where is our vision if we say that all the dollars we spend will go to those where the volume is highest? The reason I speak of this, Mr. Speaker, is yesterday during question period, when Mr. Krutko questioned the Honourable Vince Steen, the response to one of the questions was that the budget planning was based on need and volume.

Mr. Speaker, that puts the rest of us in the smaller communities at a distinct disadvantage. That means using that formula, the highway that connects my community to the rest of southern Canada is going to be the first to have more wear and tear.

I cannot agree with that. I must ask this government how do we set our policies? Where are we going to go? Shall the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer? I did not come into government to have that happen. Later on today, I will be asking the Premier on the policies of this government. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement on Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving Conference

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to echo the thoughts of Mr. Braden and recognize a group of individuals in our community.

This group, Mr. Speaker, is the St. Patrick's High School Students Against Drinking and Driving, commonly known as SADD. This dedicated group of students, staff and community members has been very active since 1994, promoting healthy choices for students to make in their lives. The chapter was originally formed by Mr. Johnnie Bowden, the current principal of St. Pat's who was the vice-principal at the time, and Ms. Michelle Thoms, who is still active as the SADD advisor for St. Pat's.

This group is a small but vocal partner to national and international organizations as well. They have steadily grown in numbers since their formation and now have 60 active members in the St. Patrick High School SADD chapter, but consider the entire student body as members.

Events have been initiated and hosted for students which offer alternative activities to drinking and other negative influences our youth face in their everyday lives.

Mr. Speaker, there are other chapters in Yellowknife at Sir John Franklin High School, École St. Joseph and Weledeh Catholic School. Recent interest to start their own chapters has come from northern communities such as Hay River, Fort Simpson, Rae, Fort Smith and Fort Liard.

Next week, 38 representatives of this chapter will be going to Edmonton to attend the 10th Annual Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving Conference. This conference will bring together over 1,000 delegates and presenters from across Canada who will attend workshops and gain valuable knowledge and experiences to reaffirm their positive life choices.

I would like to point out that the students who are attending this conference from Yellowknife have had to work their way towards attending the event. Through various fundraising events, the students have had to raise approximately \$900 each to attend the conference. I am pleased to say that this group has taken the challenge to pay their way without any government funding. This is no small task, Mr. Speaker, especially for students to undertake.

In closing, I would like to ask my fellow Members to join me in a show of support for the students, staff and delegates who will be attending the conference next week in Edmonton and wish them well in the various activities they will be participating in. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, we will be hearing a lot more from this group over the next year as they work towards their preparations to host the next national conference here in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement on Tribute to Businessman of the Year, Harry Deneron

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take the opportunity today to speak in my own language. (Translation begins) I would like to make a comment today. Last week, the chief of Fort Liard attended a Northwest Territories Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. He was given the award of the Northwest Territories Chamber of Commerce Businessman of the Year. This, to me, is a high award. I think he deserves it because he has done quite a bit for the community. He has generated a lot of work and a lot of business around the Fort Liard area and the Deh Cho region.

Harry has been a chief for many years. He has worked hard for his community, and I think he was the one that inspired the pipeline. I would like to say from now on we are going to continue supporting him on whatever he does. A while ago, there was a meeting in Fort Liard attended by a lot of people from the different communities. They discussed the pipeline that is going to go down the Mackenzie Valley and how each community close to this pipeline would benefit.

Harry spearheaded the pipeline initiatives, how the communities would benefit from this. This is a very large project and he will be working on it for a long time yet.

I would like to congratulate him for all the work that he has done and for his continued work to help all the people in that region. He is pretty well known. He is well-known even in Ottawa. He is known as a person that has done really well for his community. Thank you. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Item 3, Member's statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Julius Buski and his wife Nonie, who are visiting us today. He is visiting Yellowknife in his capacity as District Governor for Rotary District 5370. A note that may interest some Members - Mrs. Buski, Julius' mother, was my piano teacher for some 12 years. She also taught me violin for six or seven years.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to the Legislature of the Northwest Territories, Governor and Mrs. Buski. We are expecting a piano recital from Mr. Dent in the Members' lounge after the Session. Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a friend of mine sitting in the gallery. His name is Paul Smith. He is a former colleague of mine at the law firm of Gullberg, Wiest, MacPherson and Kay. I articulated with him and he was also the manager of my campaign. Mr. Paul Smith, thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to welcome all the visitors that are attending our Session. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Oral Question 110-14(2): GNWT Spending Priorities

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement, I truly believe that if we are going to build a strong Northwest Territories for our children to continue to prosper, we are going to have to do it with a balanced approach, where the small communities work along with the large communities and visa versa.

Mr. Speaker, I have a concern. It has been stated publicly in this House, and I will refer to the unedited Hansard on page 476, when Mr. Steen was questioned by the Member for Mackenzie Delta on Highway No. 3. The Minister's response, in part to the question, was that the department cannot distribute a budget based on spreading it evenly through the regions.

If that is, in fact, a policy of this government that we are going to spend money based on volume as a major part of the package, then the rest of us outside the large centres are going to suffer dearly. I can refer back to the 13th Assembly in which I believe Inuvik suffered heavily under the reduction scenarios. So my question to the Premier is, is it in fact the policy of this government to spend volume-based?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Premier, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi.

Return to Question 110-14(2): GNWT Spending Priorities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, that is not the policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Steen was speaking about the way in which the Minister

responsible for Transportation deals with capital allocation regarding highways. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 110-14(2): GNWT Spending Priorities

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the differences that each department has to use in making up formulas and distributing budgets. If that is not the policy of the government as we know it, can the Premier inform us, has there been direction to his Cabinet Ministers when they started working on this interim appropriation and the budget that came up, on an approach to spending in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 110-14(2): GNWT Spending Priorities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said a number of times in the Legislature, this government has been in office a little over two months. We have needed to give direction on the interim appropriation that we require for government to continue operating after April 1st. The direction, as I know it, was to have an interim appropriation bill in front of this Legislature that would comprise four months of expenditures based roughly on what was required last year in the first four months of the fiscal year.

That included forced growth, and that is what we require. It has not been largely finessed, but it will be, as Members have been told. I am not sure that it is clear yet, but there will be ongoing changes in the year. We will prepare the budget and present it to the Members in June. It will contain measures that the Members have indicated in this interim appropriation. It will address such issues as how can we live within our existing means and make sure the priority issues are addressed. It will ensure that small community needs are respected and, if possible, reductions should not be made at the expense of communities and regions. Those are all things that we have no difficulty with at all.

It is simply that we have not had time to engage in detailed planning, as Members are aware. I hope they appreciate that we are trying to be as inclusive as possible in the overall planning. That is what this government is engaged in, as we get off to what I hope is a very productive start in the four year mandate. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 110-14(2): GNWT Spending Priorities

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the Premier is, in fact, informing us that we are going on the status quo of the existing expenditure framework that previous governments have gone on. Is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Premier, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 110-14(2): GNWT Spending Priorities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is generally true. There are no specific new initiatives undertaken solely by this Cabinet. For instance, there is one of the Members on the other side that has made great hay of the fact that the Executive has increased expenditure by what he says is about 18 percent. The fact is that much of that was initiated by the previous government and some by this Legislature. I, as the head of the Department of the Executive, am responsible for passing this through this Legislature.

It is true that as a Premier and as a new Cabinet, we have created some new positions. But by no means is it anywhere near 18 percent, as the Member for Thebacha suggests. It is way below 18 percent. Much of that should be borne equally and enthusiastically by the good Member for Thebacha.

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

Supplementary to Question 110-14(2): GNWT Spending Priorities

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my questions can cover everybody and every jurisdiction in the Northwest Territories. Hopefully, with this next response, we will focus more on where the question is coming from and not on another colleague.

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier inform us that when he and his new Cabinet become more familiar with their workload, they will be able to look at the way this government's policies are formed to date and to make adjustments so that we can truly grow as a Northwest Territories as a whole, not as have and have not? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Premier, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 110-14(2): GNWT Spending Priorities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think this government can assure the Member that that is how we would like to proceed. I would like to remind Members again, that as an MLA, I also come from a region that has been, historically, largely ignored and, resource-wise, rather undernourished. It has enjoyed some small growth in different areas over the years. It was because of the very aggressive and consistent hard work by the good Member that they elected. Small communities will be respected to the greatest extent possible. The support of this government and this Legislature should be assured to them. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 111-14(2): Meeting the Needs of Small Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions to the Premier are in regards to my opening statement. One thing I have noticed with this interim appropriation and the cuts to our small communities, is the

whole question about compassion and realizing that there are certain social and economic situations in our small communities that keep arising.

It is especially true with the high cost of living and the high percentage of people who are unemployed. In some communities, we are talking 80 and 85 percent unemployment. Yet, Mr. Speaker, when it comes down to the question about need, I think we are finding out that it is more greed than need. Especially in the context of looking at this budget, where I see a lot of items, especially in my riding, in the area of \$50,000 being taken out of here and there. And there are areas where half the transportation capital budget is in one jurisdiction.

I have been working hard to ensure that we have an economic base to help people get off income support and get jobs, and find ways to improve the lives of people in our communities.

I would like to ask the Premier, what has he done to put some criteria in place or principles that his Cabinet and this government can follow to ensure that we meet the goals people in the small communities are setting for themselves? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 111-14(2): Meeting the Needs of Small Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a good question and I thank the Member for most of it. I do not like the part which states that greed is prevailing somewhere in this government as it carries out its work. I think it is needless and does not need to be mentioned in the Legislature.

The fact is that this government, as I have said, has been in office a little over two months. We are eager to initiate some work to better meet the needs of communities, regions and the people we serve. It is also important for us to think out and plan well in advance of anything that we do and to appreciate the full implications before we start.

I point to a couple of examples. One is there are community and regional self- government negotiations going on. I would like to have the capacity to be able to meet the demands that will bring to this government. I would like to look at reorganizing regions, and look at resources in communities and regions as well as possible. After division, do we need to reorganize? I need the capacity to do it.

There are some resources that are available now in the Department of the Executive. That was pointed out in the committee of the whole the other day. But that no longer meets with the support of some Members of the Legislature. The question is how do we initiate that so we can meet the needs of the communities and regions. I have to step back and consider that, because that is not so clear.

Self-government negotiations require additional resources so we can meet the newly established negotiations with the Akaitcho Territory and the Deh Cho. It requires additional staff because they have established negotiations. I have a sent a very accelerated schedule of work that cannot be met within existing resources. Unfortunately, these are placed in the Department of the Executive, so it does look like we are getting

rather out of bounds on our growth. But it is meeting the demands from the communities and regions.

On one hand, we are trying to move prudently. But we need to move quickly in some areas. In other areas, we are simply positioning ourselves so we can begin the proper planning. It is necessary to initiate some changes, but with a frisky and well organized plan. The Member on the other side is asking questions. It is important you make clear what it is you want us to do. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 111-14(2): Meeting the Needs of Small Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to my statement, one of the things I do not see much of anymore is that this infrastructure building that the Premier talks about is all happening in Yellowknife. We do not see anything really happening in our communities. We are finding a lot of positions have been vacated, and monies are moved to the regional centres. The positions are taken out of the regions and the communities.

I would like to ask the Premier, what is he doing to ensure that he reinstates the numbers that were there before he starts compiling all these people in the government in Yellowknife? Will he seriously put something in place so there will be positions in the communities and the regions to help the social and economic problems we find ourselves in? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 111-14(2): Meeting the Needs of Small Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had made a commitment to the Legislature that we would not initiate any changes without at least informing the Members. It is not proper for me to suggest that there are going to be whole scale changes made, because then the Members would be very upset and I would be in full retreat by now.

I am going on the assumption that all Members will be interested in looking at the idea of reorganizing regions to compliment the settlement of claims, the emergence of political organizations and aboriginal and regional governments.

We should look at the idea of making sure that the existing resources at the community and regional level are, if they can be, made more efficient and better utilized for services to communities. If there are ways of creating greater autonomy at the community and regional level, then we should do that, respecting the fact that the self-government negotiations are going on.

If the communities and regions wish for an initiative like that, we should be prepared to offer it. I am interested to know if the Legislature would give an indication like that. I believe that was what we had suggested in Fort Providence, but it is not categorical and clear to me.

I would be prepared to hear Members give that direction so that we can begin work like that. It is possible that we can look at

making the government, at the headquarters level, more efficient. There are ways of becoming more accountable. We can look at ways we set targets and have instruments that can measure whether or not we have achieved those targets.

I would be prepared to look at initiatives like that. These are ideas that are floating around. We have had very little time to sit down and come up with ideas, and ensure that we have the proper planning to suggest ideas like that. I am looking forward to, sometime after the Session, when Cabinet may make suggestions like that amongst ourselves, when there might be more time to do proper planning. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 111-14(2): Meeting the Needs of Small Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I noted in my opening comment is that we have seen some major cuts in the capital for my riding, and of some half a million dollars in transportation, the access road programs and the projects to assist communities. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we spend millions of dollars in these small communities on social or income support programs.

People do not want welfare. They want workfare. I want to know, why is the government using the formula they are using in highways and traffic, but do not really look at the social and economic needs of communities, ridings, and regions? Realizing that what little money they get really does offset the cost to this government on social payments we make in the communities, especially in the area of income support. In some communities, we are spending \$2 million to \$3 million.

I would like to know from this government, when will they change the concept that many of these bureaucrats have, that everything is based on a process and not really looking at the human needs? All the communities are asking for is to improve their lives, the social conditions, and to make it better for their children. When will this Premier consider looking at this as one of the options this government takes into account? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 111-14(2): Meeting the Needs of Small Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I always thought the government tried to operate in the best interests of everyone that they serve. The perception is sometimes that the government does not always do that. That is true. I have always believed that governments fundamentally try to do what is in the best interest of everyone they were elected to serve.

In the instance of the Mackenzie Delta, Fort McPherson specifically, there is one issue that I know the Member has asked for a quick response on, which is in regards to the difficulties of Fort McPherson with their water supply. We have assured the Member we would act quickly on that. I believe we have moved to fast track the capital so that all construction for a new water facility and a water supply system for Fort McPherson has been arranged for this year. That is one specific instance where we have tried, in the last two months, to respond specifically to Mr. Krutko's riding.

In general, on the area of the Mackenzie Delta in regards to economic development, we have been fully supportive of bringing the oil and gas companies back to do exploration and production work. We have recently moved to try to allocate additional dollars to the communities, to this government so that we can assist in getting our communities and regions ready for the oil and gas development that is coming in the next few months and years. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 111-14(2): Meeting the Needs of Small Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We talk about having a transparent government so people can realize we are accountable and open. Mr. Speaker, I really have a problem when I see new capital projects coming in the budget, especially when a lot of these projects are in the Ministers' ridings. I would like to ask the Premier, when will this practice stop so that people realize the projects should be where they have been distributed through a capital planning project? We see a lot of new capital projects coming forth, and the majority of those projects are in the Ministers' ridings. I would like to ask the Premier, when will you ensure that practice stops? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 111-14(2): Meeting the Needs of Small Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware that there is a trend towards increasing capital allocations only in the Ministers' ridings. I do not believe that is true and certainly if it appears that way, it is not because there are Ministers in those particular ridings. It is because the government and the departments believe those are the areas where the capital projects are in greatest need and those are the priority areas. I do not accept the allegation the Member is making. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Kakfwi. Before I go to the next honourable Member for questions, I would like to draw the House's attention to some of the rules governing question period. A question must be brief. It must not contain a preamble that exceeds carefully drawn sentences.

These are your rules. The answer as well should not be lengthy, it must be brief. I would like to remind the Members that when you go into long questions and long preambles, it does take away the opportunity for other Members to ask questions. With that in mind, item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Oral Question 112-14(2): Support for Students Against Drunk Driving

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Minister responsible for Youth, Mr. Allen. As I have stated in my Member's statement, Mr. Speaker the St. Patrick's Students Against Drunk Driving organization will

be hosting the 11th Annual Canadian Youth Against Impaired

Driving Conference in Yellowknife in March, 2001. They are also seeking to establish SADD chapters in Northwest Territories communities. Will the Minister inform this House how the government might support this SADD initiative and ensure that all Members have a better understanding on this positive approach by youth in dealing with the consequences of drinking and driving? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The Minister responsible for Youth, Mr. Allen.

Return to Question 112-14(2): Support for Students Against Drunk Driving

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into the core of my answer, I would just like to mention to the Members that this is part of an example of how my portfolio integrates with the other departments. Specific to the Member's question, yes, in my capacity as Minister responsible for Youth, I received a request from the Yellowknife Students Against Drunk Driving group, requesting a luncheon meeting with the Members here in the Chamber. Mr. Speaker, I met this morning with the Minister Responsible For Transportation to seek support to hold the luncheon in the Great Hall.

That will occur on March 28, 2000, to which I will be sending out an invitation to all the Members here in the House to attend this very important function. From my information, the Yellowknife SADD group has raised a vigorous campaign over the past few years and certainly had a positive impact on reducing student's drinking and driving.

For this, Mr. Speaker, I applaud the SADD group's efforts in taking the lead in establishing SADD chapters across the North. I am pleased to hear that the youth group has also taken the initiative to host the Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving Conference in Yellowknife in March, 2001. Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife SADD group wishes to meet with the Members so that they can outline this worthwhile project and seek territorial support and involvement. Again, I encourage all Members in this House to attend this event, to meet with this youth group and offer their support to fight drinking and driving in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 113-14(2): Distribution of Government of the Northwest Territories Employee Positions

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is in regards to government information on positions and such. I will address it to the not as thin-skinned Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of questions about excessive spending and stretch limos and the Premier gets all cranky. It must be because he is too tired. Too tired to be frisky, obviously.

-- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister responsible for Finance is in regards to my statement today about the positions and the inability to get a clear sense of what they mean, how accurate they are, and whether or not they are credible. I would like to ask the Minister whether he would commit, at least for my constituency, to have his department look at those and somehow explain to me the dramatic shifts that have taken

place, even after reductions. I cannot understand the numbers that they say are there. Thank you.

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

Return to Question 113-14(2): Distribution of Government of the Northwest Territories Employee Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to compliment the honourable Member on his tie.

-- Laughter

Yes, I will certainly commit to looking at the information he has provided to me. We have to be very careful when we start comparing employment or position numbers from regions to headquarters or even at different periods of time, and so on.

You can get it from a number of sources. If you take the human resources information system, it is at one point in time. If you take it off the main estimates, it covers a whole year. If you go to the regions, then often we have devolved responsibilities. For example, between 1997, when the Member is referring to and now, we have devolved a lot of positions to the communities and to regional organizations.

So it is a complicated question. You cannot just sit down and take a number off a point in time and compare the two. A lot has happened in that period. Mr. Speaker in response to the question, I will definitely have the department do an analysis and provide a full reply on the differences. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 113-14(2): Distribution of Government of the Northwest Territories Employee Positions

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my tie gives a little colour to this Assembly and helps to alleviate the "mortician and undertaker look" the Cabinet Members choose to favour.

-- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Finance Minister is that these are government numbers. These were the numbers we were given to tell us how the cuts were going to impact our communities. I would hope that the Minister is not saying they are going to have some elaborate shuffle and shell game to show that while they have devolved, the numbers show that there has been a ten percent erosion over and above the reduction cuts. Or that somehow everything is wonderful and do not worry about it, things did not really happen that way. The people in the communities know that that is not the case.

Mr. Speaker, I would like some assurances from the Minister that the review he is going to do is going to be impartial, objective, fair and accurate.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I hope that will be the last reference to neckties in today's question period. The question is directed to the honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 113-14(2): Distribution of Government of the Northwest Territories Employee Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will wear a different necktie or shirt next time and change my dress. Mr. Speaker, I will definitely undertake to ensure that it is fair, accurate, open and honest in terms of the information we will provide. I take a great deal of pride with being able to provide information that is straight up. I assure there will be no shell game, and the Member can have full access to the information we use. I will explain very thoroughly how we arrived at what we did. I do not think the intention here is to try to undermine someone's information or anything like that. It is simply to provide good information to the House. I intend to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 113-14(2): Distribution of Government of the Northwest Territories Employee Positions

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. Bell, indicates that I am giving morticians a bad name.

-- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that all of the numbers I used are government numbers, taken off the government systems that are supposed to be blue chip. Can the Minister tell me when he anticipates he would be able to have some clear feedback? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 113-14(2): Distribution of Government of the Northwest Territories Employee Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without having talked to my staff, I expect I can have the information, and I am sure it will satisfy the Member, by early next week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 113-14(2): Distribution of Government of the Northwest Territories Employee Positions

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify, I made a mistake, and it was actually Mr. Braden who gave me that final comeback. Mr. Speaker, will you be tabling that document in the House or will you and I be discussing it in a more personal tête-à-tête? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 113-14(2): Distribution of Government of the Northwest Territories Employee Positions

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to have the tête-à-tête first if you want, to explain the information and how we arrived at it. I would be happy to do it either as a Ministerial statement or to table it in the House. I will do it one way or another, but we will get it here. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Oral Question 114-14(2): Impact of Rising Fuel Costs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Finance with respect to the high fuel costs. I realize that the Government of the Northwest Territories does not have control over fuel prices, but I must raise this question because I have been asked to do so by my constituents, who are suffering a great deal because fuel prices keep rising. I wonder if the Minister could advise the people out there as to what the cause of this is, and what, if anything, he is doing about it. Thank you.

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

Return to Question 114-14(2): Impact of Rising Fuel Costs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not done any thorough assessment of the total cost of the fuel increases to the general public, nor have we even finished it for our departments. We do know that the fuel prices have risen dramatically in the last while. Internally in the government, I expect any department's that need additional money in order to carry on their responsibilities, whether it be to deliver fuel, something like transportation, where they will use a lot of fuel, that they will do that assessment department by department. They will bring that forward in time for the main estimates.

In terms of the cost to the public, the fuel prices have increased as a result of increases in world crude prices. We do not know for sure how much more the price will continue to rise, or whether it will level off, or possibly drop down. Our tax on fuel is one of the lower ones across Canada. There are eight jurisdictions that have higher taxes per litre than we do. I do not think our taxes are causing a great burden like this.

When we start doing things to try and alleviate the pain that people are feeling as a result of a fuel price, we have to be very careful we are fair to all people. Some people who use it in their livelihood, other people who use it for pleasure, and other people who simply maybe have a problem because of heating prices. It is a very complex question. We are monitoring it very closely. I think if there is something we can do, I expect the department will be giving us advice on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 114-14(2): Impact of Rising Fuel Costs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister eluded to the taxation on the fuel price, I wonder if the Minister can explain whether or not the portion of tax that the Government of the Northwest Territories charges on fuel costs has remained constant from the time of the rise of the fuel price. I do not know if the Minister understands my question. I just want to know if the tax that the Government of the Northwest Territories is charging on the fuel has remained the same?

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

Further Return to Question 114-14(2): Impact of Rising Fuel Costs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, the tax that we charge for fuel has remained the same. The tax we have on it is 10.7 cents per litre for gasoline for on highway use, and 6.4 cents for off highway use. That amount has remained the same. At this point, I do not have any intention to raise it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 114-14(2): Impact of Rising Fuel Costs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to get clarification again. Is the taxation a percentage of a base price of the fuel or is it a set dollar amount? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 114-14(2): Impact of Rising Fuel Costs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the tax on fuel is based on the per litre, it is an advelorum tax. It is 10.7 cents per litre for fuel that is used on highway and 6.4 cents per litre on fuel that is used off highway.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 114-14(2): Impact of Rising Fuel Costs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to get at is, I understand that we are all experiencing difficulties due to the high fuel prices. I want to let the public know that the Government of the Northwest Territories is not playing any role in adding to the hardship. My question is, the Minister mentioned the taxation on fuel is 10.7 cents and 6.8 cents. Has that amount remained the same regardless of the up and down fluctuations in the fuel costs? In other words, have we increased any of our taxation on the fuel costs?

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

Further Return to Question 114-14(2): Impact of Rising Fuel Costs

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really do not know when the last increase in the tax on fuel was. I can tell you that in the life of this government, there has been no increase on fuel tax. It has remained, as I said, 10.7 cents per litre for as long as we have been in government here. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 115-14(2): Problems With The Digital Communications Network

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for Finance, regarding the Digital Communication Network. We have had various departments in the House tell us, Education for one, that the DCN is not allowing them to provide distance learning as they had originally thought it would. Mrs. Groenewegen alluded to the fact that Telehealth is not yet functional. Four years ago, I believe this government thought that by getting into this arrangement with ArdiCom, we would be able to achieve some of these things.

Certainly the system is under-performing. I do not know if it was ill conceived or if things have changed since four years ago. I am concerned about this. I think this government has to make distance learning and Telehealth a priority. With our small population, we simply cannot afford to have all the infrastructure everywhere. These are very critical issues. I am wondering if the undertaker responsible for Finance can tell us how he proposes to fix the problem. Thank you.

-- Laughter

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

Return to Question 115-14(2): Problems With The Digital Communications Network

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I intend to bury this problem.

-- Laughter

And the cable. Mr. Speaker, the Digital Communications Network is now installed in 32 communities. The company that has the contract to provide it, ArdiCom, has fulfilled its responsibilities in that capacity. There have been some inadequacies with the system. It is not clear to what extent it is ArdiCom's responsibility and what extent it is our responsibility. That is still being sorted out by the department.

The uses for the Digital Communications Network system are fine when it comes to links such as the FIS, PeopleSoft, motor vehicles, Internet access and so on. Where we run into problems is where you need greater bandwidth to allow for videoconferencing, or in the case of Health, I think possibly somewhere even greater assurance of reliability of the system. There is some need for what is referred to as premium bandwidth service performance. There should not be much ambiguity here, but if a department pays for a premium

bandwidth, then it is up to the company to guarantee that is provided. The department who wants it has to pay for it.

We have recently contracted with the Gartner Group, an independent information technology think tank group, to review our Digital Communications Network. They have completed their study and their report is now being reviewed by the department. We are aware of the problem. We are trying to alleviate it. As I mentioned, the bandwidth that is being purchased may not, in some cases, provide the reliable service that you may need in Health. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 115-14(2): Problems With The Digital Communications Network

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be very curious to see that review and I am hoping the Minister will bring that review to the House. I would suggest to him that he would have to kill the project before he could bury it. I think it would be much wiser if we would shovel some money at it, buy the bandwidth we need, and start to reap the cost saving benefits sooner. I am wondering if the Minister can commit to sharing the review with us?

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

Further Return to Question 115-14(2): Problems With The Digital Communications Network

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the honourable Member's advice in terms of what priorities we should have as a government and where to put some of our meagre resources. I will take that advice very seriously. I certainly intend to kill the problem and lay it to rest. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 115-14(2): Problems With The Digital Communications Network

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just quickly, will the Minister commit to sharing the review with this House? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 115-14(2): Problems With The Digital Communications Network

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 115-14(2): Problems With The Digital Communications Network

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the review has already been completed, can we get that as soon as possible? Like next week? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 115-14(2): Problems With The Digital Communications Network

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to check with my department first and see whether or not it is in a form that could be released. I understand it is accepted as their report. We are doing our own review of it now. If it is released early, then I urge Members to remember this is the consultant's report. It is not our recommendations at this point. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 116-14(2): Highway No. 2 Concerns

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My comments today are to the Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen. Mr. Speaker, I know there has been a lot of talk lately about our highway system, how badly our budget is stretched for highways and also the impact the amount of traffic on our highways is causing the system.

Coming from Hay River, I suppose it could be considered that we are the enemy of the North, as far as the highway access to our community. However, that in itself is a cause for concern. We keep stressing the amount of traffic going over Highway No. 3. I would like to suggest that all the traffic that goes over Highway No. 3 also goes over Highway No. 2, and what does not go over Highway No. 2 goes over Highway No. 1. Although there has been a lot of money spent on Highway No. 1 and Highway No. 2 and it is in reasonably good shape, I would hate to see it go without having anything done to it in the next ten years. By then, I am sure it will be worse than what Highway No. 3 is now.

There is a piece of highway within my constituency that I think has to be addressed. Highway No. 2 from Enterprise comes into the community of Hay River. I would like the Minister responsible for Transportation to tell me exactly where Highway No. 2 ends, if he could.

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

Return to Question 116-14(2): Highway No. 2 Concerns

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak to the department and then I will get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary to Question 116-14(2): Highway No. 2 Concerns

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was an amount of money budgeted for the Hay River area in the form of putting a bridge across the West Channel. That whole project of putting a bridge across the West Channel, from what I understand, came in \$400,000 under budget. The money that was under budget was immediately taken out of

that area and spent elsewhere, when there was a piece of highway very close to that bridge that is badly in need of repair. I was wondering if the Minister could confirm whether or not he looked at spending the money that was under budget for the bridge in the Hay River area.

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

Further Return to Question 116-14(2): Highway No. 2 Concerns

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I see this grouped into that area of the discussion we had yesterday of whether or not the Transportation budget is based on funding that is identified for each region. I was hoping that I passed on to the Assembly that the department does not distribute its budget that way. We try and distribute our budget based on where the traffic volumes are, where the highways need repairs or reconstruction.

As I indicated in the past to the Member, there was a surplus of \$400,000 on that first project for this year. We redirected that funding towards a winter road bridge at Oka River, I believe. There was no suggestion at any time that if a project is identified as a certain cost, that all of that money would in fact be spent in that area. However, the government has a policy where if we do move money from one project to another, we advise the Members that we are going to do it. We did inform the Members that we were going to do this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary to Question 116-14(2): Highway No. 2 Concerns

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We seem to spend a lot of money in trying to develop road systems and address some of that towards attracting tourism. When we have a piece of road that relates directly to tourism, considering other government money that has been spent towards tourism, is there any possibility that this government and the Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation could look at another department such as the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and maybe combine some money for better tourism when it comes to a stretch of road leading to that tourism avenue?

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

Further Return to Question 116-14(2): Highway No. 2 Concerns

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take the Member's comments, I did not hear a question there, but I will take the Member's comments and pass them on to the department.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Final supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary to Question 116-14(2): Highway No. 2 Concerns

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a piece of highway going through my constituency that is basically from the West Channel Bridge to the end of the highway in the West Channel, and I do believe that is a part of Highway No.2. It also leads to an area where there has been some money spent on a campground, and to one of the biggest resources we have as far as tourism is concerned, which is Great Slave Lake. It goes directly to that.

Would the Minister commit to having a look at that piece of highway and possibly addressing some money there in the near future?

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

Further Return to Question 116-14(2): Highway No. 2 Concerns

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will certainly take that into consideration. I would also like to comment and note, Mr. Speaker, out of the \$400,000, the project may end up in the Oka River. It is quite possible, depending on who gets the contract to build the bridge, that the actual expenditure will be made in the Member's riding. It depends on who the contractor is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Oral Question 117-14(2): Forced Growth in Department of Executive

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Finance. It has to do with understanding the numbers. I know that earlier today the Premier questioned the Member for Thebacha's numbers on growth in the Executive, and I have heard the Minister responsible for Finance do the same in media reports.

I am just trying to get a handle on where the difference is, because when I look at the Executive in the interim appropriations, there was \$500,000 for new initiatives. Multiply that by three and you get a full year cost of \$1.5 million. The total preliminary target for the department is \$8.2 million. That certainly sounds pretty close to 18 percent to me, in terms of the number that has been quoted by the Member for Thebacha.

I think that what Members on this side of the House have been trying to point out is that \$500,000 in new initiatives just happens to match the number we heard from the Minister responsible for Finance in a public meeting this morning. That would be enough to put new funds into Student Financial Assistance so that there would not have to be any clawbacks; treating Metis and Inuvialuit students different than other aboriginal students.

I would like to know from the Minister responsible for Finance, how are we misinterpreting these numbers? How is it not 18 percent growth in the Executive?

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

Return to Question 117-14(2): Forced Growth in Department of Executive

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure there are many different expenditures that we can match up against another one from a different department. It is one where, as we mentioned this morning for the standing committee meeting, if we allowed Metis and Inuvialuit students to choose whether or not they wanted a grant or forgivable loan, then the cost might be somewhere between \$400,000 and \$600,000, depending on who made what choice.

We are not quarrelling at all with the 18 percent figure in terms of the Executive. If that is the question, then I do not have a problem with that. What was the origin of that? How much of it can be attributed to the previous government and how much to this government? I think there are many ways of looking at that.

If we want to talk about the \$500,000, I would like to note that there is also an increase in the Legislative Assembly's budget because of standing committees and so on, of some \$500,000. That is an amount equal to what it would cost to be able to enhance the Student Financial Assistance Program. There are many ways of looking at this. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 117-14(2): Forced Growth in Department of Executive

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister again seems to adopt a common strategy from the other side of saying that it was a previous government that wanted to do this. I want to see the Executive of this government take some ownership in this process. Are they the ones who are providing us with this interim appropriation and bringing it forward? I expect that they are. I think they have to agree that they are going to take some ownership.

How does that 18 percent increase in the Executive offices compare to the Legislative Assembly's increase, when the Executive's office has gone from six Cabinet Members to seven and the Legislative Assembly has gone from 14 Members to 19? Give me the comparison.

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

Further Return to Question 117-14(2): Forced Growth in Department of Executive

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to be very careful here that we are not talking apples and oranges. I would like to say that yes, this government does take responsibility for the interim appropriations, absolutely. I think we have done a good job in putting them together.

We cannot confuse interim appropriations with the main estimates. That is pretty elementary. I also want to say that a lot of what is in the interim appropriations, are a lot of the expenditures that we are facing. Expenditures that have come about as a result of the transition. The roots of those go to the previous government. There are positions, for example, that have been protected. In a sense, people have been on indeterminate salaries, and they are continuing in positions. We have found places for them.

There are also a number of initiatives that are not just initiatives of the Cabinet, but initiatives by this whole Assembly that have been included in there. I make reference to the intergovernmental forum, for example. Those are things that we have all agreed to.

I think it is a combination of things that have resulted in the 18 percent increase as a result of transition costs and new initiatives in the Executive. It is very difficult to try to compare them, or say it has only been this government in the last two months and a few days of existence has created all of those policies. We are in a transition. We are bearing some of those costs. We are looking at some new initiatives in terms of the priorities we have set as a government. I think what is there reflects a good, healthy direction that we can all be proud of. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. The time allocated for question period has expired. Mr. Dent, you have two supplementaries that you may utilize. Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 117-14(2): Forced Growth in the Department of the Executive

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister responsible for Finance has correctly pointed out that this is an interim budget, and therefore does not contain the final spending for this government for the year. But, Mr. Speaker, the \$500,000 in new initiatives in the Executive alone, which happens to be 40 percent of what we are spending on the increase for teachers this year...

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, Shame!

MR. DENT: This is obviously going to tie our hands. If we approve this in the interim budget, we are obviously approving a full-year increase in expenditures for the Executive of \$1.5 million. Is that not correct, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 117-14(2): Forced Growth in the Department of the Executive

HON. JOE HANDLEY: The amount that we have in the interim appropriation is the amount of money that is required for the four-month period. That is the amount of money that the Executive has put forward as being their requirement. Whether or not that is going to be reflected exactly the way it is in the interim appropriation in the main estimates, I do not know. The departments are working on their business plans right now. We will be getting the business plans to the standing committees as soon as they are ready. I think we have laid out a schedule for doing that. I think at that point, then we can judge what the expenditures are for the balance of the year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to revert to item 6, oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to revert to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Krutko, you do not have unanimous consent to revert to item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to revert to item 4, returns to oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to revert to item 4, returns to oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you have unanimous consent. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to revert to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to revert to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Krutko, you have unanimous consent. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Krutko.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Pat Thomas, and everyone else in the gallery at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Welcome, visitors in the gallery. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to revert to item 6, oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to revert to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Krutko, you do not have unanimous consent to revert to item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Bill 1: An Act to Amend the Education Act

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act, and wishes to report that Bill 1 is ready for consideration in committee of the whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of

documents. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 31-14(2): Government of the Northwest Territories Position Reports Dated May 27, 1997

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, Information from May 27, 1997, the Position Reports provided by the former Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Todd.

Tabled Document 32-14(2): Geographic Tracking of Positions (Draft) as at December 31, 1999

I wish to table the following document, PY information from FMBS, the first cut from PeopleSoft.

Tabled Document 33-14(2): Geographic Tracking of Positions as at December 31, 1999

I wish to table the following document, the massaged Geographic Tracking of Positions document, subsequently issued by the FMBS.

Tabled Document 34-14(2): Position Information Analysis

I wish to table the following document, pages of the analysis that I have done in trying to make sense of the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 12-14(2): Support for Pension Entitlements Due to Former Giant Mine Workers

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 27, 2000, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that this Legislative Assembly urges the Government of Canada to take immediate action to provide the full earned pension entitlement and severance due former employees and pensioners of Royal Oak Giant Mine, as of the date of the mine's closure.

And further, that this Legislature request the Government of Canada to amend the Pension Benefits Act and the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act to protect the rights and interest of all Canadian workers, so that this unfair and unacceptable situation does not occur again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act has had first reading.

Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Minister's Statement 1-14(2), Sessional Statement; Table Document 4-14(2) Our Community, Our Decisions, Let's Get On With It, Final Report of the Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services; Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001; Committee Report 2-14(2), Accountability and Oversight on the 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation; Committee Report 3-14(2), Governance and Economic Development on the 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation; and Committee Report 4-14(2), Social Programs on the 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation with Mr. Delorey in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): When we finished our discussions yesterday, we were on Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recommend that the committee continue with consideration of Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, along with concurrent consideration of committee reports 2, 3, and 4. Mr. Chairman, I would like to seek unanimous consent to stand down consideration of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, and proceed today with consideration of Justice, followed by Municipal and Community Affairs, and then Aboriginal Affairs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to have the committee stand down consideration of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, and go to Justice. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will proceed to the Department of Justice. We will take a short 15-minute recess.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will call the committee to order. We are reviewing Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, with the Department of Justice. We are on page 5 of tab 6. Minister Antoine, did you have any opening comments?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the 2000-2001 interim appropriation for the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice requires \$32,764,082 for the operations and maintenance budget during the four-month interim period. This translates into 55 percent of the 2000-2001 preliminary target. The department also requires \$2,786,000 for the capital budget during the interim period, which works out to be 88 percent of the 2000-2001 preliminary target.

You have before you the details of the department's interim financial requirements. I am ready to answer any questions that you might have. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Minister Antoine. Would the committee responsible for the bill like to make any comments? Deputy Chair, Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs met with the Minister and his officials on March 17, 2000 and offers the following comments on the interim appropriation for the Department of Justice.

Per Diem Rates for Wilderness Camps

The members of the committee are concerned that the per diem rates offered to operators of wilderness camps for adult and young offenders have not kept pace with inflation and the program requirements implemented by the department since the introduction of this valuable rehabilitation program.

Committee members realize that the scope of the program has moved beyond what the department initially envisioned. Nonetheless, the committee believes that the department has a responsibility to ensure the adequacy of fiscal resources provided to operators on a regular basis.

Committee members think that the department must do a better job in communicating the application process involved in replacing capital assets to the wilderness camp operators. According to what individual committee members have been told, some camp operators are eligible for capital funding, whereas other operators are not eligible for any funding. If this is the case, committee members are concerned about equity of access to capital funding for camp operators. Committee members believe that a lack of policy or standards for the accessing of capital funding may be causing animosity between camp operators and regions. This apparent shortfall needs to be addressed by the department.

The members of the committee were uncomfortable in being asked to approve \$75,000 in the interim appropriation for the replacement of boats and motors without information on which camp or open custody facility would receive the funding. As with the Department of Health and Social Services, members believe that they were being asked to approve a "slush fund" that would not be subject to committee oversight.

Members are concerned that the apparent choice being offered to inmates as to which camp they wish to go to may be affecting the viability of some operators. A camp that offers hot and cold running water would certainly be more appealing than a camp that has no running water. Members believe that it may be desirable to develop a policy to determine which wilderness camps an offender can attend. The committee would like to discuss this issue further during the business plan review.

The committee looks forward to the main estimates and the opportunity to review the department's plan to address per diem rates for wilderness camp operators.

Legal Services Board

The committee is concerned about the state of the Legal Services Board and the demise of the Mackenzie Valley Court Workers as a distinct entity. Members look forward to further information on the activities of the Legal Services Board, its

plans for a regionally representative board once Nunavut establishes their own board, the future of the Beaufort Delta Legal Clinic and the vision that the board has for the next millennium.

Committee members have had concerns expressed to them by former board members of the Mackenzie Valley Courtworkers that they did not understand the reasons their board was dissolved.

The committee appreciated the commitment on the part of the Minister to convey these reasons in writing to the former board members of the Mackenzie Valley Courtworkers. The committee would appreciate being copied any correspondence.

Federal Inmates in Northwest Territories Correctional Facilities

The members of the committee can see that the initial projections on the usage of Northwest Territories correctional facilities by the Government of Nunavut were overly optimistic. Although this may change in the future, the committee agrees with the department's decision not to count on Nunavut in developing capital projections on the replacement of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre.

However, to replace the previously anticipated service payments from Nunavut, the committee would like to encourage the department in pursuing the placement of northern federal inmates in our system once we have capability. Besides the obvious financial benefit to the Government of the Northwest Territories in payments from the federal government, there are rehabilitative benefits that can be realized for these repatriated northern federal prisoners.

Committee members are of the opinion that federal inmates could also benefit from the department's innovative Wilderness Camp Program. Committee members believe that this provides inmates with an excellent opportunity to reintegrate into their community and traditional lifestyle and may lessen the shock of going from an institution to a community. Another positive feature of repatriating federal prisoners north is that families will have an increased opportunity to visit and support their incarcerated loved ones.

The committee looks forward to being apprised of the results of the official's meeting scheduled at the end of this month on the subject.

Community Constable Program

Some members of the committee have heard good things from their constituents on the success of the Community Constable Program but there are concerns that some communities cannot reasonably access the program. If a community does not receive adequate funding from MACA to fund a by-law officer position, this program is essentially useless to that community.

In addition to providing valuable assistance to RCMP officers in some of our smaller communities, this program serves as an important training step for aboriginal people seeking a possible career in law enforcement as RCMP officers. Members are concerned that the Department of Justice's goal of developing a representative police force is negatively impacted by funding deficiencies from MACA to the communities.

The committee strongly encourages the department to continue, and if possible, expand the program. With the federal funding for this program expiring at the end of the 2000-2001 fiscal year, it is imperative that the department works with the solicitor general to maintain and augment the program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses. Does the committee agree the Minister can bring in witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Mr. Minister, could you introduce your witnesses to the committee?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me on my left the deputy minister, Don Cooper, and on my right the assistant director of financial and management services, Kim Schofield. To my far left, Gerry Sutton, the assistant deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any general comments? Does the committee wish to go into detail? The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief comment, to seek clarification within the Department of Justice and its interim appropriation. In reviewing the material, I see that they have, for the Inuvik young offenders' facility, an amount in the interim appropriation. I also see a note beside it, "four-year funding requirements for this project". Is that amount for planning dollars or the beginning of construction? This is from the Department of Justice information that was sent to committees.

Could I get some information regarding the young offender's facility? I am aware there is a time period attached to that facility because of the code requirements, and so on. I believe the information from the previous Assembly was that by the summer of 2001, it had to be up and running. Is that the current situation?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The figure that the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake is making reference to in the interim appropriation is for planning and design of the facility. Our target date of opening the facility in Inuvik is February, 2002. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In fact, the date of July, 2001 is being moved now. Is that in agreement with the fire marshal, who I believe first gave order on the existing facility because it no longer met the code requirements. That is the understanding that I have from the previous work in the Social Programs Committee of the 13th Assembly. Is the actual date for the facility to be up and running, as the Minister said, February 2002?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are aware of the fire marshal's order, and we will have to make a request to see whether we can extend the use of the Dene K'Onia Facility in Hay River until we complete this facility. If not, then we will have to send the young offenders south. That is a possibility. We are hoping and are optimistic. We are working as fast as we can with the building season up there.

Just to add on to the earlier answer, I am told some of the funding allocated in the interim appropriation is also for beginning of slinging piles and so forth into the ground. We are actually doing the design and planning, and hopefully some preliminary construction of the site. The target date is, as I indicated, February of 2002 as of the last analysis of the plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. General comments. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one concern. It is essentially the same concern I had yesterday with the Department of Health and Social Services, and that is what I perceive to be undedicated capital in the interim. It is mentioned in our report, but when we reviewed this in committee, we were being asked to approve \$75,000 for boats and motors that were required urgently in the interim in the next four months.

At that point, the department was not able to tell us where those boats and motors were required. We were told that it was urgent, but they did not know where the need was. I am wondering if the Minister can give us a list of the projects this money is intended for. Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$75,000 identified in the interim appropriations report was for bush camp capital contributions. We do have a directive that is an internal policy on open custody wilderness camp equipment, a capital contribution all the bush camps are entitled to. I have checked since the committee meeting. This particular \$75,000 is for replacement of different equipment such as snowmobiles, boats, outboard motors and other related equipment necessary for the delivery of the program.

As you know, April 1st is the beginning of our fiscal year, and the camp operators are aware that this is when new money kicks in. We are anticipating that there are going to be some requests for replacement of equipment. I am told the department is estimating it will spend approximately \$98,000 in capital contributions in 1999-2000 fiscal year to nine contractors. In this fiscal year, the department has signed contracts for 12 open custody wilderness camps. There are two new contracts that either have been signed or will be signed in the near future. With that in mind, we are anticipating that the \$75,000 is not a slush fund, but is actually for a program the Member for Deh Cho, and according to the committee, is calling a very worthwhile and important program. Thank you.

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

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if the Minister can answer whether or not it is feasible or possible that the equipment in the camps does not need replacing this year and that, in fact, maybe this money would not be used up? Or is it just a given that every year equipment is used up and has to be replaced and we can assume the same thing this year? What I am wondering is whether this is urgently required? Do we know? Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know from past experience in the replacement of snowmobiles, outboard motors and boats to the bush camps. We have a list that shows they are being utilized. For example, and for the record, the operators of different camps have received various pieces of equipment. Mr. Charlie Barnaby in Fort Good Hope received a snowmobile through capital contributions; James Maring Sr., a boat and outboard motor in this 1999-2000 year; Fred Dyck, an outboard motor; Esther McLeod, again in the Delta with an outboard motor; James Rogers, a snowmobile; Rita Allen, a kicker; Allen's Transportation and Rentals, an outboard motor. There is an outboard motor pending for Edward Lennie, probably earmarked in this \$75,000 too. As well, James Rogers has a boat pending. These are the two that we know have requested to have their equipment replaced.

We are anticipating that with two new camps opening up and finding out there is a letter from the camp in Fort Providence, which I have just become aware of and we are looking into, yes to the question. We know for sure there are requests for this contribution. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Minister is in regards to community justice, especially in my riding. In Aklavik, there is an individual who has been providing this service to the government for almost 20 years. He has found it difficult to try to carry out a business where you do not have any clients. The department has said it is an individual's choice to go where they want. But then it comes back to the comment that was made during the presentation by the department that was reviewing this. We have to realize that we have to assist businesses regardless of where they are. You do not have the option of picking and choosing which camp you want to go to over another camp.

With that, I would like to know if we can get an actual number of facilities and how many clients we have now that provide this service to this government. Do you have such a list that would also include where each facility is located? Also, can you tell me how many clients, in the last two years, have they had in each of those locations? Then we will be able to see that there is a real discretion on how people use these facilities.

It is basically a question of choice for inmates. We do not tell young offenders they have a choice in which camp they want to attend. You go to the young offenders' facility that you are told to go. When we have this question about choice, it really does not support the initiative we had about community justice, allowing these bush camps to develop so that they can sustain themselves. The way it is right now, they cannot do that. Can the Minister tell me how many of these facilities are out there?

Where are they located? I would like to know how clients have been allocated to each of these facilities. Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member wanted to know which camps are existing and so forth.

In the Inuvik region, there are a number of them. There is Ester McLeod who has a capacity for two, with a current residence of one. Fred Dyck has the capacity for two, with a current residence of three. Edward Lennie, James Rogers and Rita Allen all have a capacity for two.

In Hay River, Kim Silverthorn has a capacity for one. In Fort McPherson, Eileen Koe has a capacity for two. These are alternate homes as well as on the land camps. In Snare Lakes, there is Alphonse Apples, who has a capacity for four. In Fort Smith, we have Charles Burke with a capacity for eight. On Simpson Islands, out of Hay River, Jerry Morin has the capacity for eight. In Fort Providence, Degas Gautienne has a capacity for two, but could hold up to three. Also in Inuvik, James Maring has a capacity for two. In Aklavik, Walter Alexcy has a capacity for two, with both spots open. Also in Inuvik, there is a Turning Point residence, an alcohol committee, which has a capacity for ten. This is not a camp, but an alternate home. These are the facilities.

Youth alternate homes are as follows: Inuvik, Tuma Drive Open Custody, capacity for six; Yellowknife, School Draw Open Custody, capacity for eight. These are alternate homes. Basically, these are some of the facilities that have been identified to me.

In response to the honourable Member's concern about the inmates having to choose which camp they wish to go to, which may be affecting the viability of some of the operators, the department has two concerns about inmate placement in camps. Inmates can only be placed in camps by way of temporary absence. These are for, I believe, adult inmates. The only way they can go to these camps is through a temporary absence. This is the only method by which a convicted offender can legally be allowed to leave the correctional centre before he or she has served his or her time.

According to the rules that were in place, an offender cannot be forced to go to a temporary absence. All temporary absences are entirely voluntary according to the way we conduct this program. Therefore, whoever wants to go to a camp, it is equally voluntary which camp they will attend. If the offender decides, for whatever reason, that they do not wish to go to a camp, they cannot be forced to go. In some instances, the offender or the inmate population has made this decision. People who wish to operate a camp have also been unable to do so.

The department has discovered through experience that persuading inmates to go to a camp they do not wish to go to does not necessarily work. It has been the experience of the department that shortly after the arrival at any camp where they do not want to be, the inmates will request a return to the correctional centre. For the safety of themselves and the operators, as well as because of the voluntary nature of the temporary absence, their request to return to the centre must be granted. The cost of transportation of moving the inmates

back and forth is quite high in some cases, if you are taking them out on the land.

These are some of the concerns the department was faced with. The main point here is that the method by which the inmates can legally be allowed to leave is through a temporary absence. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just trying to get the general feel for how many operators are out there and the average income these people take in as part of their business from this department to run these bush camps. Do you have a breakdown on the actual totals of each camp, to see how much money this government gives to each of these camps? To see if they can continue to be in business? Or should they go out of business because it is not economically sound for them to keep finding themselves going deeper and deeper into debt?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have the breakdown of that information and we will look through the department where this funding comes from. We will get that information to the Member.

For the record, it is my understanding the bush camps were originally set up to complement an existing traditional camp, where there is an infrastructure already existing, with the additional one or two bodies of inmates that are placed in these institutions complementing the cost of running the camp.

I understand the concern of the members of the committee and the honourable Member. Things have evolved and changed. This is a good program that many people have been asking for. The people that go into the correctional facilities in the smaller communities is to see why do we not put them out on the land. In some cases, businesses have been developed to do that. We will also look at that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister to confirm that the adult camps are now listed at six. Is that what you stated?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I explained there are seven adult facilities, with one of them, the Turning Point, which is a facility in the community of Inuvik. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also wanted clarification regarding the two new camps. At our briefing, I heard witnesses talking about opening two new camps. I am not totally clear if they are going to be adult camps or if it is going to be one adult camp and one youth camp. Where are they going to be located?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two new camps pending. One of them is out of Fort Simpson with the Liidii Kue First Nations, which I believe is an adult facility. Tulita in the Sahtu area has a young offender facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if he could recall in his briefing to us about the camp that was up for consideration on the boundary of Nahendeh and Deh Cho. I think it was Kip Cazon's camp. I do not see it on the list and he has not mentioned it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to apologize to the Member that the Fort Simpson Liidii Kue First Nation one is a young offender facility. It is going to be at the Notannah Lake, where the Cazon camp is. It is on the border of the Deh Cho- Nahendeh constituency. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if he is considering limiting the amount of camps that are opening up? I have a real concern that the number of camps that are made available to the correctional facilities are exceeding the number of people wanting to attend.

There has been a lot of investment by the operators, and they are not getting the clients they require to operate. I understand the comments that this program was not initiated to be a money making venture, but we have to realize that the operators are in it to at least break even. Most of these camps are losing money. I would like to ask the Minister if there would be some consideration given to limiting the number of camps out there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department is going to do a review of this whole area, looking at the concerns that were raised from the Members here as well as from the concerns raised from the different operators that are out there.

Hopefully, we will have something by the end of summer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The area I would like to ask a little about is language services in our courts. I will try to relate it to the interim appropriation.

I would like a little bit of background, if I may first. Could the Minister tell us approximately what percentage of the activity in

the courts requires translation and interpretation services in the official languages of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let the deputy minister answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we do not have any figures with respect to the percentage of cases which require an interpreter, there are far fewer today than there were prior to division.

Most of the resources for interpreting had been traditionally expended in Nunavut, where there are far and away more unilingual aboriginal people than there are in the west.

The department is aware that this is an ongoing issue. Court interpreters require special training. There is a contract that is expiring at the end of this fiscal year. We are entertaining proposals for a new interpreting contractor.

Special attention will be given to issues such as standards for interpreting and training and also the reliability of interpreters in terms of appearing in court when required, which has been an issue in the past.

It is not just aboriginal languages, Mr. Chairman. We have also seen the need for Cantonese interpreters, Somalian interpreters, Korean interpreters as well as French interpreters. It is something the department used to do some years ago, but then the program was transferred to another department.

We are very aware of some of the difficulties that have been encountered in the past. We are intent upon correcting those difficulties.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Cooper, for that answer. You picked up a couple of follow-ups for me. From my understanding, regarding the transfer of the responsibility for interpreters, it used to be government staff who were the interpreters, and this has now moved to a contract basis. Would the department say that this in most respects is working? Is it efficient? Is it cost effective? And is it still maintaining standards? Is that the general sense the department has, that contracting is the way to go?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Justice had a legal interpreters program back in 1988. I understand this responsibility was transferred to Arctic College back in 1995.

When the department had it, they were funded by the Aboriginal Language Funding Agreement with the federal government. There were 248 individuals registered in the program and 52 were certified prior to 1995.

Since the responsibility went over to Arctic College, it was up to the different individuals to apply and get accepted to the Arctic

College program. That is where it is at right now. We had some difficulty in trying to track down individual interpreters, since 1998 contractors were hired to survey known interpreters and availability and their training needs.

We created an interpreter database in the summer of 1999. A Northern contracting interpreting firm called The Aboriginal Language Services was contracted to co-ordinate and provide interpreting services to the courts. This is an as and when needed contract with this company.

Interpreters were sometimes hired directly by court staff. What most often occurs is that once the matters are scheduled out of the regional courthouses and matters that are heard before the Justices of the Peace, the interpreters are hired.

Generally, the Aboriginal Language Services here in Yellowknife provides that service. It seems to have worked up to this point in time. The current contract with this company expires at the end of March. There is a request for proposal that is outstanding right now as well, to try and see who is out there that could provide this service.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question and it is budget driven. Does the department see that it is going to have to dedicate more financial resources to preserving the calibre and quality of interpretation that is needed, or is this something that Arctic College would share in? In general, does the department see having to put more money into specific court interpretative training and service? Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have to see, Mr. Chairman, what the proposals are once they come in on the 24th. We will determine that from there. Right now, we would hold the line at what we are familiar with. In fact, the department paid approximately \$67,000 to Aboriginal Language Services since July of 1999. With the contract ending at the end of the month, we will use that as the base. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions on the issue of wilderness camps. The concern has been raised about the number of camps not being viable. I am interested if the Minister could indicate the projections that they do with their inmate population and their young offender population. Do they have a sufficient available pool of inmates and young offenders to draw from that meet the criteria necessary to go to wilderness camps? Is that factored in when you look at putting all these new camps in place? Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy minister to respond to that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It certainly has been one of the criteria we look at. Other considerations involve allowing camps to be established in areas or regions where there previously were no camps, such as in the Deh Cho, Nahendeh and Sahtu. So those are other factors that we had to take into account.

We have been very careful with all the contracts we have entered into in the past few years to point out with the contractor that this is not a guarantee of sufficient income to constitute one's livelihood. It may or may not, depending upon one's expectations, satisfy a particular contractor in that regard. Due to problems we have encountered in the past with this issue, we have been careful to point that out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this available pool that you say you factor in both for inmates and young offenders? How do you come to that figure? How much more growth do you think is sustainable, given the current population and the criteria you have to get into a wilderness camp? Are we just about at the end of expansion in this area? Are you going to consolidate, or are you looking at further expansion? Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, since taking over this portfolio and looking at this department, the concern that is raised by different inmates about the bush camps and going out on the land rather than being warehoused in Yellowknife or Hay River, is a very big concern of mine as well.

With the rate of pay that is being offered to the different operators, which is insufficiently stated here, I have asked for a review of this whole initiative of this government to re-evaluate this camp and this program to see how we could improve on it.

Hopefully, in the next few months, we will have a very good understanding of this program, including the pool of inmates for the adults and young offenders that are out there. Hopefully, we will have a better understanding of what we are dealing with.

I do not really know how the department was factoring everything in to come up with this program. Certainly with reviewing the current state of this program, and the little bit of time that I have been here, it is clear we have to do a thorough review. Hopefully, with the input of Members here as well as the current operators, we can come up with a very good program.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is a good idea that there is a review undertaken. One of the concerns I hope the review will address, as well, is the fairly stringent eligibility requirements to be eligible for bush camps. Low risk, certain other factors in terms of the way they respond to the larger facilities.

The concern for me is when you look at those criteria, it substantially narrows the number of inmates that will be able to meet the criteria. Especially considering the statistics that show the number of violent crimes is on the increase.

I really think it is a good idea to have all these camps, if we can get them on the land. The concern is doing it in a measured way. Could the Minister indicate whether the review he is talking about will consider the criteria? Not that I am saying you necessarily want to send high-risk, violent offenders out to the bush, but will he look at that? Could he also indicate when he anticipates this review being done?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman yes, we are doing this review. We would like to have something come out of the review by the end of June.

Regarding the way this department has been putting people out into the bush camps and out on the land, everybody who is in the correctional facilities is entitled to go. Of course, you have to go through a review by the correctional staff to see if they are going to be a threat to the owners and operators.

Up to this point in time, we are the only jurisdiction in this country that provides the opportunity for even violent offenders to take advantage of this program. We will certainly take a close look at that to see if it will enhance this program.

The honourable Member was concerned that the violent offenders had to be specially considered in determining whether or not they were capable of operating out there. Up to this point in time, I am told that even violent offenders have been considered and have taken advantage of this program. We will continue to do that. Thank you.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister also indicate if there are any conditions on the choice of camp? Are inmates or young offenders allowed to choose whichever camp they want in the Northwest Territories? Or is it by region, which is what I understand the intent to be when you put camps in the regions so they can stay close to where they are from. Could the Minister elaborate on that please? Thank you.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy minister to respond to that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that most young offenders and adult inmates who are afforded the opportunity to go to camp would prefer to go to one in their own region.

However, there are offenders who, for whatever reason, would prefer not to go back to their own region. I think it is fair to say that inmates and young offenders talk. If word gets back that a certain camp offers an excellent rehabilitative experience and gets a good reputation, the young offender and adult offender would tend to gravitate towards that particular camp as

opposed to choosing one based on region. I think the department tries to encourage inmates and young offenders to go to camps in their own regions, but ultimately the decision is up to the individual.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Cooper. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I asked a question yesterday to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It was about the psychiatric services provided. One thing I found alarming is that there is an inmate from Aklavik in the institution out at the Yellowknife Correctional Institute.

He is having some problems with depression. I was told there seemed to be a lack of funds to deal with that type of situation, where people are institutionalized and there are no resources in place to assist them in dealing with depression and personal problems they may have.

We do not have any real facilities in the North to deal with these types of people. I do believe there is a psychiatric ward in the hospital there, but there are also institutions in southern Canada.

Due to budget cuts, there seems to be very few dollars to help these people out that are incarcerated. Could the Minister show me in the budget where there is money to assist in such an area? I cannot really figure it out. I see there is money there for different services, community justice, corrections, legal services, but I am wondering if there is money to assist inmates once they are incarcerated to deal with their psychological problems.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has been able to rely on the psychologists that work in the correction centres and the young offenders' facilities. We have been able to employ corrections psychologists in corrections services. In the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, we have a contract with a psychologist who works with sexual offenders. Also, private practice psychiatrists are available for consultation.

The funding is in the corrections headquarters funding. It is in the community justice and corrections, administration, headquarters. There is an amount there of \$537,231. Of that, \$300,000 is earmarked for support for people with mental health concerns in corrections. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not catch the department that he mentioned. Would the Minister rephrase which department the number...I did not catch the number either. Was it \$590,000 or something like that?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: I think the honourable Member might have the similar documents. It is the Department of Justice,

and the activity is community justice and corrections. There is a heading called administration headquarters that shows that for the interim, we are requesting \$537,231. The funding support for mental health concern is contained within the number. I understand about \$300,000 of the administration headquarters is for support in mental health concerns. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I for one feel, I would say sorry but there are situations we find ourselves in and I do not think that we are really doing anything to change the flow of people in and out of the corrections facilities.

I think that by institutionalizing people, we have to place more emphasis on trying to prevent people from coming back instead of strictly putting them in corrections facilities and seeing the population increase when the demand on building new facilities is there.

We have to start concentrating on finding new means of dealing with people once they are incarcerated. We have to try to find a system to make them aware that what they are doing is not right, that there are better ways of living your life. We need to find preventative mechanisms so they do not continue to live a life of institutionalization.

I think that too much of that has happened in the North. Usually these people are, not marked, but they have this stigma put on them by the public that they are nothing but jailbirds, or whatever you want to call them. Something has to change to make these people aware that there is help out there.

One thing I see when I talk to a lot of people is there is no real mechanism for dealing with the problem once you are in jail let alone dealing with you when you get out of jail. It is that time that they have on their hands when they are stuck in a small community where people are unemployed and no real follow up to help them and make them aware that there are means of changing their lifestyles to make them better citizens.

Maybe the Minister can tell me what efforts are made between the Department of Health and Social Services and his department to work on this follow up of inmates, to try to help them to get on with better lives instead of finding themselves always stuck in the cycle of being in and out of institutions. Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the same concern as the honourable Member in regards to our own people from our communities. Somehow or another, they find themselves on the wrong side of the law, get convicted and have to do some time in our correctional facilities.

Looking at the facility we have here in Yellowknife, it is a very old building that needs to be seriously looked at to see if we could build a new facility. It is overcrowded. There is very little space to do any real training or rehabilitation. I think there is just enough room for people to sleep. They have just enough room to exist. There is space in there to do a little bit of training and rehabilitation.

They have workshops out there. They have cognitive skills workshops. They have an aboriginal elders program. There are some aboriginal spiritual ceremonies that take place. They have a sweat lodge and different ceremonies going on there.

However, we are doing the best we can with what we have. We make do with what we have for now. It is not enough and I know that. We need to do more than what we have done. The people who are providing the programs and services are right to their limits with the resources and space they have to provide these programs.

The bush camps are an alternative to being here in Yellowknife. Besides that, there is a way of looking at how we could best provide service. In the books, there is a plan to build a new facility. However, that is going to cost \$35 million. With our deficit problem, it is going to be difficult to do it anytime soon. That would be the ideal situation. It would create better living space, more rooms and so forth for them to do some of the rehabilitative types of workshops that are required to do that.

We are offering the best program we have and we need to have a better environment.

In terms of the types of programs we have, we are just establishing our own probation offices so that more offenders can perhaps serve some of their sentences in their communities. With the community justice circles that are forming in some of the communities, where it works fairly well, the rate of offenders is going down in some of the communities.

There will always be offenders in the correctional services. I agree with the Member that we should work with the Department of Health and Social Services for the programs and to see how we could improve on what we already have. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is very interesting. I just received a note from an individual who is in the Yellowknife Correctional Institute. He is complaining they are not being treated fairly. They are being locked up for some 23 hours a day with no reason given on exactly why they have been locked up.

I brought a similar concern to the Minister a couple of weeks ago on an individual who was having emotional problems. After I spoke with him on the phone, he mentioned to me that he is being accused of different things. Yet there are no legal parameters for the individuals to appeal their cases or have someone hear their case. It seems like it is up to the warden or people in the institution to basically go by the book. The concern they get is sorry, we do not have any money to do this.

I would like to ask the Minister what rights do individuals who find themselves incarcerated have to appeal their grievances?

It is interesting this has come by my desk as we are talking about the subject. I for one feel it does have a lot to do with the treatment these inmates are receiving at the present time, due to the program cuts that were put in place by this government.

I would like to ask the Minister what is the process that is in place for dealing with grievances? Also, what is the process for

the public, such as MLAs or chiefs or what not, to have an opportunity to speak on behalf of those inmates?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is specific to the internal workings of the correctional facility. I will ask the deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that under the Corrections Act of the Northwest Territories and the regulations to that act, an inmate who has been charged internally, as it were, with some offence, be it having contraband in his position or attempting to strike a guard or something like that, they have an opportunity to give full answer in defense before a committee. I believe they are entitled to be represented by counsel, depending on the nature of the charge. If it is one that could involve loss of privileges or be put into confinement, then the inmate is entitled to be represented by counsel. That, as I understand, is the process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Cooper. The Chair recognizes the Member for Range Lake, Ms. Sandy Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not going to have a general statement because I am going to save that for the main budget. I do have one issue that I would like to get some information about. That has to do with PPSA. I see that in your budget, only five percent of the interim appropriation is being allocated for this activity. Could I get information on what is being budgeted for PPSA, the registry system and where we are with that system?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Schofield to answer that question.

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

MS. SCHOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total project is approximately \$200,000 and a portion of that is to be spent in this fiscal year. The remaining \$150,000 will be spent in the beginning of the next fiscal year. That is to implement a web-based computer system for their registry, the Public Security Property Registry.

There is an ongoing annual cost to maintain the system of \$48,000 a year. That would be revenue neutral.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think I will be forgiven by my fellow lawyers out there if I did not pursue this issue.

I just wanted to say I am going to spend some time over the life of this Assembly to make sure this gets implemented. I should probably not try to explain this, but there is a capital appropriation of \$150,000. I have just been told the total budget is \$200,000. Maybe I should have them repeat what was said, because I do not understand this math.

Is this system being implemented now? Is this money to put the system in place? How much is the whole project? Are we looking at implementing the system now? Where are we with this project? Maybe I should start from there. Are we anywhere near implementing PPSA?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer the question to the deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract is being negotiated as we speak with a company that specializes in this particular software and has sold this program to at least four provinces. It is a tried and tested program.

In the discussion yesterday with the principles of this company, which has its head office in Fredericton, I am anticipating the contract will be entered into within two to three weeks, and implemented, it is hoped, within three months time.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does being implemented mean we are going to have a system in place in three months where people can access and register personal properties on the computer system? Is that what we mean?

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

MR. COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My information is that if the contract is entered into and the contractor does what they are supposed to do on a timely basis, the job could be more or less finished in the end of the first quarter.

There are some training issues and other issues relating to the usage of it with the bar and others. Anyone who would open an account with the document registry could file a bill of sale or chattel mortgage electronically from Inuvik or anywhere in the Northwest Territories.

I can say to the Member, Mr. Chairman, that we anticipate it will be accessible by the public, including the legal profession, by the fall. It will be operational.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say I was pleasantly surprised to hear that. I was expecting I would have to do a lot of legwork and work hard on this to make that sort of progress.

I have been talking to the Premier of Nunavut, who also articulated with me, and we went through a process where we had to do everything manually. We were hoping we could have a computerized registry system for personal property.

He mentioned the cost is being shared between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. I see that it is written here. Could I have an explanation as to what the cost share arrangement is? Is it half-and-half? If we are spending \$150,000, is the Government of Nunavut spending the same amount?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the deputy minister to respond to that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent is that this would be cost shared 50-50. But the intent is not that this would be a three-way contract. Nunavut and the contractor would enter into a contract, and we would enter into a contract, so we can adhere to our timelines and pose our own particular standards.

The cost of proceeding together in the North will offer both of us substantial savings. So it is a shared 50-50 enterprise, but it is not accurate to say we are sharing the contract itself 50-50.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the answers I wanted. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. I have Mr. Miltenberger on the list next.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions in regards to the choice of wilderness camps.

I did not get a chance to get clarification. The last response I heard it is the young offenders' or inmates' choice as to where they go. I am concerned, keeping in mind these people are inmates or young offenders incarcerated for a reason, and the camps offer a variety of services. Assuming the correction staff is doing their supervising and looking at the various case files and deciding what is best in terms of rehabilitation for the various inmates.

When that is all said and done, regardless of what the correction service may think in terms of the best-suited wilderness camp facility, can the inmate still pick where they want to go?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the department has in the past persuaded inmates to go to different camps. On their arrival, they decided they did not like to be there and had asked to be transferred back to the correctional centre.

That was done, taking into consideration the safety factor and so forth. It is a voluntary nature of this temporary absence. It cost the department some, because of the transportation to move them back and forth. They decide they do not like the camp and want to go back, and we have to pay for that.

My understanding of this particular temporary absence is that it is a voluntary nature. It seems to be the only way we could get the inmates placed in these camps. There is the rehabilitation factor there to. What we are trying to do here is help with the rehabilitation of the inmates. Forcing them to go to different camps has not been taken as a factor here. Thank you.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize there are a number of variables here. My concern is that if that is the deciding factor, and as the deputy indicated that with the communications being what they are, even though there is no big bin of brochures where they can see all the various amenities, word gets around that we are going to end up with a northern Club Med here with a couple of highly utilized facilities.

The ones where life is a little tougher, or whatever they decide, that inmates will not go. If they have the final say, it just seems to take the decision making out of the mix.

Are there conditions where if they go and come back, is that it? Or can they just go and come back repeatedly? What sort of criteria and conditions are put on this, so that it is recognized for what it is? It is a chance to go live on the land in a more rustic environment then you would have in a jail, but one that has many other positive factors to it? I have some concern here as to how this is being done, especially if it has evolved over time. Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This initiative seemed to have evolved over time. Some of the bush camps have been there for a number years. I think it is a good program. We just want to see how it is and try to evaluate it.

I would like to know how this works myself, as the new Minister responsible for Justice, to see how we could make it work better. I understand there are concerns. There will be a review. Hopefully, we will consider all factors that go into the decision as to where these inmates go. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. What is the wish of the committee? Detail? We are on page 5, Department of Justice, total Justice operations and maintenance, \$32,764,082.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): On page 7, Department of Justice, total capital \$2,786,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. What is the wish of the committee? I believe we have already agreed to deal with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Is that the wish of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, do you have any general comments?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the 2000-2001 interim appropriation for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is requesting an interim allocation of \$25,949,000. This includes \$18,322,000 in operations and maintenance funding and

\$7,627,000 million in capital. The funds the department is requesting are required to support the continued operation of community governments between April 1 and July 31, 2000.

Of the total operations and maintenance amount requested by the department, \$13,384,000 will be transferred directly to community governments. This represents almost 75 percent of the department's total operation and maintenance request.

The department's capital request is for approximately 70 percent of the total identified in the 2000-2001 targets. This reflects the fact that many of the capital projects that will be undertaken will be well underway by July 31, 2000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the standing committee responsible for this department have any comments? Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee met with the Minister and his staff on March 17, 2000 to review the proposed 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation for the department. The committee made note of the following issues.

Forced Growth

The committee noted that in the opening remarks given by the Minister, the department gave notice that a "forced growth request for consideration of the Financial Management Board" was made recently but "was not reflected in the Interim Appropriation request".

The committee asked the Minister for further detail, and he explained the request is to ensure increased fuel costs are met for the remainder of the year. The request for \$730,000 in proposed forced growth is still waiting for consideration by the Financial Management Board.

The department, at the request of the committee, agreed to provide further detail concerning the request.

Land Development

Committee members noticed that some communities received funding for land development whereas some did not. See page 3-4, Land and Buildings, Capital, Departmental Submissions, MACA, 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation.

In many smaller communities, capital projects including land development, provide much needed employment opportunities, and an important contribution to the local economy.

The committee reiterated its position for equal across the board funding cuts, instead of funding cuts to specific regions or communities.

The department, at the committee's request, agreed to provide additional details concerning all existing and proposed land development projects.

Funding for Capital Projects

The committee, in its review of the proposed 2000-2001 interim appropriation and the 2000-2001 five-year capital plan, noted that some capital projects were the subject of funding discrepancies. See page 1-4, Capital, Departmental Submissions, MACA, 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation.

Committee members were also concerned that funding may

have weighed favourably for Ministers' constituencies.

The department, at the request of the committee, agreed to provide further detail concerning any funding discrepancies for its capital projects to the committee prior to the review of the proposed Interim Appropriation in the Legislative Assembly.

The department also agreed to provide to the committee a constituency breakdown of all proposed capital projects that were put on hold.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the committee's report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Braden. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to call in witnesses. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Mr. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses for the record?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Ms. Gay Kennedy, the director of corporate affairs with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. The deputy minister, Mr. Dave Murray, will be arriving shortly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. I would like to ask the Members if they have any general comments or questions for the Minister regarding the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs interim appropriation. General comments? Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we went through Health, we had realized that no forced growth had been reflected through the interim and they let us know this is because they feel they can go through the four months without relying on any extra funds.

I noticed Municipal and Community Affairs was requested to include forced growth in the interim by the Financial Management Board, but they did not do so. I am wondering why. I would assume there would be forced growth, as far as fuel expenditures and things like this. I am wondering if the Minister can tell us if those will not affect him or his department in the first four months, or explain exactly what the case is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the issue of forced growth, the department feels we can function without the forced growth. The grant and contribution programs that will be affected by forced growth are such things as grant in lieu of taxes, municipal operating assistance, settlement operating assistance, senior citizen and disabled persons' property tax relief, et cetera. I think these are some of the different areas where forced growth is considered.

We were not in a position to put this forward. I think the department is quite capable of going through the interim appropriation funding without the forced growth factor in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: I would like some clarification. The departments are more than capable of going through the interim process we are dealing with here without dealing with forced growth or they will not need to realize any forced growth in the first four months? I missed that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would require forced growth consideration by the Legislative Assembly in the budget, when we deal with the overall budget. But for the interim appropriation, we could go through with the funding of the interim appropriation for the first three months without the forced growth. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you. Will the department be coming back to this House in the mains for forced growth? Or will it be in the form of a supplementary?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be going to the Legislative Assembly through the main estimates. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. General comments. Detail.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Municipal and Community Affairs, total Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance, \$18,322,000. Moving to page 7. Total Municipal and Community Affairs capital, \$7,627,000. Agreed? Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to keep up here. I wanted to ask, since I know it has been an issue in this House, is the Fort McPherson water treatment plant in here somewhere?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Good question. The Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Fort McPherson water supply improvements are on page 3 of 4 of the Municipal and Community Affairs capital document. It is there. Thank you.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate if that is for the full scope of the project, or a lesser amount? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a Financial Management Board Secretariat request for additional dollars to make sure we complete the water supply improvements in Fort McPherson. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate whether this is considered a new project or carryover from the last fiscal year? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: This is not a new project, but we are advancing this project so we can complete it as soon as possible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for all the questions, but not having been at the table, I am wondering if the Minister could clarify what is in the document here. It says that contract work to be completed and paid for by the end of July. Does that mean the water supply improvements will be complete and there will be fresh water in the community? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Fort McPherson water supply improvement request for the interim appropriation, as indicated in the document, is to do some preliminary work on Deepwater Lake.

However, there is an additional request that has gone on to the Financial Management Board Secretariat to advance this project from following years. This project was originally slated to be a multi-year project. However, because of the urgency to try to improve the water in Fort McPherson as soon as we can, we have submitted to the Financial Management Board Secretariat a proposal to try and get more money into this project.

Actually, the Financial Management Board Secretariat's approval of the project would see a substantial increase to this budget above and beyond the interim appropriation. Thank you.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate what he means by a substantial increase? What scope of work would that additional money enable Municipal and Community Affairs to do? How much closer would that bring this overall contract to being resolved, and a water treatment system in place? Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular project, to accommodate the people in Fort McPherson in assuring they have good water, have requested an interim appropriation. We have only now submitted a Financial Management Board Secretariat proposal that was considered and that is going to see the multi-year amounts...we have moved them all up. It is going to see a reprofile of \$2.3 million upon the Financial Management Board Secretariat's approval. That is going to be coming through the system later on. Thank you.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will that amount of money be sufficient to conclude this project? The \$2.3 million, in addition to the money that is in the interim appropriation?

I also have another question about why this is where it is right now. It was not in there, but you decided to move things up as of when? When was the decision made to try and move this up? Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: The original plan for Fort McPherson saw the completion of the project in the year 2003. Due to the urgency of the matter, there were a certain amount of dollars that were slotted each year to improve it. We reprofiled it, and today the Financial Management Board Secretariat approved the amount. Because of the interim budgeting process and the work we had to do in Municipal and Community Affairs to try to move it forward to the Financial Management Board Secretariat, it just came through today.

Yes, I think it is sufficient. We as a government are moving as fast as we can to try and accommodate the community of Fort McPherson, so they can have good, clean water. It is a matter of processing the necessary permits with other governments that we have to deal with right now to make sure we have access to the lake, and the actual work does happen. It is possible for the spring and the summer. We are slating to have good water delivered to the community of Fort McPherson as soon as we can.

Right now, we are saying March 31st of next year is what we are aiming at. Hopefully sooner. Thank you.

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to commend my colleague at the end of the table for his perseverance. My final two questions are will the work that is being done address the issue of THMs? Are other projects being deferred to accommodate this? If so, what would those projects be? Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are going to have to go through a supp on this one here. We do not anticipate any cuts in other areas. The re-profiling of the dollars that were going to be slated in the five-year capital plan for this project, our intention is not to cut other programs to accommodate Fort McPherson.

Yes, it would eliminate the THM problem. The water we are getting from Deepwater Lake is clean, fresh water. We anticipate it will eliminate the THM problem once we start accessing Deepwater Lake. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a process that was supposed to take place in this, going from a P3 project back to a capital project. In order to do that, you had to get

direct permission from the Financial Management Board Secretariat. Has that process been concluded?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had already done that last fall, in November. We had re-profiled it. It is now a regular project. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the five-year capital planning process, in 1997 and 1998, there was \$250,000 identified for preliminary planning, which was some three years ago. Yet here we are today, having gone from the planning process to a P3 project to a capital project. Will this be the end of the process? Will we not have to find a new mechanism later on to conclude this process? When do you see this process being concluded?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last three years, I know the community was looking for different places they could get good water. I know they have looked at the Pio River and other sources. My understanding is Deepwater Lake has been identified as the source for the water. I have indicated with the enhancement of this particular project, it would see the completion of this whole process by March of next year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The chair would like to take a moment to recognize some people in the gallery. Janice Daniels, Carol Common, and Julia Lace. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

-- Applause

We are dealing with Municipal and Community Affairs, operations and maintenance, \$18,322,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering if the Minister could tell us the amount that is being provided for block funding to tax-based municipalities, has there been any reduction in the amount that is going for this interim period to any tax-based municipality?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been reviewing that, and there is going to be a reduction between five and seven percent. Thank you.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not identified. As we understood from the Minister of Finance, this budget did not have any reductions in it. I am just a little confused here by the Minister's comment that there is a reduction in this. Could the Minister advise what the dollar figure is for that reduction?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was an overall capital reduction through this government up to about

\$10 million. We had to look at the tax-based municipalities. The formula for the block funding included capital expenditures that were slated for these communities. It was spread over.

For the total package, I understand there to be a five to seven percent reduction. The total reduction will be \$700,000 for the five communities. Thank you.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister advise whether or not this reduction is equal across the board, in terms of percentages for all five communities? Do the communities know?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities are not yet aware of it. We are waiting for the approval of this budget before we notify them.

We did advise them in letter form earlier, where we indicated to them the amount of funding that is out there intended for the block funding arrangement is similar to what they had previously, until we do a review. We are at the tail end of the municipal financial review, which we hope to have concluded by August. We indicated in the letter that there may be a reduction subject to the total budget reductions.

They are aware that if there are reductions in any area, such as the \$10 million the Finance Minister indicated, that they will be affected. They are aware there is a possibility of reduction. With the Finance Minister making it public that there is a reduction of \$10 million, they are indirectly aware that there are going to be some reductions in their budget.

As soon as we can, hopefully upon approval of this budget, the deputy minister will contact them and explain the process to them. Thank you,

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one part of my previous question the Minister did not address was whether or not this was across the board. Are each of the five communities affected proportionately? Are they all going to be down five percent or seven percent, whatever it works out to, so everybody is taking a proportionate share of the cut?

I am not sure if all communities are block-funded under operations and maintenance and capital, so does it have an equal effect on all five communities?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, our intention is to do that. We are going to be applying the cuts evenly across the board. I know there are concerns out there from different communities that are anomalies. However, we will try to work with each one of them and get some understanding with each community on the base cuts.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is under capital, page 1 of 4, it is a \$195,000 item. It is a fire truck replacement for Deline. I asked a question in the committee

review on when this vehicle will be delivered to the community of Deline. The answer I received was possibly January of next year.

I am wondering why it is in an interim appropriation when it could have been put in the main estimates when we review that in June, because the only method of getting this vehicle into Deline is to take it over the winter road. Everybody knows the winter road is not usually constructed until December or January.

I would like to ask the Minister if his department has taken that into consideration, after it was raised in the committee meetings?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with this particular item here, I understand what the honourable Member is saying, that Deline is only accessible by winter road and perhaps we could wait until after the interim appropriation. I think that was the suggestion.

However, it is a contract that we have to put out and it is going to have to be built to specifications. Sometimes it takes longer than others to build the unit. Therefore the reason for having it in the interim appropriation is that it is a contract we have to let, and the length of time it may take to build is taken into consideration. To be safe, we try to give it as much lead time as possible. That is the reason why it is in the interim appropriation.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you can see by the note, it says the purchase of equipment required in the month of June. That is when we are going to be doing the main estimates in this House. It is not going to be purchased until then. Realistically, it can make it into the main estimates.

That is the point I am trying to make. It is because of the date it has to be purchased and also the time it is going to take where it is going to be sitting in Hay River until the winter road opens. We are talking some seven months from the time it is constructed to the time it is delivered.

I do not know where you are getting this vehicle made, but is that not enough time for it to be constructed and delivered?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intention here was to have the unit built and shipped by barge to Tulita or Norman Wells, and held there until the winter road was open. That was the reason behind the planning. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was not what we were told in committee. We were told it was going to be brought in by the ice road. I am not too sure where this

information came from, but it seems like it has just been made apparent now.

When I asked the question as to how the vehicle would be delivered in the committee meeting, they said that they were going to bring it in by the ice road. I am wondering when did they change the decision? It was clearly stated in committee that it was going to be brought in by the ice road.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an ice road portion between Norman Wells and Tulita to Deline in the wintertime. I guess I just heard that part of it when I was being informed about it. The intention here is to try and put a contract out there and see how it is going to get built. The only reason for having it in this interim appropriation was to ensure we have enough lead time.

There are different ways of getting the equipment into the community. The later you wait, the only way of getting it in would be the ice road. What I am told now is that if it gets built before the end of the shipping season, they would try to utilize the barge to save the wear and tear of a fire truck going on the winter road. They would store it in Tulita and Norman Wells and get use of the ice road to Deline once the winter arrives. That is the reason I am hearing now. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister tell me if this is a new project?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the deputy minister, Mr. Dave Murray, to respond to that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Murray.

MR. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project was deemed to be higher priority than two trucks, I believe which were in Fort Good Hope. But because it is important for fire protection in the community and since they have had problems with the fire truck in Deline, it was deemed this was a higher priority project than the replacement water truck in Fort Good Hope, as well as the sewage truck.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Murray. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering if it was listed in the five-year capital plan. In my riding, we are looking at a fire truck for Fort McPherson, but it is not designated until the year 2003-2004. Since we usually use the five-year capital planning process as the method of planning for these projects, that this was part of the planning process. I understand where the Minister is coming from with priorities.

Was it listed as one of the five-year capital items for Deline?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy minister to respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Murray.

MR. MURRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this project was advanced because of the state of repair it was in. It was deemed to be a higher priority to move it rather than leaving it in a future year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Murray. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that is the case, then I believe the fire truck in Fort McPherson probably falls within the same criteria you are talking about. We are talking about a 1960s vehicle here. I would like to be able to do the same thing in my constituency by moving it up. I see it designated for the year 2003-2004, so I would like to know if it can be put in the main estimates for next year.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, whenever we have been asked to advance different projects or different assets for future years, I see it as work that we have to do in the future. I would certainly take that under consideration. I specifically do not know the conditions of the fire truck in Fort McPherson, so we will take that as notice and deal with it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is with great distress to find out at this stage of the interim appropriation that tax-based municipalities are taking a reduction in the block funding transfer. The department did not identify it during the interim appropriation. The way the numbers are presented in the documents provided by the department, they start off with a 2000-2001 preliminary planning target in block funding of \$3,068,000. The interim portion was \$1,020,000, of which there was a lot of discussion around this House that it has been a stand-pat business plan.

We hear now that in the area of block funding to tax-based municipalities, there will be a reduction of some five to seven percent. There is discussion, and the Minister did say, they could look at it as going across the board.

One thing I would like to point out is that some of the block funding agreements vary significantly between community to community. For example, I was aware that in the previous year in Inuvik, I think the block funding agreement was \$138,000. I would like further clarification from the Minister or his staff as to what each of the five tax-based municipalities received in block funding agreements. Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the tax-based municipalities get an annual operations and maintenance budget, as well as a capital budget. We are going through a municipal financial review.

The block funding arrangements are three-year arrangements that took into consideration the operations and maintenance and the capital that was going to be identified for the three years of the block funding arrangement.

In some cases, if a capital project was not slated in those three years to one of these communities but is going to show up later on, it was included in the three-year block funding arrangement. Maybe the capital project slated for the three years is finished and they may not have anything for the next year or so.

Perhaps a community may not have any capital projects slated for the three-year capital, block-funding arrangement, but it may have slated for the next couple of years. That is not factored in. We have had an experiment with the block-funding arrangement. As a result of the anomalies that exist out there between the communities, this department is reviewing the block-funding arrangement.

Like I said, we hope to have it concluded by the end of March. We may have come out with some formula to try to determine how to fund the communities. But in the meantime, for this year we are going to carry over the arrangement we had for the last three years per year, subject to cuts.

We did write to the municipalities saying we are going to do it. We are going to roll over this year what we had last year. However, it is going to be subject to any cuts that may happen in the capital.

Yes, the Finance Minister said there was a \$10 million cut that is spread out, including the capital portion of the tax-based municipalities. This is the reason for the cut in the tax-based municipality block-funding.

As to what each received, we have some information here on that. I am going to ask the director or corporate services, Gay Kennedy, to get into the details of what each municipality received last year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Ms. Kennedy.

MS. KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yellowknife is funded \$5,234,000, 1999-2000. Inuvik is \$746,000. Fort Smith is \$1,143,000. Hay River is \$715,000. Fort Simpson is \$2,395,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Kennedy. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a little further on this. Those numbers were for previous years, I believe. The Minister said a bit about carrying over. Some of the funding that was an expenditure is being carried over. On top of that, I believe the Minister said the block-funding in the capital side would be reduced.

I thought I heard earlier in response to another Member's question was that operations and maintenance and capital are being looked at being reduced five to seven percent. Can we have clarification on that please?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding of block funding is that the communities receive operations and maintenance funding and capital funding. It is up to the communities to decide on how they spend that. It is not separated. They decide to put it all in the pot, and then decide on how they are going to spend it. It is really up to them. Based on that, it is lumped together at the community level. It goes to them as one cheque on a monthly basis. Basically, that is the reason for the answer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The numbers they gave us were last year's numbers. But we are going to be approving an interim appropriation. What they have identified here for block-funding tax-based areas is \$1,020,000. How is that broken down between the five tax-based municipalities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we do not have the detailed breakdown of that amount here. Thank you.

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

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concerns me. The fact that there is an overall budget amount we are going to approve here, but we do not have the actual amounts going to tax-based municipalities. I guess all I can say is I am lost here. Number one, the committee reviewed this and were not made aware reductions were coming. We find out in this forum that there will be reductions from five to seven percent, and are told at the same time we are unsure of the actual dollar figures going to each of the tax-based municipalities.

We are receiving mixed messages here. Knowing we are nearing the end of the day, I would like to suggest the Minister can talk with the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board and hopefully get all of the facts for tomorrow, unless you have them back at the department.

I would like to get a clear indication as to how that breaks down to each of the tax-based municipalities. Thank you.

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department does have the breakdown, but unfortunately, due to the quick switch in the departments, we forgot to grab that sheet. We will get that information. Thank you.

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

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am kind of lost here with this one. I know in the community that I represent, they have a very serious concern about the block-funding formula. It was felt they were being short changed in funding through the formula that was being used.

I was unaware, until now, that there are going to be cuts in the block funding. I know Hay River will be questioning why I did not have any input or question this very strongly during the review of the interim. I am not sure how to deal with this.

You say municipalities were informed of the cuts in block funding. Could you inform me if Hay River was indeed contacted and is aware there are cuts coming in block funding?

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

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the concern of the honourable Member for Hay River North, regarding the Hay River situation.

During the committee review, we went through it and the block-funding issue was not raised at the community level. We were not able to raise it at that time. However, there is a \$10 million cut across the board on capital issues. This affected every community which is not block-funded. Somehow, the block-funded communities have to take a share in the reduction in the total capital. The way it works is that they have an operations and maintenance in the capital, and we have to take a look at it too.

We have to be fair and equal between all of the communities, including the tax-based municipalities. As a result of that, we are going to be cutting them. No, we have not contacted the communities yet. I am sure through this forum here they are fully aware of that.

We did indicate to them through letter form that there were questions raised that the three-year block-funding arrangement is expiring this March. However, because of the municipal financial review, we said we are going to roll over the same amount we were getting previously, but it was subject to cuts through the budgeting process. From my understanding, they are aware of the possibility of cuts, but we did not communicate to them regarding this arrangement. We thought we would wait until the interim appropriation is completed with this department, then contact them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, witnesses. At this time, I would like to rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001, Committee Report 3-14(2), and Committee Report 4-14(2), and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Is there a seconder for the motion? The Chair recognizes the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings of the Standing Committee on Social Programs and the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development at 6:30 p.m. this evening and tomorrow at 9:00

a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. Orders of the day for Friday, March 24, 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
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act
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 3, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act
 - Bill 6, Interim Appropriation Act, 2000-2001
 - Committee Report 2-14(2), Accountability and Oversight on the 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation
 - Committee Report 3-14(2), Governance and Economic Development on the 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation
 - Committee Report 4-14(2), Social Programs on the 2000-2001 Interim Appropriation
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 24, 2000, at 10:00 a.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

