

depends on the age at which a potential Indian or Eskimo commences education. I believe last year was the first year we had grade 12 pupils graduating from our schools. Therefore, I would suggest that it will be approximately 15 years before these individuals would qualify in this regard.

Mr. DINSDALE: Thank you.

Mr. TURNER: Regarding the ratio between elected and appointed members, Mr. Lang, I take it if this legislation is passed and there are four elected out of the nine, or five elected out of the nine, you are presently in favour of that situation?

Mr. LANG: That is correct. I am completely in favour of that ratio, provided that every two or three years one further elected member is added to that ratio.

Mr. TURNER: You are satisfied with the present ratio as outlined in the bill?

Mr. LANG: I certainly am satisfied in that regard, yes. We do not want to proceed too quickly in this direction but, at the same time, this is the time to bring in more elected members.

Mr. TURNER: Is your view shared by other members of the council?

Mr. LANG: They can, of course, speak for themselves. I only speak for myself. However, I gather from discussions that they are quite satisfied and very happy about this ratio.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, I thought I had established a point here, but Mr. Turner seems to have reversed it. I should like to express my own views regarding this matter, Mr. Lang, and then ask you whether or not my views would meet with the acceptance of the people in the Mackenzie area as you know the conditions there.

I understand that you believe there should be as full representation in a democratic fashion as possible. While there may have been an excuse in the past for having appointed members to the council, I do not believe that those excuses are valid any longer. In my view members of the council are now appointed under the guise that this is the only method by which elected members can obtain the guidance and assistance, at the grass roots level, which is necessary. However, I believe that the same guidance and assistance can be provided by elected members.

The CHAIRMAN: Pardon me, Mr. Nielsen. Have you a question to ask the witness.

Mr. NIELSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I intend to ask the witness a question.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the witness will not be able to recall all your remarks. You are not now a witness before this committee and I would appreciate your asking short questions. I am sure Mr. Lang cannot remember all your remarks.

Mr. NIELSEN: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to confine my participation in this committee's proceedings to the asking of questions. It is my intention, as it has been in other committees, to make suggestions and present my views. I do not take your remarks to mean that I will be prohibited from following that course.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not suggest that you are not entitled to explain the purpose of your questions, Mr. Nielsen.

Mr. NIELSEN: I take it this is a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Surely the function of a member of a committee is not to confine himself to questions, but to express his own views. If this is not done and these views are not exposed so other members of the committee can evaluate them in order to come to some conclusion in our final recommendation to the House of Commons, I