



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

5th Session

Day 1

15th Assembly

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Tuesday, May 30, 2006

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, May 1, 2006****Members Present**

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Honourable David Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Honourable Michael McLeod, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya

---Singing of O' Canada

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

---Musical Selection by Hay River Handbell Choir

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Thank you. Mr. Clerk, would you please ascertain if His Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to address the Assembly.

ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Tony Whitford): Please be seated. Monsieur le président, mesdames et messieurs les deputes, mesdames et messieurs, et amis. It is a great pleasure to be here again today.

Since we last met, your Commissioner has had a busy and successful time. I have had the pleasure of travelling to Sachs Harbour, Enterprise and Fort Resolution, bringing the total number of communities I have visited to 15. It is always a delight to meet old friends and participate in local celebrations and events in our communities. It remains my goal to visit each and every Northwest Territories community before the end of my term of office and I am pleased to report today that I am well on the way to achieving that goal.

I had the honour of being invited to many community events in the last few months including the Inuvik Youth Conference, the Arctic Winter Games, the History Fair, the annual Youth Parliament here in the Legislative Assembly, and several high school and college graduations. I continue to be both impressed and amazed by the intelligence, skill and resourcefulness of our young people. They are certainly to be admired and respected for their extraordinary commitment and ingenuity.

It is good to see so many people, especially young women, graduating from high school and college. To witness so many going on to post-secondary training to fulfill their dreams and take their place as valuable, contributing members of our society is particularly gratifying. At least two women from the NWT have qualified as medical doctors this year. These young women have chosen a noble and important profession and I offer them my sincere congratulations.

As well, I would like to thank and congratulate the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the district education authorities, all our schools and, of course, the students themselves on their excellent graduation results.

---Applause

Our educational improvements and successes go from strength to strength and you should all be proud of yourselves. Our future is certainly in good hands.

During this session, the Government of the Northwest Territories will be introducing the following bills entitled Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2006-2007 and Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2005-2006 for consideration by the House. The government considers these bills essential to the good conduct of government business and, as such, I recommend their passage.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I now declare open the Fifth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, merci, mahsi cho and qianami.

Speaker's Opening Comments

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber for another session. Welcome also to our distinguished guests and visitors who have joined us in the gallery today for the opening of the Fifth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank, on behalf of all Members, individuals who have contributed to making the opening of the Fifth Session a memorable one. In particular, I would like to thank the Honourable Anthony Whitford, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, for opening our session. A special thank you to the Sir John Franklin High School Choir for the singing of O Canada; the Hay River Handbell Choir for their unique performance, and the very talented Nahendeh Fiddlers from Fort Simpson and Wrigley for their performances over the lunch hour and our Honourary Reverend Peter Chynoweth today who lead us in prayer.

---Applause

Colleagues, on Friday, May 26th, the Legislative Assembly hosted a National Day of Healing and Reconciliation event in conjunction with the Dene Nation and the NWT Status of Women's Council. The Assembly recognizes this day as the result of a motion moved by the Member for Sahtu, Mr. Norman Yakeleya, during the last session. The event was a great success and I would like to thank Mr. Yakeleya for his initiative and drive.

This week, we will be served by Pages from Yellowknife and they will become eye witnesses on how we do our work on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. I hope that they enjoy their experience and I am confident that they will do a great job for us.

I would like to draw your attention to the visitors' gallery and I would like to recognize some special guests. First of all, the Legislative Assembly Conflict of Interest

Commissioner and Ethics Councillor to the Public Service, Mr. Gerald Gerrard, is with us.

---Applause

Also, Justice Ted Richard who is a former Member of this House.

---Applause

And Katherine Peterson, a former Law Clerk to the Assembly.

---Applause

Thank you for joining us. Later today, at the rise of the House or at break, I would ask you to join us at a reception in the Great Hall for some refreshments and more entertainment by the Hay River Handbell Choir and the Nahendeh Fiddlers.

The Fourth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly ended on March 2nd. I know that since that time all Members have been very busy attending various functions, doing committee work and getting caught up on constituency issues. Although this session is scheduled to be a reasonably short one, I look forward to some very lively debate and a very productive session as you address the issues and concerns of the residents you are here to represent. I ask only that you do so respecting each other and respecting the dignity of this House. Thank you for your attention, colleagues.

Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Floyd Roland.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 1-15((5): Fiscal Update

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the government's fiscal position and outlook.

Since February, a number of events have occurred that will impact our fiscal outlook, the most important being the federal budget on May 2nd and the release of two key reports on federal-provincial-territorial fiscal arrangements. We expect a third report to be released very shortly.

The federal budget included some good news for NWT residents and for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). The reduction in the GST from seven to six percent, along with a number of income tax measures, will decrease the tax burden and help lower the very high cost of living faced by our residents.

The federal budget's proposal to increase the small business income threshold to \$400,000 will encourage our small business sector. This increased threshold will also apply to the NWT small business tax rate. The immediate repeal of the 10 percent excise tax on jewellery is a positive signal for the diamond industry in Canada and for the development of our secondary diamond manufacturing industry in the NWT. Finally, the budget's confirmation of support for the \$500 million socio-economic impact fund for pipeline communities was welcome news.

With respect to the GNWT, the federal budget provides for up to \$50 million for affordable housing for the NWT. This

money meets the federal commitment references in my budget address in February and, when matched with an equivalent investment from this government, will allow for the construction of approximately 530 much needed new homes across the NWT over the next few years.

---Applause

The budget also included up to \$3.6 million for other infrastructure programs and \$1.9 million in additional funding through territorial formula financing in 2006-07. The final amounts to be provided for housing and other infrastructure will be known when the 2005-06 federal public accounts are finalized this fall and the size of the final federal surplus for the year is known.

Finally, the federal budget contained a commitment to consult with the Territories to put in place long-term fiscal arrangements that will support "transparent, principle-based territorial formula financing transfers that recognize the unique circumstances of the North."

This commitment is critical, Mr. Speaker. In the past few months, two important reports have been released on the issue of fiscal arrangements. On April 3, the Council of the Federation Advisory Panel on Fiscal Imbalance submitted their report to provincial and territorial Premiers. This report concluded that there is a fiscal imbalance in Canada, an imbalance that favours the federal government. It also concluded that the three northern territories face enormous difficulties in providing basic public services to our residents and that we face important social issues. The Council of the Federation Advisory Panel on Fiscal Imbalance supported this government's position that current territorial financing arrangements should be replaced with a formula-based approach tied to the expenditure needs and eligible revenues of each territory. The "fixed pool" approach currently being used is not appropriate.

The report also recommended that negotiations between Canada and the territories on devolution agreements be expedited. Northern governments must become the "principal beneficiaries of revenues and royalties" derived from northern resources. We welcome this support.

On May 2, along with his budget, the federal Minister of Finance released a report entitled "Restoring Fiscal Imbalance in Canada: Focusing on Priorities." This report recognizes the issues created by the existence of large, unplanned federal surpluses. For the territories, the paper is a positive step in that it acknowledges territorial concerns about the cuts to formula financing made by Canada in the 1990s, and notes our consistent position that these cuts must be restored. Perhaps the most positive aspect of the paper is the commitment of the federal government and, in particular, the federal Minister of Finance, to engage the provinces and territories in discussions on the issues identified in the paper.

Mr. Speaker, we expect that within the next week or so the federal Minister of Finance will release the Report of the Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing. This panel has a mandate to undertake an independent review of these two programs. The publication of this report sets the stage for formal discussions between Canada, the provinces and territories to address the outstanding fiscal issues. I will be updating Members on the report once it is released.

In this regard, the federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable James Flaherty, has laid out a process for reviewing federal-provincial-territorial fiscal arrangements. Minister Flaherty has committed to meet with his provincial and territorial colleagues, following the release of the report of the expert panel, to begin discussions. This meeting has been tentatively scheduled for the end of June. A number of other intergovernmental meetings will be held over the summer, with a First Ministers' meeting to be held this fall. The 2007 federal budget will lay out the new fiscal arrangements. I look forward to meeting with Minister Flaherty to begin these very important discussions.

We have also raised another critical issue with the federal Minister of Finance. That issue is the lifting of the arbitrary \$300 million limit that the federal government has imposed on our authority to borrow. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in February, this government is committed to fiscal responsibility. We have adopted and adhered to our fiscal responsibility policy, which sets clear guidelines and a responsible definition of acceptable borrowing limits.

Moody's Investors Service has reviewed the fiscal plan we laid out in February, and has recently reconfirmed our Aa3 credit rating. At the close of this fiscal year, we are required to repay \$290 million in corporate income tax to reflect an overpayment of taxes we received from Canada in 2002. We need to have the flexibility to meet our cash requirements and to borrow in a fiscally sound manner. The current borrowing limit goes against the principle of territorial political autonomy.

The budget I presented in February projected an operating surplus of \$31 million for the current fiscal year. We are still on track to achieve this. However, the fiscal situation of the GNWT remains challenging. Resolution of the key issues of territorial formula financing and the borrowing limit are critical in order for us to effectively plan for the future. Until these matters are resolved, we will need to continue to be very cautious in our spending and our expectations.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to follow the path outlined in the budget. We will continue to make our case for adequate and appropriate fiscal arrangements with Canada and we will continue to pursue the fiscal tools and authorities that will allow us to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Before I go on to the next Minister's statement, I would like to draw your attention to the gallery again. As you can see, there's a number of dignitaries here today that will be introduced in due time; however, I would like to give a special welcome to Grand Chief George Mackenzie from the Tlicho Government who is here with us.

---Applause

With him is Mr. James Rabesca, a former Member of the 7th and 13th Assemblies.

---Applause

Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Minister's Statement 2-15(5): Federal Investments In Affordable Housing

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the recent announcement of the affordable housing plan that will provide a \$100 million investment in affordable housing in the Northwest Territories over the next three years.

As Members are aware, the 2006-07 Main Estimates of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation were prepared on the basis of commitment by the previous federal Housing Minister to provide \$50 million over three years for new affordable housing. At that time, Members were informed that the comprehensive plan set out by the Housing Corporation to provide 530 units over three years was conditional on formal approval of this commitment by the incoming government.

I am pleased to inform Members that the announcement of this funding in the recent federal budget means that our plan will proceed as proposed.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked closely with my colleagues in the Yukon and Nunavut to convince the Government of Canada to make additional investments in affordable housing north of 60. The result of these efforts in the recently announced Northern Housing Trust, \$500 million of which will be delivered to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, this investment is the result of a concerted effort to lobby the federal government for additional funding. The Housing Corporation sent a series of proposals to the federal government outlining a plan to deliver 530 units over three years with a \$50 million contribution from the federal government to be matched by existing GNWT resources.

Mr. Speaker, this investment will allow us to make major improvements to housing conditions in communities where core need remains high. With this funding, every community in the Northwest Territories will see additional units constructed over the next three years.

---Applause

Conditions in our public housing units will be improved, and more eligible clients will be able to become homeowners. But we must keep in mind that delivering an investment of this magnitude will require commitments from several key stakeholders to ensure that it is completed successfully.

Land development will be a key component of this strategy. The Housing Corporation will be working together with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and community governments to meet the goals of the affordable housing plan. All avenues will be considered to ensure "on-the-ground" housing for NWT residents over the next three years of this funding commitment. The formation of partnerships and community support will be key factors in achieving the plan.

Mr. Speaker, in partnership with the federal government we have renewed our commitment to building new affordable housing in the Northwest Territories and across Canada. This investment represents a new beginning in our efforts to lower core need and to ensure that every resident of our territory has an adequate and affordable

home in which to live and raise families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Minister's Statement 3-15(5): Disability Awareness Week

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the contributions that persons with disabilities provide to our communities. This year, Disability Awareness Week is recognized in the NWT from May 28th until June 3rd. The theme for this year is Living, Working and Educating Together - Include People with Disabilities.

Disability can affect all of us directly or indirectly at any point in our lives. The onus of responsibility is upon us all to include people with disabilities in every aspect of life. The important message that comes with this is that we focus on people's abilities, rather than define them by their disabilities.

The Department of Health and Social Services, in partnership with other social program departments and agencies, continues to work at improving services for persons with disabilities. Partnerships with non-government agencies and the disability communities are critical if we are to better meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

For example, the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities is expanding the Community Outreach programs to include Wekweeti, Gameti, Fort Simpson, Inuvik, Hay River and Behchoko, as well as the existing office in Fort Smith. The department has committed funding for the next three years to support the development of Community Outreach programs.

Recent developments in the creation of accessible housing, transportation and recreational facilities have improved the quality of life for persons with disabilities in our communities.

On June 5th, there will be a Disability Awareness Week celebration in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly at noon. I will be presenting Ms. Rae Celotti with an award for her work on behalf of persons with disabilities. Ms. Celotti has been a visible supporter for this cause for over 30 years. Since 1997, she has worked as the program coordinator for EmployABILITY, an employment program for individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, during Disability Awareness Week, let us recognize people like Ms. Celotti who make a difference in our territory. I would also like to ask Members of this House to applaud persons with disabilities throughout the NWT as a gesture of thanks for their contributions and the strength they provide to our friends, families and communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Ministers' statements. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Roland.

Minister's Statement 4-15(5): Premier Absent From The House

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise the House that the Honourable Joe Handley will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to participate in the Western Premiers' Conference and the Leaders' Summit on North American Relations in Gimli, Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. The honourable Member from Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Ekati Mine/Public Service Alliance Labour Dispute

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on this, the very first occasion to speak in this Fifth Session of the 15th Assembly, I'd like to take this opportunity to speak about something that has been at the forefront of my mind over the last seven weeks, and that is the labour dispute between Ekati diamond mine and its bargaining unit, the Union of Northern Workers.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I join everyone else in the House when I say how encouraged we are that the parties are back at the negotiating table as we speak, and how much we wish, in the interest of all parties involved, that they will reach an agreement that will bring an end to this labour dispute that has gone on for too long.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, the emergence and prosperity of the diamond mine industry have benefited our city and many surrounding communities enormously. However, if this labour dispute continues for much longer, more workers may choose to leave the city, as some have done already, and we will lose much of what we have gained. We will lose not only the skilled tradespeople, but also their spouse, many of whom are employed in many important sectors in our economy, whether they be teachers, nurses or small business operators. Goodness knows, Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to lose any of them from our community.

Mr. Speaker, I could tell you that this strike has been unbearably difficult for all parties concerned, especially for the members of the bargaining union, no matter on which side they sit on the picket line. I have talked to many of them for long hours on the phone or in face-to-face meetings. The workers do have legitimate claims for job security, wage parity and fairness, and the company agrees that these need to be addressed. It is for this reason I'd like to take this opportunity to call upon all parties involved once again to set aside their differences or obstacles they cannot overcome at the moment, and work on what can be agreed and come to a resolution.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I do hope that the latest round of negotiations will result in a settlement. But if it does not, I'll again be calling upon the Premier to show his leadership, to use his power and influence to keep the parties talking, to become more involved than he has done so far, including his influence to call upon the federal Minister of Labour to intervene to bring this dispute to a close as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Members' statements. The honourable Member from Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Member's Statement On Activities In The Nunakput Constituency

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and welcome my colleagues on their safe journey to attend the Fifth Session of the Legislative Assembly; also to the Nahendeh Fiddlers, Sir John Franklin High School and Hay River Handbell Choir on their fine performance to open the session.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. POKIAK: Over the last two months I had the opportunity to travel to a number of special events in the riding of Nunakput. Mr. Speaker, the residents of Ulukhaktok invited me to celebrate an historic event to commemorate their official name change from Holman to Ulukhaktok on April 1, 2006. I am proud of the residents of Ulukhaktok in their determination and hard work to find their identity in the language and culture of Ulukhaktok.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there was disappointment from the residents of Ulukhaktok when there was no one from the departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Municipal and Community Affairs to help celebrate this special occasion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame.

MR. POKIAK: Mr. Speaker, on two other occasions I travelled with Parks Canada and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation personnel to Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour to celebrate the opening of two of Parks Canada's new culture and language centres respectively. These two offices reflect the diversity of the culture, wildlife and environment in the Tuktu Nogiat and Aulivik national parks. I encourage the people of the Northwest Territories and Canada and internationally to visit these two offices, and also prepare to spend time in the national parks. The establishment of these two parks stem from the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. Mr. Speaker, many elders and government personnel were involved in the preparation of these two offices. I would like to thank and congratulate the people of Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour for their warm welcome and friendly hospitality, and to Parks Canada for the invitation to the opening of these two offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement On Services For Mental Illness And Addictions

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It's been estimated that here in the Northwest Territories some 8,800 people have or will experience some form of mental illness or addiction disorder in their lifetimes. Further, Mr. Speaker, it's been predicted that the number and complexity of these disorders will increase significantly, with service demands up by 50 percent. This was an estimate made eight years ago, Mr. Speaker.

For those individuals and their families, a sad reality is that our government services have actually been badly eroded over the past decade. Here in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, we've seen agencies like Northern Addictions Services, Structured Success Program for Kids, NWT Family Counselling, and the Somba K'e Healing Lodge shut down for a variety of reasons since 1997. The latest in this regrettable legacy was the surprise decision by the Minister of Health and Social Services a year ago to cancel an approved building renovation project and move the Territorial Treatment Centre from its 15-year-long roots here in Yellowknife. The idea was that a recently vacated building in Hay River could also be renovated and the whole continuum of about 15 staff, the involvement of schools, hospitals, and other service agencies, could all be transplanted successfully, economically, and seamlessly. As we now know, Mr. Speaker, this decision was made in contravention of rules set up by the government's own Financial Administration Act; and more to the point, we know that through the admission of the deputy minister at the time that this was all being done for political purposes.

I'd remind the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, of the petition tabled last fall signed by 707 residents demanding that this program be continued in Yellowknife. Since then the issue has become even more clouded with the decisions, more snap decisions made in secret when the government changed the program from a renovation to a demolition of the building and a new project, all projected to be completed within the next 15 months for a September 2007 opening at the original budget of \$3.1 million. Mr. Speaker, this just does not compute. I come back to the demand of the 707 people who signed the petition to continue the service here in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, not for politics, not for money...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Braden, your time for Member's statement has expired.

---Applause

Thank you, Mr. Braden. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Member's Statement On Proposed Improvements To The Ingraham Trail

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, firstly I would like to welcome all the Members back to the Legislative Assembly for this spring session. Spring is here and the buzz is in the air in Nahendeh, and the buzz is not that spring came early, but it's about the recent announcement the Premier made regarding \$50 million for the extension of the highway along the Ingraham Trail. More and more I'm hearing it being referred to as Joe's highway.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I'm not against infrastructure enhancement or expansion in other regions of the Northwest Territories. Regional and community leadership and residents of Nahendeh have expressed the concern that previous and current transportation initiatives that were committed to by this government should be honoured and completed before other projects are considered. Highways No. 1 and No. 7 are critical transportation routes that need all the funding they can get. Communities and regions worked long and hard to acquire the funding and commitment

from this government for badly needed transportation infrastructure, enhancement, or expansions. Recently, the honourable Minister of Transportation was placed between a rock and a hard place and had to make a difficult decision. The option that he chose was to transfer \$1 million from the Nahendeh to the Sahtu. Both highway projects have been in the works for quite some time and very important to the regions. We should not be robbing Peter for Paul, or, in this case, Kevin for Norman...

---Laughter

...if we have the financial capacity. The Premier's political statement is sending a message that this Ingraham work is a priority of this administration. This also means that we will have an additional competition of an already scarce and overstretched budget. As activities and commerce increase, not just in specific areas of the Northwest Territories but in all regions, so too must infrastructure enhancements and expansion dollars. This is critical to progressive development in the regional capacity building, something this government has expressed support for time and time again.

In closing, this government must complete planned projects long before new ones are initiated, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement On Congratulations To Tlicho High School Graduates

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to comment on one subject. We had a celebration last week. There was approximately 12 graduated students last week. It's the school of Chief Jimmy Bruneau School. Every year we're having more and more success in graduating, which we are very proud of. Next week there will be a graduation of four students in Whati. (Translation ends)

...a very important event that just occurred last week. The Tlicho Nation celebrated a 13th high school graduation since Grade 12 became available within the region. It was certainly a huge day for the proud Tlicho Nation, Mr. Speaker. There were 25 graduates from Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School in Behchoko and four graduates from Mezi School in Whati early next week. This just as the growing numbers of high school graduates; Tlicho citizens pursuing post-secondary education, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Tlicho high schools are producing among the highest aboriginal student graduation rates in the North and are known across Canada for their achievement.

---Applause

The Tlicho leadership and staff of both schools deserve a big pat on the back. They have done a tremendous job since the inception of both high schools. With the addition of these new grads to our growing numbers of post-secondary students down south, we are proud to say that we have more than 100 students enrolled in post-

secondary education, Mr. Speaker. Their dreams are being fulfilled and Tlicho Nation is watching their success with pride.

Mr. Speaker, it is our dream that one day these post-secondary students will come back to our region or even to other regions of this wonderful North that we're living in and pursue their careers as professionals and skilled workers. We will be looking up to these talented community members and we will continue to be there to support them through their journey, Mr. Speaker. Well done, grads, this is your big day. Congratulations to you all on behalf of the Tlicho citizens. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement On Support For Northern Leaders In Advancing The Northern Agenda

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of activity in the North right now. Spring is in the air and there is excitement and optimism about our economy. At a recent Meet the North Conference in Edmonton, I have never seen more networking and deal making going on. There is an expectancy surrounding the possibilities of the Mackenzie gas project. The Joint Review Panel will be in Hay River next week to commence their hearings in our region.

Amid all this flurry of activity, though, there hangs a backdrop of uncertainty as to how northerners are going to benefit from resource development. The development agenda is out in front of the agenda on devolution and resource revenue sharing.

Some northerners say that we will benefit through opportunities for northern business and this will be assured through a comprehensive socio-economic agreement. Some say that we'll only realize long-term benefits through an equity position in the pipeline itself. Others say that levying a property-type tax is the answer. Still others would argue for regionally negotiated access and benefit agreements. These are just some of the ways proposed in which northerners could benefit from resource development. I say "could," Mr. Speaker, because we're arguably a long ways away from these avenues being nailed down.

So what would it take to conclude these discussions and negotiations? Well, it would take leadership and support of that leadership. It would be an understatement to say that anyone doing business in the North might be confused by northern politics. When our Premier goes to Ottawa to promote devolution and resource revenue sharing positions someone is sure to get their name and their picture in the media right after declaring to the world that he does not speak for us. Some support a unified voice for aboriginal government through the Aboriginal Summit, but then we've heard grumblings that the chiefs don't support their positions. The Dene Nation was another institution that was going to unify the voices of our northern regions, but one might wonder about the credibility of an organization that has been trying to remove their democratically elected chief since the day she went into office.

Development is coming and we can maximize benefit to northerners or not. It might be interesting to consider how much more effectively we could advance our agenda if we could support and respect the leadership that is in place and that has been elected to speak for us in all of our respective governments and organizations. If you think you can do a better job than the person who's doing it now, I'll tell you what, when it comes election time, you run and you show us. But in the meantime, in order to advance our agenda, let's support the people that are in office now. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Member's Statement On Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An issue that's been really upsetting and unsettling for me is that of the proposed relocation of the Territorial Treatment Centre to Hay River. During both the June and October 2005 sessions, I questioned how it was that the Department of Health and Social Services could move capital dollars and a project from one community to another without any consultation with affected Members or committees.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, the government and Minister Miltenberger were adamant that every rule in the FAM directive was followed, but a very strange thing took place on the heels of questions about the project in June of last year. The government went out and made some very substantive revisions to that very same FAM directive. Coincidence? I don't think so. Did they learn anything, Mr. Speaker? Apparently not. It is clear that the decision that was made by the Minister and government to relocate the program was based solely on political motives. The only notion that gave any legitimacy whatsoever to the move was the fact that Hay River had a building, the former Dene K'onia facility that the department was looking to renovate.

The Minister said it himself last October, and I quote, "the fact that it was cost neutral, there was already money in the capital budget that could be used to upgrade Dene K'onia, the fact that there was a facility." Those were, as the Minister stated, key factors in making the decision.

This spring it came as an absolute shock that an ad appeared to demolish Dene K'onia. This shocked parents of the children at the Territorial Treatment Centre, the staff at the Territorial Treatment Centre and Members of this House who, last year, were told one thing and this year we are going to be force fed a different scenario.

How could it be that the Minister and government, for the second time in less than a year, ignore its own FAM directive, did not consult, communicate, or advise any Members of this House even though a substantive key element to this political shell game had changed?

I am finding it very hard to believe that demolition and construction for this project can be completed for the \$3.1 million that is there. I am finding it even harder to understand why this program must even relocate, given the new circumstances that have arisen. If you want to put a new residential treatment program in Hay River,

then go ahead. Plan for it. No one is going to stand in your way. But, Mr. Minister, please, I implore you, revisit the decision to relocate the TTC. The factors are obviously much different today than they were last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement On Stewardship For Future Generations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on May 24th at 12:17 p.m., an event happened that changed my life forever. That event, Mr. Speaker, was the birth of my very first grandchild.

---Applause

My grandson was born to my daughter Kim and her husband, Raymond. What this has to do with the Legislative Assembly, that is a good question. I am glad you all asked it. As I held the boy for the first time, I had a new perspective on what I do for a living. I wondered what was in store for him. I wondered about his future and the future of the other children that were born in Inuvik. We have had a few of them in the last couple of weeks, Mr. Speaker. I wondered if he would be able to benefit from the resources that we seem to have a lot of here, but seem to be getting nothing out of. I was wondering, in 17 years when he graduated from high school, if SFA was going to be straightened out and would be fair to him and his graduating class. If he decided to become a tradesman, will he be able to be trained under local tradesmen that were trained during the building of the pipeline and not 10 years after it? Seriously, I was wondering if he would have any caribou or birds left to hunt as he got older. It is something that we should all be asking and we should be looking after.

Mr. Speaker, the 15th Assembly, along with the aboriginal governments of the Northwest Territories, we have a unique opportunity here to shape the future for our children and our grandchildren. We shouldn't let them down. Since I have been here, I have chosen my words very carefully. Now that I am a grandpa, I don't have to because it is expected of us. So, Mr. Speaker, in closing, it takes a whole community to raise children and provide for them. In our case, because we are so small, our whole community is the Northwest Territories. If my daughter and son-in-law don't lock me out, I will be doing more than my fair share providing for my new grandson. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Member's Statement On Economic Opportunities And Social Challenges Of Tu Nedhe

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome all the Members back to the 15th Legislative Assembly. I welcome all the people in the

gallery here today. I am looking forward to seeing some positive outcomes and results of this fifth spring session.

Mr. Speaker, my constituency of Tu Nedhe, some of the ongoing initiatives such as the Taltson hydro expansion project, the Snap Lake diamond project, the Gahcho Kue project and the remediation of the Hook Lake bison recovery project are just a few of this government's priorities in my region which I am glad to see are moving forward and will provide my constituents, along with many northerners, with new employment opportunities and improved living conditions. These, along with many other community-based initiatives like the Lutselk'e arena which is nearing its completion this fall, and the Lutselk'e tank farm initiative, and the Deninu Kue sawmill are also just some of the initiatives that I would like to continue to move forward on but are still very dependent on the unrelenting cooperation and support of this government and that this government has provided and hopefully will continue to provide going on into the future.

Although the future does look bright for my constituency of Tu Nedhe and many northerners in general, Mr. Speaker, with the many economic development projects being brought forward by industry, government and community organizations like the First Nations, Metis and community councils, there are also many other social issues that tend to get overshadowed by all of these big picture items. Mr. Speaker, it will be these issues and concerns and health, education, housing, capacity building and community governance in our smaller communities that I will be raising in this House during this Fifth Session. Many of these so-called social ills sometimes may seem insignificant and petty, but to the uneducated single mother or father living in a dilapidated two-bedroom public housing unit with their four kids, any opportunity and support I can provide through this government which offers them some sense of hope, dignity and strength to carry on, I will definitely take action on. I hope that our government embraces the same earnest desire and passionate enthusiasm of support.

We, as Members of this Legislative Assembly, will encourage our colleagues, our employees, our subordinates and our bureaucratic system to follow the same lead in addressing and resolving in a tolerable and dignified manner all of these reiterated but curable issues and concerns that are being raised in this House over the course of four years. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Member's Statement On Governance Board Of The Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. HAWKINS: Merci, Monsieur President. Mr. Speaker, it has been three and a half years since Stanton Territorial Hospital last had a board. Since that time, this hospital has been under the direct control of the Minister, the Department of Health and Social Services and through a public administrator. In 2003, the Minister, and I have to say with some credible vision, established a Joint Leadership Council made up by the Minister, the deputy minister, and the chairs of all the health and social service authorities around our NWT. The mandate of this council includes providing advice, general guidance to the public

administrator on the operation of the hospital. At the time, the establishment of the council was a positive step. Its side benefits included some increased opportunities of sharing information and coordination among regional health boards across our territory. But, Mr. Speaker, while the appointment of the public administrator may have been a good temporary solution for Stanton hospital, the isolated authority should have come with an expiry date. Therefore, the time has come to reinstate a governance board to ensure that public accountability and decision-making is made in a way that is representative of our Northwest Territories.

This paradigm shift could be easily made by simply formalizing the existence of the Joint Leadership Council that the Minister created several years ago, by giving them the governance authority and responsibility for policy development, oversight, planning and budgeting of our hospital. The existence of this council has the capacity to carry out this mandate. They also have the skills. We wouldn't need to create additional bureaucracy administration. Mr. Speaker, in a territory that is so short of financial funds, this would be a smart and wise use of our resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that this Minister take that strident leap and show some leadership and give the governance board back to the hospital. Mr. Speaker, I believe that a formal appointment of the Joint Leadership Council as the new board for Stanton would go a long way in strengthening public accountability and regional involvement in that hospital. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a territorial facility. Mr. Speaker, later during the day, at the appropriate time, I will have positive and reasonable suggestions for this Minister who, I am sure, will be very interested in cleaning up this lack of accountability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Members' statements. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Member's Statement On National Day Of Residential School Healing And Reconciliation

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to say, listening to the Sir John choir that was here, that was beautiful music. I thought I was in heaven. Then I heard the bells over there. Gee, I must be really in heaven. It was an awesome job. Mr. Speaker, I want to say it was awesome by the hidden talent in the Northwest Territories. It reminds me of my statement today in terms of what I am going to say about the residential school for the Northwest Territories.

This government has made history in terms of having the first and being the only jurisdiction in Canada to recognize and observe on May 26th as a national day for residential school for healing and reconciliation. It is a big step for us. It gives a lot of commitment and support to the people who are dealing with residential schools in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, there are roughly, in my estimate and research, over 23 residential schools in the Northwest Territories right down the Mackenzie Valley. The earliest being the 1865, the latest about both in 1996. That is over 131 years of residential schools experiences in the

Northwest Territories. Every community that we visit, there is someone that has been impacted by the residential school experiences. Good or bad, right or wrong, they had the experience for themselves, their parents or brothers or sisters. There are a lot of people in the communities. This government observing May 26th really gives them the support and gives them help. I also want to take a step further by asking that this government somehow formulate with all this complexity of the residential schools and helping the people have some form of central unit that would help the people in the communities with the early payments, with the healing and all the other stuff that needs to go on to get this experience out once and for all and start the real human process.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that our people in our communities are looking at the healing mode. They are looking at healing within their families and in the communities. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be part of this legislation that gives history to Canada and again the Northwest Territories is not shy of a good fight when it comes to it. I think we all show that through May 26th. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Members' statements. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure today to be able to welcome the Hay River Handbell Choir in the Chamber. I understand you are going to introduce them individually when they perform for us again in the Great Hall. I just wanted to say welcome. Thank you for coming. I would also like to recognize my constituency assistant, Wendy Morgan. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I realize there are lots of VIPs in the gallery and everyone else I would like to welcome them, but there are a group of people that are really important and they are the senior citizens from Aven's Court. It includes, of course, my mother and all her neighbours. I would like to welcome my mother, Taejeong Lee, and the lady who lives behind her, Sandra Taylor, the lady who lives next to her, Esther Braden, and the man who lives across from the field, Mr. Ed Jeske, and Vivian Squires who just started working for the Seniors' Society and is looking after all of them. I would like to welcome them today. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Today, I would like to recognize our leaders in the Tlicho region; our grand chief, George Mackenzie, and with him is James Rabesca. He is also with the Tlicho Government. I thank them very much for coming to listen to our meeting.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In addition to those who have already been recognized, I would like to recognize some of the RCMP leadership who continue to keep our community safe. Yellowknife Detachment Commander Roch Fortin; Superintendent Rick Roy; Inspector Jim Cunningham; and, Chief Superintendent Pat McCloskey.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, in addition, on behalf of my colleague, Michael McLeod, I would also like to recognize his big brother Bob. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague Sandy Lee has already recognized a number of the seniors here. I welcome them all, especially my mother, Esther.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a special welcome to a young lady who is visiting us from France by way of Concordia University, Ms. Elsa Biais-Sauvetre.

---Applause

Elsa is visiting the family of Sue and Norm Glowach in connection from several years ago when her sister was here in Yellowknife as an international exchange student, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two key people of the Yellowknife Seniors' Society; the president, Ms. Sandra Taylor and, of course, Ms. Vivian Squires, the new executive director, who are with us today in the audience. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my sister Anita Villeneuve in the gallery from the Housing Corporation.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the one and only person that I really love in the House up here today is my wife, Lucille Pokiak. Beside her is Barry Jacobson, my nephew. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Nahendeh Fiddlers. They will be out in the Great Hall. I have Mr. Lewis Beck, Gerda Hazenberg, Stella Pellisey, and all the youngsters from Wrigley and Fort Simpson. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the early '70s, not too many people knew where the Northwest Territories was. A group of skiers started travelling all over the world and people, after that, realized where the Northwest Territories was. We owe them a great deal of thanks. I believe they put the Northwest Territories on the map. With that, I would like to recognize a recent recipient of the Aboriginal Achievement Award and former resident of Inuvik, Ms. Shirley Firth-Larson. Welcome.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a former Speaker of the House, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and former Member for the constituency of Kam Lake, Mr. Tony Whitford.

---Applause

As well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Amanda Mallon, president of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If I missed anybody in the gallery today, I want to welcome everyone today to observe our session. It is always nice to have an audience. Welcome one and all. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 1-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Governance Board

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier today in my Member's statement, the Stanton Territorial Hospital has been without a board for the last three and a half years. The Minister had established a Joint Leadership Council using the chairs under his leadership and authority since 2003. They have been treating it in an operation governance since. My question to the Minister of Health and Social Services is, today, will he agree to give out his control and formalize the existing Joint Leadership Council and appoint them as the new board for the Stanton Territorial Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 1-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Governance Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister, I always maintain in this portfolio the ultimate responsibility and I can't give that up, but I am working very closely with the Joint Leadership Council. In fact, we spent most of the day last week meeting with the folks at Stanton to talk about our relationship and how we're going to better move forward collectively and provide the governance oversight that's required to do that job effectively when you consider the size of Stanton and that it's a territorial resource with an \$80 million budget and 500 staff. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 1-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Governance Board

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, seeing how the Minister didn't answer the question, maybe I'll ask it this way. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is hearing me now, when will he consider establishing a new board and would he consider using the existing governance board, called the Joint Leadership Council, and establishing them as the board for Stanton Territorial Hospital in an efficient and in a timely way? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 1-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Governance Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Joint Leadership Council already has that responsibility and we are moving, as I just indicated, to formalize that relationship and to work even more closely and effectively, meeting, I think, with the Stanton hospital. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 1-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Governance Board

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I'm not allowed to say I've been mislead, but I certainly personally feel as if we're missing the whole story on this, because the Minister had given me sort of an outline on what the Joint Leadership Council did and it does not govern and it does not have that responsibility. It gets to play a little friendly role where they get to come along and talk about the Stanton Territorial Hospital. So I'm asking today, would the Minister take that strident leap of leadership and appoint this Joint Leadership Council as the new board for Stanton Territorial Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 1-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Governance Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Joint Leadership Council already has that within their mandate. In the terms of reference we agreed to, as I just indicated in the last two responses, to formalize that process and that's how we intend to move forward, that it's comprised of all the board chairs and they are at the table and doing an effective job, in my opinion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 1-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Governance Board

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it sounds like we're finally making some headway. So I appreciate that because if they actually have that responsibility his last answer wouldn't have said working to and working to formalize. That being said, that the Minister has underscored that they are not established with that responsibility, can the Minister point out the time frame of when they will have the ultimate authority and will he appoint the Joint Leadership Council, that he had the vision to establish, as the board for Stanton Territorial Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 1-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Governance Board

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in 2002 when the Joint Leadership Council was formed we had an agreement from the board chairs, myself and the deputy, as to the terms of reference and the mandate that was signed off and agreed to by all the parties. That is what is the underpinning document that's driving us. We are working to see if we can better formalize that process and work a little more closely with Stanton hospital and we are doing that. So the JLC is good on the books and will continue to be on the books in terms of providing that kind of oversight from all the authorities, along with myself and the deputy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 2-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for Mr. Miltenberger, the Minister for Health and Social Services, concerning the continuing saga of the potential, alleged kind of relocation of the TTC. Mr. Speaker, over the past number of years the GNWT has had a dismal record of residential programs for those suffering from addictions and mental disorders. In part this is because we have not been establishing the services where they are most needed, let alone, Mr. Speaker, because so many of them have failed to keep their doors open. The Minister himself has said in this Assembly that it is our duty to provide our services, whatever those services may be, as close as possible to the people who need them. Mr. Speaker, why is the Minister still insisting that Yellowknife, where half the population of the NWT lives, should actually lose yet another of these badly needed programs? Mr. Speaker, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 2-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me restate once again for the record that Yellowknife is not losing access to any service. It will be available across the lake in Hay River the same as services in Yellowknife are available to all people who have to fly into Yellowknife from wherever they may live. It's a very simple situation. There is no loss of service to the people of Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 2-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, while the Minister is adamant about moving this program, even in the midst of the confusion and uncertainty about how it is going to be done, will he do what the 700 people who signed this petition asked for, and that was to continue this service in Yellowknife? Why does it have to be abandoned?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 2-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, nothing is being abandoned and nobody is being abandoned. The service will continue to be provided and in a community that has the skills and ability and the workforce to do that, and that's in Hay River. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 2-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: You know, Mr. Speaker, I and I think at least some of my colleagues here would be ready to work with the Minister to establish a transition here that where a service can be established in another community I certainly don't want to stand in the way of it, but I would return to that essential duty that we have to supply a badly needed service as close as possible to the people who need it. That is why these 700 people asked for this service to stay in Yellowknife. Can the Minister find a way to help us achieve this, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 2-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we will continue to provide full access to all those children that are deemed to be in need of the service at the Territorial Treatment Centre and that has never been an issue. We will put the resources necessary to continue to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 2-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: This, again, Mr. Speaker, is a continuance of a sad legacy that our government has had over so many years. What we are abandoning here, Mr. Speaker, are 15 years of investment by this community, not just a government contract, but the schools, the medical people, the NGOs that are part of this. That's what we are abandoning. Will the Minister understand that this is what is at stake here?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 2-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hear the Member's comments and I can appreciate and comprehend what he is telling me. I also have a position here that we're moving on and we're not abandoning anybody, we're not denying anybody a service. I can appreciate how it feels when the concern people have when they see things they think move out of their communities, but this service is not going to be lost. It's still going to be available a very short distance away. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 3-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger. I'd like to pick up where my colleague Mr. Braden had left off in questions regarding the relocation of the Territorial Treatment

Centre from Yellowknife to Hay River. We had discussed this issue at length here in the House last year and, according to the Minister's own words in this House, a key element to the program relocating to Hay River had to do with there being a facility in Hay River that was going to be renovated and the fact that it was going to be cost neutral. I'd like to ask the Minister, given the new circumstances, the Members of this House having to find out via newspaper that Dene K'onia was going to be demolished and, Mr. Speaker, I'll get to the question, when was the Minister and his department going to let the Members in this House know that the scope of this project had changed yet again, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 3-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intent is still to relocate the program. The initial intent was to renovate work done by some experts in this field that came back with a report that indicated that for the same price they could build new. As Minister, I thought I was obligated under good sense and good management to at least take a look at the options since they indicated it would add 20 to 30 years to the life expectancy of the building. So those are the steps we are taking at this point to see in fact to ask for the estimates for either demolition and construction new, or just construction on a new site to see in fact how accurate their estimates were or are before we...and then with that information we can examine where we are. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 3-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good sense and good judgment would have lead the Minister back to the FAM directive that instructs Cabinet to inform and consult with the Members on this side of the House on substantial changes to projects. This didn't happen and, like I mentioned in my Member's statement, it's the second time in less than a year on the same project that the Minister has not come back and consulted with Members of this House. Not having a facility to renovate in Hay River entirely changes the scope and, in fact, if you go back to the debates that took place last year in discussion regarding the relocation of this program, it fundamentally changes that entire discussion. I think, Mr. Speaker, we have to have that discussion again based on some real details. Mr. Speaker, what happens when you start making political decisions on a whim, you run into problems like this. I'd like to ask the Minister when we will get some concrete detailed information about what it's going to cost to build a new facility in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 3-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, none of this was done on a whim and as elected politicians and officials, the Ministers and MLAs, we deal with politics and political decisions all the time. In this case, we made, in my opinion, a careful good decision. The option to renovate is still there, but it behoves me as Minister to get the information to see in fact whether there is the ability to construct new for the same price to extend the life and have a facility that would be there for 20 or 30 years longer than the renovated facility. Dene K'onia still is there and the potential renovation is there. Once the numbers are in I will be sharing those numbers and we'll be able to see how accurate those estimates and recommendations were in terms of new construction within the existing budget. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 3-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister who in his department is responsible for getting that type of information back to Members of this House, because obviously there seems to be a disconnect somewhere between Public Works and Services and the Department of Health and Social Services in what was going to happen with the Dene K'onia facility in Hay River. I would like to ask the Minister who in his department is ultimately responsible for letting Members of this House know that the scope of this project was about to change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 3-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I am, Mr. Speaker, and on May 26th I wrote to the chair of the Social Programs committee to give her the latest information that we had available. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 3-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that was five weeks after Public Works and Services' ad appeared in the News of the North asking for the demolition of the facility in Hay River. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to ask the Minister if that ad didn't appear in the newspaper, when was he going to let Members of this House know? How come we had to find out via newspaper and via parents of children that attend the TTC here in Yellowknife? Why was that the case, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 3-15(5): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've had a number of discussions with the Minister for Public Works and Services, and we've made sure that the lines of communication are operating as they should be and we've rectified whatever missteps there may have been and we are carrying on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Question 4-15(5): Nahendeh Ferry Operations

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much there, Mr. Speaker. I've got some questions for the Minister of Transportation with regard to the ferry situation in the Nahendeh. Recently, our operations have been curtailed, particularly in Fort Simpson we're running a 12-hour day as opposed to, like, an 18-hour day as it was last year. As well, there was a very late start in getting the Wrigley ferry operational. If it had happened to the one at Fort Providence it would have been completely unacceptable to Yellowknife residents. I say it is unacceptable to Nahendeh residents to have this kind of operations being curtailed. Will this Minister tell me when will we get engineers and regular captains set for our ferries in the Nahendeh? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 4-15(5): Nahendeh Ferry Operations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, this year, at the outset of our ferry operating season, we did experience some problems acquiring the necessary engineers to operate the ferry at the Liard River crossing. We have now identified the individuals that are needed. We are in the process of recertifying some of the people that will be working in an engineering capacity for the summer, and that's being done by Transport Canada. We have an official coming to the North to do that. We also experienced some problems with the Nduli ferry, and the contractor has indicated to us now that he has resolved that issue and we should have no further problems with the personnel with both of those ferries. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 4-15(5): Nahendeh Ferry Operations

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just, once again, the situation particularly in Fort Simpson is that this shift in hours has really impacted the way that people do business. Previously you were able to go to Hay River and Fort Liard, in particular day trips and then back to the community of Fort Simpson. Just, again, I know that the ministry is working hard at getting the engineers and I would just like to urge, on behalf of the Nahendeh residents, to proceed in haste in getting these engineers. Just for question purposes I guess, Mr. Speaker, when is the Minister's best estimate in getting

the engineer and return of the regular captain at both ferries? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 4-15(5): Nahendeh Ferry Operations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've had to increase our staff requirements at the Liard River crossing from two crews that operated historically through the contract process to three crews now and we did have some shortcomings when it came to some of the engineers. The engineers that had worked for the previous contractor no longer wanted to come to work for the territorial government with some of the issues around the lack of vacation pay and issues of that nature. We did go out and seek individuals that could be recertified and we have Transport Canada coming to the North, I think it's this week, and we should have everyone scheduled for crew rotations by the next coming days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 5-15(5): Long-Term Care Facility For Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this first opportunity this session to ask a question to Minister of Health and Social Services and on an issue that he's quite familiar with. It has to do with the efforts of the Yellowknife community to build the Alzheimer's facility in the city, Mr. Speaker. This has been something that has been worked on by the YACCS and other senior leaders of the city for a very long time. A couple of years ago there was a suggestion by YACCS to the government for them to finance the money that was required to build the building as long as there could be a commitment from the government to pay for O and M. The Minister and the Cabinet considered that, but, instead of going that way, the government and the Minister has agreed to look at the overall long-term care strategy for all those who are in need of long-term care and mostly including seniors and also those with Alzheimer's. Mr. Speaker, I could tell you that the community is very happy with the initial \$1 million that we got to do some planning on that, but I just wanted to ask the Minister where he is with this project and to just reconfirm his support with moving forward with this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 5-15(5): Long-Term Care Facility For Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what was initially proposed by YACCS was both that we would cover the O and M, as well YACCS would take out the loan and we would just cover off the monthly mortgage payments. Mr. Speaker, this issue has been on the table for some time now. There's been funds, as the Member indicated, committed to this and the direction from Cabinet was to put this into the current business planning process that is now

underway in the capital planning process and that has been done. Work has been done on the model and the initial cost estimates which we have received. All those figures have been included and, as far as I'm aware -- and I've asked the deputy about this -- this has been included into the capital plan for this 2007-08, as has been instructed by Cabinet. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 5-15(5): Long-Term Care Facility For Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate his answer in this regard and I could advise him that I'd like to continue to work with Cabinet and the Minister on this project and overall long-term care strategy for all those in need in the Territories, because I think the national trend and all the health indicators suggest that it's better to have our people in need of care outside of the hospital setting and in communities. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering, for those who are not aware of the business plan and capital process, when would it be that those parties could be advised as to where this project might be at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 5-15(5): Long-Term Care Facility For Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, work is underway as we meet in this House. Business plans, both on the O and M side and the capital side are being worked on. There will be formal review by committee members in the coming months and formally, as well, in the fall. Over the next three or four months the work on the business plans is going to continue and it will go through the normal process of committee review and discussion, as well as initial review by Cabinet. So that process is going to unfold here over the next three or four months. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 5-15(5): Long-Term Care Facility For Yellowknife

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my final supplementary on this issue, which we know we're going to continue to work on, Mr. Speaker, could I just ask the Minister to reconfirm his support for this project and similar projects in the North for the seniors? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 5-15(5): Long-Term Care Facility For Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all the capital projects we bring forward are very good on their merit and we've been working hard on recognizing, as the Member has pointed out, that there is a need here. We are competing for scarce resources, as the Members all know. But we are bringing it forward, along with a number of other initiatives and we will be making...We have, I believe, made a very good case. The factors are going to be looked at like the capital fund that's available, the cost of the project as it's

been initially laid out. But we are moving on this and it is on our agenda, but the final words of comfort that I can offer, in my opinion it's not a question of if we're going to build this, it's a question of when. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 6-15(5): Residential School Claimants

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent, in regards to the residential schools issue. I want to ask the Minister, is his department taking the lead in terms of coordinating all the other GNWT departments in terms of helping the people who need to look at residential schools as a means to get some work done on their lives and also in their communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 6-15(5): Residential School Claimants

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education, Culture and Employment has the lead at getting information to the people who are claimants to make sure they can fill out their claims accurately and quickly to get them filed with the Residential Schools Commission. But in terms of the social work that would be necessary, no, that is not something that the department does. Each department has its own field of responsibility. For instance, the Department of Justice handles the legal sides in this jurisdiction. So it would be up to the Department of Health and Social Services to take the lead on counselling services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 6-15(5): Residential School Claimants

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister in terms of helping the claimants with the information in regards to the settlements. I'd like to ask the Minister in terms of him taking the initiative of working with the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Justice, in terms of also working with other agencies, such as the Assembly of First Nations or the Dene Nation or any other agencies out there that, in terms of coordinating a single unit, sort of sharing information and coordinating a project over the next couple years to help the former students of residential schools in all facets of how this federal government initiative will roll out for the Northwest Territories. I think that I'd like to ask the Minister if he would consider that almost an interagency committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 6-15(5): Residential School Claimants

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be happy to ensure that this item gets placed on the agenda

for the social envelope Ministers. We have a committee that meets on a regular basis and I will work with my colleagues to ensure that we have a coordinated approach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 6-15(5): Residential School Claimants

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I look forward to the Minister's response back from the social envelope committee members on this coordinating effort. I also ask if the Minister would look at inviting the Dene Nation as one part of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation as one agency. Another agency is across the Northwest Territories, the Gwich'in and Sahtu and Dehcho and Tlicho; other communities that are affected by the residential schools in terms of looking at the interagency that would look to help all the communities. So would the Minister look at the possibility of including the other regional or territorial organizations as a territorial, true territorial interagency committee? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 6-15(5): Residential School Claimants

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'll make sure that we have that discussion with my colleagues in the social program departments to ensure that we do what we can to coordinate efforts in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 6-15(5): Residential School Claimants

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the Minister, would it be optimistically ambitious to say if he can get back to us within the life of this, these Assembly days until the 8th of June to give us some kind of good response to the House with a response to my request? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 6-15(5): Residential School Claimants

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, the next scheduled meeting for our committee is after session ends, but it is scheduled for the month of June. So it will be something that we'll discuss and I'll ensure that we contact the Member in writing to let him know what the results of that discussion are.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 7-15(5): Interpretation And Translation Training Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, (Translation) I have a question regarding interpreting and translating services. Today we look at the Northwest Territories, we're having difficulties getting interpreters.

Sometimes although we do have one interpreter here, there may be one here too, but they are very busy. We have young people that are in school. They are thinking of getting into this career. (Translation ends)

...importance of interpretation services here in the North, especially in this Assembly. We're at a critical point where the GNWT must consider re-establishing in-house interpretation and translation services which could be located in regional centres. There is a clear need for the GNWT to work with Aurora College to reinstate interpreting and translating program for aboriginal languages, including specializing in medical and judicial terminology, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Charles Dent, can the Minister indicate to this Assembly how successful the past or previous interpreting/translating courses through Aurora College were and a positive outcome out of the program? Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that there are a few that I can mention in my region that have gained positive out of this program. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 7-15(5): Interpretation And Translation Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is right; the previous courses offered, or the previous participants in the courses offered by the college have been very successful in achieving a certain high standard of ability to interpret.

Unfortunately, the college hasn't seen much uptake. They kept offering the courses, but there were very few people who signed up to take the courses. We suspect that that may be because, particularly since division of the Territories, there hasn't been as much demand for interpreting services. There hasn't been, therefore, the registration of students at the college to take the courses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 7-15(5): Interpretation And Translation Training Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is disheartening to hear that there is not much interest from the general public on the interpretation program that's been offered through Aurora College. We certainly need these professions that can interpret medical and judicial terminology in the communities that we face everyday, whether it's a health centre or community justice. So, Mr. Speaker, I guess my question to the Minister is, isn't it the department's mandate to focus on delivering such important services such as interpretation and translating courses, along with Aurora College? I am sure there is a strategy to work with Aurora College to attract more community members. That certainly can utilize the qualified professions in the communities and also departments can work with these professions. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Education, Culture and Employment do all require such important services in the communities. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 7-15(5): Interpretation And Translation Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department really is supportive of the development of language skills among the population and a lot of money is put into, for instance, helping northerners do better at picking up their languages. For instance, ALCIP, the Aboriginal Language/Culture Instructor Program, has been expanded to next year. It will be a two-year course. That's expanded by one year. The first year will focus on language acquisition. What we are trying to do is make sure communities are better supported to have teachers who speak the aboriginal language of the communities. We should have in our communities, all of the schools able to offer an immersion program from kindergarten to Grade 3 in the language of the community. That is the goal. We are only able to achieve that...I believe we have only a couple of communities that are offering immersion in kindergarten and Grade 1. The problem is we haven't been able to train enough teachers who then stay in the job and speak the aboriginal languages. So it's more than just interpreters and translators. We want to see more people in the Northwest Territories who are able to and comfortable speaking their community language.

In terms of supporting the college, we are quite prepared to support the college if there is a demand for people to take these courses, but to date there hasn't seemed to be as much interest. That's perhaps because there don't seem to be all that many jobs out there for people in this field. I think that's discouraged some people from following it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 7-15(5): Interpretation And Translation Training Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we heard earlier that it takes a whole community to work together and see a productive outcome. What is the department doing to attract community members? We talk about attracting community members and training a workforce, whether it be on-the-job training. This is one of the important topics that has been ongoing in my region specifically. Has the department considered delivering this program in the communities, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to regional centres? As a matter of fact, we, as the Tlicho Community Services Agency, would love to work with the department on delivering the program. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 7-15(5): Interpretation And Translation Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would have to see evidence that there was significant demand for the program to talk about a pilot project such as the one that the Member talks about. I think I can demonstrate to the Member that we are prepared to consider pilot projects, because in the Tlicho region the department is working with the Tlicho Community Services Agency to bring in a Teacher Education Program where we are trying to bring people into the field of

teaching who will be comfortable speaking their own language. That is the first step in making sure we have better language services throughout the Northwest Territories by making sure that we have fluent teachers who are helping us ensure that students are coming through the school system supported to learn their language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 7-15(5): Interpretation And Translation Training Programs

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Just a final supplementary on the ALCIP program. I am fully aware of that. I very much appreciate that program being delivered in the Tlicho region. At the same time, I would like to ask the Minister when can the department sit down with the Tlicho Community Services Agency and highlight if there is a need for such important courses to be delivered in the communities? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 7-15(5): Interpretation And Translation Training Programs

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understood the Member's questions, he was focussed on college level courses. So I would be pleased to contact the college right away and let them know the region's interest and ask that they have a representative meet with the Tlicho Community Services Agency to discuss the need in the region for this kind of course. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Oral questions. Written questions. Petitions. Reports of standing and special committees. Tabling of documents.

ITEM 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 1-15(5): Electoral Boundaries Commission Report 2006

Pursuant to section 10 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act, I wish to table the 2006 Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2005-2006

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 1, 2006, I will move that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2005-2006, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 2: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2006-2007

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 1, 2006, I will move that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2006-2007, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 1, 2006, I will move that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Bill 4: An Act To Amend The Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 1, 2006, I will move that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

Bill 5: An Act To Amend The Territorial Parks Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 1, 2006, I will move that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Motions. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 31, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.:

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
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 31, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 15:20 p.m.