



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

6th Session

Day 2

14th Assembly

HANSARD

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Pages 23 – 48

The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker

Hon. Tony Whitford

(Kam Lake)

Hon. Stephen Kakfwi

(Sahtu)

Premier

Executive Council

Minister Responsible for

Intergovernmental Affairs

Minister Responsible for the Status of

Women

Hon. Jim Antoine

(Nahendeh)

Deputy Premier

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Minister Responsible for the

Intergovernmental Forum

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and

Economic Development

Hon. Roger T. Allen

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

Minister of Justice

Minister Responsible for NWT

Housing Corporation

Minister Responsible for Public

Utilities Board

Minister Responsible for Youth

Hon. Joseph L. Handley

(Weledeh)

Minister Responsible for Energy and

Hydro Secretariats

Minister of Finance

Minister Responsible for the Financial

Management Board

Minister Responsible for the Northwest

Territories Power Corporation

Minister of Transportation

Minister Responsible for the Workers'

Compensation Board

Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger

(Thebacha)

Minister of Health and Social Services

Minister Responsible for Persons with

Disabilities

Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. Jake Ootes

(Yellowknife Centre)

Minister of Education, Culture and

Employment

Hon. Vince R. Steen

(Nunakput)

Minister of Public Works and Services

Minister of Municipal and Community

Affairs

Mr. Brendan Bell

(Yellowknife South)

Mr. Bill Braden

(Great Slave)

Mr. Paul Delorey

(Hay River North)

Mr. Charles Dent

(Frame Lake)

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

(Hay River South)

Mr. David Krutko

(Mackenzie Delta)

Mr. Leon Lafferty

(North Slave)

Ms. Sandy Lee

(Range Lake)

Mr. Michael McLeod

(Deh Cho)

Mr. Steven Nitah

(Tu Nedhe)

Mr. Floyd Roland

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

Officers

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David M. Hamilton

Deputy Clerk

Mr. Doug Schauerte

Clerk of Committees

Mr. Dave Inch

Law Clerks

Ms. Katherine R. Peterson, Q.C.

Mr. Charles Thompson

Sergeant-at-Arms

Ms. Nicole Latour-Theede

Editor of Hansard

Michele Vanthull

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	23
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	23
7-14(6) - NOTICE OF BUDGET ADDRESS	23
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	23
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR NORTHERN TERRITORIES.....	23
MS. LEE ON FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR NORTHERN TERRITORIES.....	23
MR. MCLEOD ON FIFTH ANNUAL DEH CHO REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE.....	24
MR. DELOREY ON NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AND PEOPLE	24
MR. NITAH ON PER CAPITA FUNDING FORMULAS	25
MR ROLAND ON BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM	25
MR. BRADEN ON HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR NORTHERN TERRITORIES.....	25
MR. KRUTKO ON SENIORS' FUEL SUBSIDY PROGRAM	26
MR LAFFERTY ON FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR NORTHERN TERRITORIES.....	26
MR. DENT ON FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR NORTHERN TERRITORIES.....	27
MR. BELL ON FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR NORTHERN TERRITORIES.....	27
MR. HANDLEY ON PASSING OF WELL-RESPECTED WELEDEH ELDERS.....	27
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	27
ORAL QUESTIONS	28
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	37
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS	37
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	37
PETITIONS	37
NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS	38
BILL 3 - APPROPRIATION ACT, 2003-2004	38
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	38
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	47
ORDERS OF THE DAY	47

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, February 12, 2003****Members Present**

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Please be seated. Good afternoon, colleagues, and welcome back after a well deserved and very productive break. I wish you all a happy new year, a bit belated but the sentiments are there.

I wish to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and it says:

"Dear Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, the passage of the Appropriations Act, 2003-2004, and the Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 3, 2002-2003, during the Sixth Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly. Yours truly, Glenna F. Hansen, Commissioner."

Thank you. The next item is Ministers' statements. The Honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 7-14(6): Notice Of Budget Address**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will deliver the Budget Address on Thursday, February 13, 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The Honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories**

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I watched with anticipation over the past couple of weeks at first as Canadian Premiers met to grapple with issues of health care funding for their respective jurisdictions, and then subsequently as they met with the Prime Minister.

Our government has invested a tremendous amount of effort and resources in ensuring our Ministers and Premier are at the federal/provincial/territorial tables, and ensuring that our issues are represented and our experience is shared on a national level. A lot of preparation work is required to effectively participate when we get there, and to communicate with counterparts in advance and have our officials and Ministers ready to lobby on behalf of the interests of Northerners. So I was very encouraged by the results of this effort, as evidenced by the significant accomplishment of our Premier and the other

northern Premiers to achieve agreement from their colleagues on the need to address the needs of northern territories different with respect to national programs funding and initiatives; in this case, specifically, health.

After all, if the provincial Premiers agreed, the concession of a base funding before applying the per capita formula for the territories could only affect the provinces' shares. And if they supported us, how could the Prime Minister find any reason not to support us as well? There was absolutely no downside for him financially or politically. His response was such an affront to the North that it is almost unconceivable. Needless to say, I support the strong position then taken by Premiers Kakfwi, Okalik and Fentie to refuse to sign on. The subsequent national media attention to their position was very effective as well, in further reinforcing our need of special attention given the unique challenges of delivering health services in vast and remote areas.

Ignorance is no defense for Mr. Chretien. As the Premier pointed out, this was the Prime Minister who was very familiar with the challenges in the North, and even if he hadn't benefited from that background, we have done a very good job of clearly articulating and justifying our requests. This latest dismissive stance of the Prime Minister goes far above and beyond indifference. It is more like sabotage, Mr. Speaker.

As a seemingly afterthought gesture, the Prime Minister alluded to a separate process and dialogue with the territories. Later in question period today, I'll be asking the Premier if there have been any developments subsequent to the Ottawa meetings that should give us any cause for hope that Ottawa is getting our message. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate Premiers Stephen Kakfwi, Paul Okalik and Dennis Fentie for their strong, clear and united voice with which they spoke about the inadequacy of the current federal funding formula in health care services for Northerners.

Having seen the outpouring of support shown by the residents and leaders of all walks of life and all over the territories north of 60, a number of things have become more clear to me than ever. Mr. Speaker, the first is the universal access to good, reliable health care. Regardless of where we live, it's one thing

that is truly near and dear to our hearts. This is one of the most treasured and precious rights and privileges we have as Canadians. The scarcity of people and the remoteness of where we live should not deprive us of equal treatment. In my experience as an MLA, I know of no other issue that unites our people as this important belief. Any politician who fails to fully appreciate this must do so at their own peril.

Mr. Speaker, the second thing that has become very clear is that the federal government must quickly address the need for a health care funding formula that recognizes this principle. The full implications of the extra costs of delivering the health care services to each and every Northerner must be included, above and beyond the per capita numbers in any new funding formula.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, is that when leaders unite and work together, they become much stronger and effective than the sum of their collective whole. And people appreciate this and throw their support behind them. It was something to behold, Mr. Speaker, to witness the three northern Premiers speaking with one voice on behalf of the people they represent. Their collective voice was clear, strong and focused, and I believe very strongly that it will result in something good for all of us. We have already seen it, Mr. Speaker. The attention of our neighbours, including the leaders and the media south of 60, finally tuned in to our message that we have been trying to get through to them for a very long time. For a day or two it was a topic of major discussion in every media room in the country. I realize that we have a lot more work to do, and the Premiers are working with our elected officials in Ottawa to...

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Lee, your time for Members' statements is over. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Ms. Lee, you may conclude your statement.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I realize we have a lot more work to do and the Premiers are working with our elected officials in Ottawa to deliver this to us. But I do believe that we have definitely started something good here, something we must try to do more often.

We have a lot of other issues in front of us in our territory, and many of them are of the same national importance and magnitude. There's no doubt that while we may disagree on small things, united we can speak more strongly and effectively. By practicing this and showing us how this is done, Premiers Kakfwi, Okalik and Fentie have served us well, and I'd like to thank them and congratulate them once again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement On Fifth Annual Deh Cho Regional Youth Conference

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today as part of educating our youth, I would like to announce an initiative, sponsored in part by the Deh Gah School. Mr. Speaker, the Fifth Annual Regional Youth Conference will be starting on Friday in Fort Providence. This is the second year in a row that Fort Providence has hosted this conference, titled Honouring our Gifts. The three-day conference will consist of workshops and presentations by well-known key speakers and presenters of both northern and southern role models, including Fort Providence's own Angie Matto, Delphine Elleze and Sherry Landry-Braun. Other presenters are Barry Church, Sharon Firth, Myron Wolf Child, Lisa Simard, Dr. Andrew Corriveau, the Fort Resolution Dancers and the Honourable Roger Allen. These people have developed their gifts to their full potential, and some have built their careers around them.

The Deh Gah Elementary School conference organizers are Julia Elleze, Maxine Lacorne, Melissa Wood, Margaret Thom and Jane Arychuk. These people have committed themselves to ensuring that each participant will come out of this conference with the ability to recognize and honour the gifts they have. The 150 youth participants hail from communities across the Northwest Territories. The programs will give insight to the spiritual, mental, physical and cultural aspects of well-being, which is a basic foundation of traditional teaching.

Mr. Speaker, this conference has been made possible by contributions from MACA; Mackenzie Recreation Association; Deh Gah Gotie Brighter Futures; the Minister of Youth, Roger Allen; Fort Providence Recreation; BHP; the Languages Commissioner, Fibbie Tatti; Shehta Drilling; Territorial Beverages; Nats'ejee Keh, Deh Cho Divisional Education Council; Skills Canada; SAY Magazine; and Rosalyn Smith.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the organizers, volunteers, sponsors and the role models for offering our youth the basic building blocks for self-improvement through this conference. I'd also like to wish all the youth, visitors and presenters a safe and enjoyable stay while in Fort Providence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Noteworthy Events And People

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I may have to lean on your level of tolerance today as this will be a bit of an events statement. Let me begin, Mr. Speaker, by saying how happy I am to be back in this wonderful Chamber, with yourself and the rest of my colleagues, to embark on what I'm sure will be a very ambitious session. I'm sure everyone is fully rejuvenated after the Christmas season and is up to the challenge ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I eagerly await the deliverance of the Budget Address by my esteemed colleague, the Honourable Joe Handley, as well as the federal Budget Address next Tuesday. I sincerely hope that one or both of these addresses will contain some good news that will give us the resources

required to deliver the programs and services needed by the people that we represent.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to express my deepest sympathies to the families of Pat Lafleur, Harold Page, Chuck Williams and Leonard Cardinal, who have recently passed away. These fine people are all long-time residents of Hay River and will be sadly missed. I especially want to send my condolences to the families of Eileen Olsen, who passed away on Monday morning and whose funeral will be held on Thursday. I want them to know that, although I will be unable to attend because of my duties here, my thoughts and prayers are and will be with them.

On a happier note, Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I recognize the Hay River senior ladies' curling team, comprised of Cathy Ryde, lead; Rose Goudreau, second; Linda Carter, third; and my wife, Davida, as skip. These four ladies were excellent ambassadors at the Canadian senior ladies' championships in Lethbridge in January. I want to congratulate these ladies for being very good ambassadors of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey, for your member's statement. I will just remind Members -- perhaps today being the first day we'll be a little bit more flexible -- that time is two-and-a-half minutes -- your rules -- and one topic. But today we will look the other way, so to speak. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Member's Statement On Per Capita Funding Formulas

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement on formula financing today. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work of our Premier; the Premier of the Yukon, Mr. Fentie; the Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Okalik; and their stance that they've taken with Mr. Chretien on the formula financing, Mr. Speaker. They've done a very good job in educating Canadians in southern Canada that formula financing based on per capita does not work. I think they've done a wonderful job on that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, here in the Northwest Territories we face the same thing. Formula financing based on per capita does not work for Northerners. Those people who live in small communities have the same costs as those people who live in mid-sized communities, but our financial arrangement with the communities is based on per capita.

I'd like to thank the Premier for making that very clear, that per capita funding for a small population does not work. I hope that he, along with his government, recognizes that the challenges that communities face in the Northwest Territories, that formula financing based on per capita does not work. The work that we've done through our Special Committee on Non-Tax-Based Communities has expressed that very clearly to us. I'd like to thank the Premier for allowing me to give an example of Ottawa's treatment of the Northwest Territories and headquarters' treatment of the communities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement On Beverage Container Recycling Program

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you started out by saying that we'd had a bit of a break, I'd just like to inform that while we were on that break from session much work was being done in our constituencies, and I have a number of issues that I will be raising while we're in the budget session. One of them today I want to raise specifically is in the area of what I've been asked to present to this House, in the area of beverage container recovery program. What triggered me to start off with this was the news that I'd heard this morning, that this government probably would not be going forward with its waste recovery and reduction act, which I think is not good to hear and I hope that they will reconsider and try to move forward on that. It's one thing when we talk about the big picture when we've heard Cabinet and the Premier talk about Kyoto and what we must do in all of Canada and what we can do in the Northwest Territories; well, I think here's an opportunity that we can start at ground level and start in communities and start having an immediate impact on our own environment, Mr. Speaker.

Later on today I will be tabling a letter from the Inuvik Recycling Society as well as a petition from constituents in my community and across the North, when it comes to this area, and hope that the government will be able to act on it. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleagues, I know that I stand here with the voice of many residents of the NWT, when I say how pleased and proud we were of Premiers Stephen Kakfwi, Okalik and Fentie of Nunavut and the Yukon, for telling Ottawa and the rest of Canada that the North really does deserve a better break on health funding.

Last week's dramatic story down in Ottawa unfolded like a bad movie. There were three little guys from the boonies, Mr. Speaker, standing up against the big guy from Shawinigan in the showdown over what's right and what's fair. And it could have been a tired old rerun. It's like the story that we've seen played out many times. Remember some of these old clunkers, Mr. Speaker, Infrastructure Investment, or how about Corridors For Canada, and then there was Devolution Delayed? It's the same old story: Ottawa again thwarts the dreams and desires, and leaves the North out in the cold. It could have happened again, but the Premiers stood up and said no. They stood up and said we deserve the same standard of health care that other Canadians deserve. He said that it's not right that 28 of 33 communities in the NWT don't have a doctor. He said we deserve the same standard of health care that other Canadians expect. He said Ottawa's \$5 million a year doesn't cut it. He said we've had enough of Ottawa's take-it-or-leave-it attitude. He said per capita funding just doesn't work for the people living north of 60.

So, Mr. Speaker, while we've made our mark on the country with this issue, what we really need to see now are results. I know that our officials are continuing to work in Ottawa to find solutions. I'm impressed that Health Minister Anne McLellan has announced she's going to be here on February 24th to meet with the three territorial Ministers, and even though we might not be hearing much from them, Mr. Speaker, I believe that our northern Members of Parliament and Senators are working on our behalf in Ottawa. We've got their attention, and that is a job well done. Now what we need are results. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the most cherished resources that we have is our elders. We've always looked up to them for wisdom, encouragement, and also for support. Yet, Mr. Speaker, one of the alarming things that I found during the break from the last sitting to being here today is that our elders in our communities, especially the ones who are living by themselves and trying to maintain their own home are struggling just to make ends meet. Yet, Mr. Speaker, programs and services that this government delivers by way of fuel subsidies and home support programs are not really meeting the goal that we set, to improve the quality of life for seniors in their homes, in their communities, and in the North.

Mr. Speaker, we spend a lot of dollars and resources on the renewable resources sector with regards to the diamond industry and oil and gas, yet, Mr. Speaker, the resource that we're very much depleting and not taking the advantage of ensuring that the quality of life of our seniors has been considered.

Mr. Speaker, I've raised questions in this House previously regarding the seniors' fuel subsidy. I've been waiting for an answer back from the Minister responsible on this, knowing that the system that they use is unjust, it is not fair, and it does not really meet the requirement of the program.

Mr. Speaker, again I'd like to state, this is a quality of life issue. If we cannot improve the quality of life of our seniors, what are we doing here as legislators? I think we can talk bread and butter issues with regards to what we're doing, but I think we have to see it reflected.

There are a lot of seniors who do not want to take part in public events, sit on public boards, on the band councils, on the local elders' councils, et cetera, because they're penalized for doing that. And if this government is putting in policies that are penalizing our seniors for being active in our communities, there's something wrong with these policies that we're putting in place.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, I will be asking the Minister responsible for the seniors' fuel subsidy questions on this matter later. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome my colleagues back to the House.

Today I would like to recognize the Northern Premiers. I would like to congratulate them for refusing to sign the health care accord that was offered to the provinces and territories by the Prime Minister.

By refusing to sign the health care package last week in Ottawa, Premiers Kakfwi, Okalik and Fentie drew national attention to the health care concerns we have in the North.

I would like my constituents to know that, as a territory, we will be getting health care funding from the federal government, but the Premiers from the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut did not agree that the territories should be funded the same way as the provinces, on a per capita or per person basis.

It costs more to deliver health care in the North. We have high infrastructure costs and a small population base. We have large distances to travel for health care, and expenses quickly add up.

In the Northwest Territories, the government spends about \$4,700 for every man, woman and child to provide health services. This is roughly \$3,000 more than in the provinces.

The Premiers are asking the Prime Minister in Ottawa to create a special health care fund for the territories, which takes into account that our health care costs are higher.

I know that talks are ongoing with the Prime Minister, and hopefully a creative solution can be found.

On a territorial level, I think the same creativity is needed to address the inequity that exists between the smaller and larger centres in terms of health care services. I think all Members are aware that there is no base standard of health care services in the Northwest Territories. There is no consistency amongst health care in the smaller communities in the Territories. As well, residents in the smaller communities face different medical challenges than people in the larger centres. Medevacs are not uncommon and are very expensive. Without immediate access to health care providers, there is always the chance that a medical condition can become more serious.

The health care needs in the territories needs to be recognized as unique from the provinces. As a government, we need to recognize that the health care needs in the smaller communities are distinct from the larger centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty, and welcome back from your short stay in the hospital in the last few days. It's good to see you're back. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues today, I'd like to express my extreme disappointment with the federal response to the Northern First Ministers on health care renewal funding; especially, Mr. Speaker, when First Ministers from all provinces had agreed that the territories needed special treatment and not financing on a per capita basis. I think Mr. Roy Romanow had already laid out the reasons to support such an approach to funding in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I was a Member of the 13th Assembly, and at the time, in the late '90s, Canada faced a deficit. And we weren't asked to help cut the national deficit, we were told we would help, and we were told by how much. The federal government unilaterally cut our transfer payments. And they didn't cut our transfer payments then on a per capita basis. The impact that we felt was in the area of \$150 million. Mr. Speaker, this led to lay-offs, cuts in salaries and benefits of employees, and cuts to programs, including cuts to health and to education. So Canada, with disproportionate help from Northerners, has now wrestled the deficit to the ground and runs a surplus. So you might say, Mr. Speaker, that Canada in the '90s reached into our pocket and yanked money out when they faced a deficit. Now they have a surplus, and every time we get to be part of a federal program, they want us to get it back in little dribbles on a per capita basis.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame.

MR. DENT: Mr. Speaker, I know I've talked to a number of my constituents and I supported the actions of Premier Kakfwi and the other territorial leaders last week, and I think this was the right move. It's time that we got tougher with the message that we deliver to Ottawa. Canada, the federal government owes northern residents more attention and a fair share of nationally funded programs. And we must work together to get that message delivered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we eagerly await the Finance Minister's presentation of the budget this week, and I know the public does as well, but we've been told, I think quite clearly, not to expect any surprises and not to expect any quick-fix solutions. We know, Mr. Speaker, that we're struggling with a widening gap between our expenditures and revenues, and it's certainly going to take a better deal from the federal government if we hope to turn this tide.

Mr. Speaker, I think that these are the facts and I don't believe they're in dispute. However, there has been quite a bit of discussion recently about whether or not if indeed the Prime Minister gets it or not. Does the Prime Minister understand our unique challenges, Mr. Speaker? I can't be sure, but I'm certain he does get this, Mr. Speaker, he gets the sad fact that we only have one MP. So let's not sell the man short. I don't

think that one could stay at the top for that long without recognizing the political realities of the game.

How do we make a compelling argument for change? The answer, I think, at least part of it, Mr. Speaker, is to start to build alliances and start to build partnerships. I think that that's something that indeed our Premier and the other Premiers of the territories have begun this week on our behalf. It's good to see.

As well, Mr. Speaker, we know the business coalition, a group of business leaders here locally, have begun to seek that out by reaching out to their Alberta business colleagues and have realized that the message in Ottawa has been falling on deaf ears and they recognize that it's time for another approach. So I hope we've begun the course that will lead to some fruitful results, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to congratulate as well as my colleagues, our Premier and the Premiers of the other territories for their hard work this week. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Passing Of Well-Respected Weledeh Elders

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, this past year, the Weledeh constituency has suffered the loss of some of our well-respected elders. Most recently, elders who lived in Ndilo and Dettah and who have passed on include Michel Sikyea, famous for the million-dollar duck; Celine Tsetta; and, Phillip Crapeau. It's important that we recognize and celebrate the contributions that they've made to the people of the North. As elders, they were our natural leaders. They shared their wealth and wisdom with younger generations and helped to prepare them for their role as leaders in the communities. These elders offered guidance to the parents and children living in the communities. They also played a big role in the area of preserving and teaching Dene culture and helping younger generations to grow and benefit from not only the traditional lifestyles, but from new development in the North. Most importantly though, they help to confirm Aboriginal rights. They did this each in their own way and those are rights that we enjoy today. Our elders who have passed on are not forgotten. By making this Member's statement, I hope that in a small way, I am helping to record their names in history. This Member's statement is made in memory of elders Michel Sikyea, Celine Tsetta and Phillip Crapeau. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the Gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize my nephew Eric Nitah who lives in Yellowknife and works for Ekati and my niece Katie Nitah who is up here visiting from Saskatoon. Welcome home. As always, Mr. Speaker, I recognize those constituents of mine who are watching on television in Lutselk'e or Deninu Kue. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the Gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a few people in the Gallery. First of all, my mother, who usually watches me on television, but today she chose to join me. My mother Taejeong Lee and another gentleman who is here from Korea. He has been volunteering with the seniors and he will be returning to Korea. He came to learn English and he's been a great help to the seniors. His name is Danny Lee in English, but actually his name is Hyuk Joon Lee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the Gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure this afternoon to recognize Nicole Firth, my constituency assistant, and also Mr. Harold Cook, my new executive assistant. Welcome to the Gallery.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the Gallery. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two former constituents of mine who now reside in Alberta. Larry and Thelma Babiuk, who are in town awaiting the birth of their newest grandchild.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Jak sja majesh (sic). Item 5, recognition of visitors in the Gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I have a number of people I would like to introduce and I would like to introduce my wife Margaret, who is in the Gallery today. Also, in the Gallery is Katherine Youngblut, Ed Jeske, Esther Braden, Nancy Gardiner and Barb Hood. Barb is the executive director of the NWT Seniors' Association. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the Gallery. Any further recognitions of visitors in the Gallery? I would like to take the opportunity to thank people that are in the Gallery for coming to see your Legislative Assembly today, our first day. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry, I thought you had seen me. I would like to recognize a very hard-working, dedicated constituent who keeps me on my toes all the time, Major Karen Hoeft. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Yes, indeed. She would not have gone unnoticed. I was just about to recognize her. Any further recognition of visitors in the Gallery? The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I would like to take this time to recognize my assistant Sherry Landry-Braun and also Mr. McLeod's assistant and also former Inuvik board member and someone who I have worked with in the past on the Mackenzie Delta Regional Council some time ago, Mr. Harold Cook.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Further recognition of visitors in the Gallery? Last call. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 4-14(6): Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are regarding the federal health care funding and are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, listening to the media reports, something that the federal health Minister Anne McLellan is saying is bothering me somewhat. She has been recorded to say that she will be meeting with the three Premiers to implement the accord. There is no mention of her willingness to consider what's been the demand of the territorial Premiers to revisit the funding formula. So I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, what is his knowledge of what his counterparts are willing to do for the territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for...It was directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The Premier has the option of taking that call. Mr. Premier.

Return To Question 4-14(6): Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I spoke in conference with Premier Okalik and Premier Fentie of the Yukon and we have sent a letter to the Prime Minister indicating our desire to bring resolution to the outstanding issue of funding with regard to health in the three northern territories and moving on to find some way to throw our support behind the accord if it can be brought to some satisfactory resolution. It has been almost a week now since we've indicated our dissatisfaction with the accord and particularly with the funds that were allocated to the territories. Since then, our three northern Members of Parliament and very senior political staff in the Prime Minister's office, including the Clerk of the Privy Council, Alex Himelfarb, have been assigned to try to find some possible remedy in the short term and long term. Minister Anne McLellan has indicated that she is prepared to come north to meet with our Ministers. We have indicated that we welcome her visit and that Ministers will be prepared to meet with her and that first we need to bring this matter between the Prime Minister and ourselves as three Premiers to some acceptable conclusion in the next week or so before such a meeting or visit should happen. We have sent a letter to the Prime Minister restating that we are anxious to resolve this issue; it has been a week. We'd like to have it resolved within a week, and Minister Anne

McLellan's indication that she wants to visit and meet with our health Ministers is welcome, but it should happen after we have resolved this outstanding issue with the Prime Minister. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 4-14(6): Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure whether or not I can put an optimistic or pessimistic interpretation into the need for this letter. Could the Premier advise us more clearly about where we are in terms of why this letter was necessary? I was told we are in the stage of trying to prove to the federal counterparts or the Prime Minister that we need a separate deal. Or is this letter concluding or reaching to the end, having convinced them of that? Are we at the front end of this or at the end?

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

Further Return To Question 4-14(6): Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following the meeting with the Prime Minister and the Premiers, the Prime Minister indicated, in response to a question in House of Commons, that he was aware that per capita funding is simply not acceptable or workable. It does not quite do the job in relation to the three territories. Therefore, we're looking at a different arrangement, in that no meetings would be arranged in the future. We understood that to mean that he's accepted that, per capita, as he proposed in the federal accord, was simply not acceptable and that he was not prepared to come up with a different arrangement. It has been suggested by the Premiers and by the Romanow Commission that the territories need more than per capita, and what we have proposed is a special fund set aside, above and beyond the money that was allocated and to be allocated on a per capita basis; that we would set up, through a special allocation from the federal government, a health fund that would see approximately \$20 million to \$25 million base funding per year on top of the per capita that we would get, which you know is about roughly \$4 million to \$5 million for the Northwest Territories. It is the letter's way to indicate to the Prime Minister, that we are waiting to hear some suggestions on how this issue is going to be resolved and we appreciate his indication that he is prepared to meet with us to resolve it and that it is not a matter that can be delegated to Anne McLellan or the Minister of Finance, John Manley. It is a matter to be dealt with by the Prime Minister and the Premiers of the three northern territories. We want to indicate that we are looking for a resolution to it on a timely basis that can make us all look like we are looking out for one of the most fundamental needs of all Canadians, that is a good health care system. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. I just want to remind members, I suppose, that the Speaker does have a full list of Members seeking to ask questions. If the question is too long, and the answer is too long, it does take time into the question period. So, if we could just limit the length of time of response,

it would be greatly appreciated by other members. Supplementary question, your final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 4-14(6): Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I take your advice. It is still not clear to me. We are aware of the territorial position, we know about what the Prime Minister said, and we know that the meetings have been ongoing. I would like to know, have we passed the stage of convincing them, and are we working out the details of the separate funding or are we not there yet? Could the Premier confirm that? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 4-14(6): Federal Health Care Funding For Northern Territories

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our staff has been sitting in Ottawa all this week, awaiting word from the staff of the Privy Council, Alex Himelfarb, and the staff from the Prime Minister's Office. I believe I have been asked by the Prime Minister to come up with some remedy, some short-term solution and to start work with us on a long-term solution and how to address the difficulty we face when dealing with our formula financing arrangement, in particular the per capita funding with which the federal government disburses most funds that are made available to jurisdictions across this country. We have achieved one thing. That is, the Prime Minister has acknowledged that per capita funding is not acceptable to be applied in the case of the territories. As of last Thursday, there was word from the Member of Parliament, the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew who has been working with the Member of Parliament for Nunavut, and the Member of Parliament from the Yukon, that they would be receiving word perhaps Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. As of today, all we know is that these federal officials are asking for more time, trying to come up with some solutions. In the meantime, we've indicated our willingness to meet with the Prime Minister. We have asked the Minister of Health, Anne McLellan, to come north but to schedule it for a date after the Prime Minister and ourselves, as Premiers of the three territories, have come to a resolution regarding this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your final supplementary, Ms. Lee, I erred in allocating you a short supplementary.

MS. LEE: That's okay, I'll give up.

MR. SPEAKER: That's okay, you don't have to ask it. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 5-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes. It is in regards to my opening statement. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the system that we have used is based on last year's tax returns and yet, Mr. Speaker, I have asked questions to the Minister. The program we are delivering is for this fiscal year. Yet, Mr. Speaker, as we

all know, the cost of maintaining the cost of the home and also the cost of living is high in a lot of our communities. Mr. Speaker, our elders are struggling just to maintain a home this year on a fixed income, such as a pension, but yet, we are still not able to get that program. So, I would like to ask the Minister, exactly what is his department doing to look into the possible changing of this policy, to ensure that we are able to look at doing the calculations for the seniors, to apply the program to the fiscal year that we are in. I asked the Minister that previously, and I would like to ask the Minister if he has had a chance to look at that and has he had a chance to make a decision on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return To Question 5-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we recognise the need to be concerned for our seniors in the territory and we have, over the past three years, addressed a number of issues for the seniors. We met with some of the constituents of Mr. Krutko a couple of weeks ago, and it was a very fruitful meeting. Some issues were brought to the table that are of concern to the seniors. One, of course, has been the assessment based on previous year's taxes. Mr. Speaker, we have our work on that and we are moving forward to changing the system, Mr. Speaker. There were some concerns identified, however I think we can overcome those concerns. So we should be moving forward on that particular aspect of the program fairly soon, Mr. Speaker. The concern, of course, was perhaps the previous year income was lower than its current year. So there would be one or two individuals involved and that is the hurdle that we are trying to ensure that we can address to the benefit of all seniors, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 5-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a senior, you get one year older and you are assessed for one year previous. We should cherish the time they have with us. So I would like to ask the Minister again, have you looked at the possibility of changing the program to let seniors use this current year's information to do the assessment process?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 5-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I personally don't disagree with the assessment being on the previous month or previous two months. As I mentioned, we are just completing the work on that. We should be in a position to move forward on this before a very short period of time. Once it is, it will be instituted. We wanted to make sure that someone who had a lower income last year wouldn't be penalized if we took the previous months, if that month was high income. So we had to take care of that particular detail, Mr. Speaker. That

is what we were working out right at the moment, so it should work to the benefit of those seniors.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary question, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 5-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a large number of my seniors in my community who maintain their home aren't eligible for this program because the way it was assessed from last year. I would like to ask the Minister will he consider retroactively implementing this program for those seniors who may not have been able to qualify using the last year's income results knowing they may qualify this year? Would you make the program retroactive from September 1, 2002?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 5-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will look at that. It was a question that arose and we don't know the implications of that at this particular time. I don't have that at my fingertips, but we will certainly look at that possibility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 5-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the overall programs this government delivers, especially the seniors' program, it's been there for several years yet we don't see their amounts increase. We see inflation increases, cost of living increases and every time there's a hike in the fuel rate, our power rates go up. Would you consider reassessing this program to look at the amounts that are being used? Are they adequate or inadequate and are they meeting the cost of living in the NWT for today?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 5-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, seniors are of concern to me and we did have a meeting on this and it's a program I have been continually looking at. I have also worked on it for the past two years and made substantial changes, Mr. Speaker, because one of the issues that arose was the minimum amount that a senior would have as income. We raised that from \$35,000 to graduate up to as much as \$50,000 depending on the area they are in. With respect to the cost of fuel, Mr. Speaker, the cost of fuel is not relevant because we supply a certain amount of fuel. In more colder climate areas, we increase the amount of fuel as well that seniors can receive. So, Mr. Speaker, we have addressed

a number of areas already. Naturally, we are always concerned about the issues for our seniors. Thank you.

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

Question 6-14(6): Progress On The Recruitment And Retention Of Health Care Professionals

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger. They centre in the area of recruiting health care professionals in the Northwest Territories. In the last fall session, I believe we injected some \$400,000 into this area and just before Christmas, I believe over \$8 million was dedicated to recruiting and hiring professionals. I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, what progress has been made in that time in hiring new health care professionals for the NWT?

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

Return To Question 6-14(6): Progress On The Recruitment And Retention Of Health Care Professionals

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've been attempting to put the funds to good use. We've made arrangements to make job offers to all the graduates of the nursing program coming out of Aurora College. We are taking steps to try to find people to fill positions, doctors specifically, that funding has been identified for. We are still struggling in a lot of the key areas of allied health professionals because there is a national shortage of physiotherapists, x-ray technicians, lab technicians and these other kind of specialized areas. We are going to be working with all the employees to take advantage of the training that's there because we want to focus not only on recruitment but retention as a key issue. So the staff and all the authorities in the department have been working very aggressively to put into place all the funds and resources we have been allocated. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 6-14(6): Progress On The Recruitment And Retention Of Health Care Professionals

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today's job board, the internal GNWT job board that comes up on the Internet, listed some 17 positions still vacant or being sought at Stanton territorial health authority, and ten being recruited in Inuvik region. Mr. Speaker, I was wondering, outside of this Internet job board what other recruiting initiatives or venues are we looking at? For instance, are we going overseas to see if immigration could help us with this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 6-14(6): Progress On The Recruitment And Retention Of Health Care Professionals

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a whole page of initiatives that I would be happy to share with the Member, but overseas recruitment is

one area we have made some investment into. Last year, we went to the Philippines. We've also had some strong indication that there may be potential in places like New Zealand. So we are looking at all options in terms of trying to fill these positions in the North. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 6-14(6): Progress On The Recruitment And Retention Of Health Care Professionals

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In discussion with a number of authorities and managers across the NWT, the issue of housing for health care professionals has been listed as a specific barrier to our ability to attract and recruit people. Is the Department of Health and Social Services looking specifically at housing as something that we should be addressing to help improve this?

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

Further Return To Question 6-14(6): Progress On The Recruitment And Retention Of Health Care Professionals

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are two focuses to that question. In the smaller communities that don't have market economies and market housing, we tend to have housing attached to the nursing station or part of the nursing station. We are striving to make sure that the rents are competitive as well as the buildings and housing is in good repair. In the market communities, specifically Inuvik and Yellowknife where the cost of rent and accommodation is extremely high, we have been talking with housing and looking at ways that will allow us to work with the communities to build housing. There is some housing available right now. For example, working with the foundation that is arm's length from the government that would allow us to work and develop housing because we know there is money available in the budget through the salaries to pay rents, to offer rental accommodations at an affordable rate. So we are looking at doing that. We recognize as well that there are implications beyond health, that in some cases, education suffers from the same kind of problem. So we want to work with education as well to come up with a broad government response. Thank you.

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

Question 7-14(6): Waste Reduction And Recovery Legislation

MR. ROLAND: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question follows on my Member's statement earlier, regarding the Waste Recovery Reduction Act. Unfortunately, it seems that we have come to a certain point within this work that it seems to have come to a halt. There has been some work being done, from my understanding, which is a bit disappointing because a couple of weeks ago, we reviewed some information from the department and corresponded back with them to say that this could be dealt with during this sitting. In fact, in correspondence from the Inuvik Recycling Society, they've informed me that they had made comments on the

Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development's discussion paper of May 2001. So this has been an ongoing matter for quite some time. So I would like to know from the Minister if he is still prepared to bring forward legislation during this sitting, so that we can hopefully have it done within the life of our government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 7-14(6): Waste Reduction And Recovery Legislation

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my intention in this regard to the waste recovery and reduction legislation is I intend to try to move as quickly as I can a paper to Cabinet for their approval very shortly. This is a part of our process to try to get things rolling, so that we can have perhaps legislation in the life of this government.

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

Supplementary To Question 7-14(6): Waste Reduction And Recovery Legislation

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Knowing that we have four to five weeks of session scheduled, does the Minister think that it's possible to have it introduced during this sitting?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 7-14(6): Waste Reduction And Recovery Legislation

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's not doable. We are working with the Department of Justice, their drafters and so forth. I don't think it's possible to have anything for this sitting. However, we are aiming for legislation for the June session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary to question, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary To Question 7-14(6): Waste Reduction And Recovery Legislation

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would he be able to inform Members of this House as it's prepared to be brought forward so we will be able to address it as committees to make sure that we have a public consultation on this process? We know there has been previous consultations, so will he be able to inform us as to when he will be able to come forward closer to that date? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 7-14(6): Waste Reduction And Recovery Legislation

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will keep the Members informed. Thank you.

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

Question 8-14(6): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the formula finance agreement is up for renewal in a year. Can the Minister advise the House whether or not negotiations for a new formula financing deal have yet commenced?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 8-14(6): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes. Discussions with regard to the new financing formula we are hoping to negotiate have begun at the officials' level and I have had some discussions with the finance Minister as well.

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

Supplementary To Question 8-14(6): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in line with the questioning and the theme of the day about per capita transfers, has the Minister reminded the federal Minister of Finance that the federal government unilaterally cut our funding in 1996-97 and for subsequent years. Has he demanded that that funding be reinstated outside of the formula financing deal?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 8-14(6): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have raised that issue on a number of occasions with the Minister of Finance and his officials. We are concerned that that five percent cut was made to our base. It is certainly one of the items on the agenda as we proceed with our discussions on the new formula.

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

Supplementary To Question 8-14(6): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it may be early days in the negotiations, but since the Minister has raised the issue with the federal Minister of Finance, can he advise the House what sort of reception he got on that topic?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 8-14(6): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we certainly haven't gotten anything conclusive from the finance Minister or from his officials on the five percent. That is one item. We are also looking at other items that all inter-relate and will be part of the formula that achieves a balance for us. Those other ones are

per capita and the provincial local expenditure ratio between us and the other provinces and the other one is tax effort adjustment. So as we look at the five percent, all those factors we look at as a package to see what mix would give us the best rate of return on the investments in the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 8-14(6): Formula Financing Negotiations

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we haven't seemed to be very successful getting the federal government's ear in the recent past when we are talking about infrastructure funding or health funding. What approach is the Minister planning to ensure that the message about the per capita basis of funding not being acceptable gets across through these negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 8-14(6): Formula Financing Negotiations

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have made a lot of progress in the last year as a government and getting the federal government to understand the opportunities that exist in the North and the need for us to have some investment money. So with the work that the first Ministers, Premiers, were doing last week, I think that has helped a lot. We have continued to work with the federal government on those formula items I have referred to already. As well, we have been looking at the infrastructure money and how that might best be built into the formula. So, Mr. Speaker, it's a very complicated process. We intend to complete negotiations hopefully by the end of this calendar year or early into the following one, but we need to continue to work together to get the best deal possible. Thank you.

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

Question 9-14(6): Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracting

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I made it a practice since being elected to this House to have a constituency meeting before session to hear the views and concerns of the residents that I represent. In keeping with that practice, I had a constituency meeting last week. I want to ask a question to the Premier. Most of my meeting was taken up on an issue that came to light and that was the memorandum of understanding that was signed with the Gwich'in. Members at my meeting were very concerned what this MOU means and businesses that have been established for a long time feel they may be losing out on opportunities as we go along. I would like to ask the Minister who is involved in drafting of this MOU and how many Members of this government were consulted and agreed on this MOU before it was signed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Premier, two questions there.

Return To Question 9-14(6): Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracting

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the work and the lead on the completion of this particular piece of work was the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, so the details are to be provided by the Minister. Thank you.

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

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I got an answer to that question of who was consulted and who was involved.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Premier has referred the question to the Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 9-14(6): Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracting

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has been in discussions with the Gwich'in Tribal Council for a number of months now and we've been into discussion of looking at some sort of an agreement that turned out to be a memorandum of understanding. We started the discussion in August 2002 and we view it as a government-to-government type of arrangement with the Gwich'in Tribal Council and GNWT. As you know, there are provisions within the land claims agreement that alludes to some sort of an arrangement between our government and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. As a result of negotiations, we are able to come up with this arrangement. So it's actually between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories through RWED that the actual negotiations have been going on. These are the two parties that were involved in the negotiations. However, the contents of the MOU has been shared with other deputies in the government to see how we can comply to make sure that it's acceptable to all the different parties within our government. So actually RWED took the lead, however members of the other different departments were also involved in approving it and vetting it and analyzing it. So it's a coordinated effort. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 9-14(6): Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracting

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have to take it that from all the Members in this House, there was only the Minister of RWED that was involved in these negotiations then. Mr. Speaker, it's a very uncomfortable situation in a constituency meeting when you are asked questions and you know nothing about it and it's a policy and agreement that has been signed on behalf of this government. I was also very interested in a letter that came back to all Members with regard to this issue and it states in that letter that an MOU is not binding on this government or the Gwich'in Tribal Council. If it's not binding on any party, I would question

why was there a need to sign this memorandum of understanding.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 9-14(6): Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracting

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Gwich'in Tribal Council has been raising the issue for a number of years since their claims have been signed saying that as this government, we are not complying with conditions in their claims. In an attempt by this government to try to accommodate this issue, we entertained the whole area of negotiating with them. Yes, it is a government-to-government initiative. We didn't know if the parties were going to accept this arrangement until the MOU was signed. Therefore, there was some confidentiality involved. There are provisions in there if you look at the agreement that stipulates there is an arrangement on how we, as a government, would work with the Gwich'in Tribal Council and looking at the different contracts that come out in the Gwich'in area. I just confirmed with the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council over the last couple of days that they accept this type of MOU, that they will work with our government to see how they can get involved more into contracting in the Gwich'in Tribal Council area. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 9-14(6): Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracting

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the same letter, it refers to this agreement as being a model with similar arrangements from other regions. I am wondering how many more of these agreements is the Minister planning, preparing or prepared to sign and in what areas of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 9-14(6): Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracting

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are no other negotiations with any other groups going on at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary To Question 9-14(6): Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracting

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask then if they have agreed to sign 50 percent of the contracts over, how will the other 50 percent of the government contracts be handled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 9-14(6): Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracting

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the other 50 percent will be through a public tendering process. Thank you.

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

Question 10-14(6): Inequities In Per Capita Funding To Communities

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Premier on formula financing. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement, the Premier, along with his colleagues in Nunavut and the Yukon, did an admirable job in explaining the inequities of formula financing based on per capita. We face the same thing here in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. When a small community is financed per capita, their funding just doesn't meet their needs. Is the Premier willing to do something to adjust the formula financing and the relationship between communities and the Government of the Northwest Territories to recognize that inequity? Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The Honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 10-14(6): Inequities In Per Capita Funding To Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, because so many of our communities are small, remote, predominantly Aboriginal, it is important for us to recognize that resources and programs be designed in such a way as to make sure they are treated just as well as the larger centres. Through all the years I have been a Member of this Legislature, it has been the challenge put to every Cabinet that I have been a part of. This government is no different. We believe that we need to be vigilant all the time to make sure that the small, remote isolated communities are respected and supported as much as possible by this government without unduly creating hardships on other communities as well. This has been our view and I think we are accountable to this House for the way in which we design our programs, our policies and allocate our resources. We are prepared to answer questions and be accountable for that. I believe if there are adjustments that need to be made, we are open to suggestions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary To Question 10-14(6): Inequities In Per Capita Funding To Communities

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the response from the Premier and the way he worded that response. Mr. Speaker, if we had to recognize this inequity government years and years ago, maybe we should have addressed that issue back then. We would have had a formula that was made in the Northwest Territories that we could have taken to Ottawa, so that they could recognize the inequities of

their financial relationship with us. Mr. Speaker, through the Non-Tax-Based Joint Committee, there were a number of recommendations made through a progress report in the last session. The committee is still waiting for that progress report and a lot of recommendations in that progress report address formula financing. When can the committee expect to see that response from the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The Honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 10-14(6): Inequities In Per Capita Funding To Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a little unusual for us to be responding to a committee report that was given to us on an interim basis, but we are prepared to consider it. We are having a discussion about the matter in which we could do that. We are probably better off to wait until we get the final report, so we can give it the response that it deserves. Having said that, the committee is expecting an interim response. We are discussing right now the manner and nature in which we can do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary To Question 10-14(6): Inequities In Per Capita Funding To Communities

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, people that participated in our workshops and put a lot of hard work into the recommendations that were represented in the progress report and will be put in the final report are anxious for a final report. Our committee's work cannot be completed until the government responds to our progress report, as in the terms of reference, Mr. Speaker. However, Mr. Speaker, when can we see some kind of action that will see adequate funding for the smaller communities? As I stated in my Member's statement, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter what size the community, it's the basic costs that have to be done. A lot of times though our formula financing based on per capita doesn't recognize that basic cost and the communities don't have a tax base. So when can we see a financing arrangement that's going to be equitable for the small communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The Honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 10-14(6): Inequities In Per Capita Funding To Communities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are different ways in which we provide support to communities and ways in which we try to meet the needs of communities and be able to provide funds. We provide funds through Municipal and Community Affairs; Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development; the Department of Justice; and, Health and Social Services. As well, there are always some programs from the federal government that are provided to different communities as well. It would be interesting to see what suggestions are made by this committee as to how we could improve allocation support to the small, non-tax-based communities that would be different from the manner in which we provide support now. So we will probably wait for the final report of the committee to address such an overwhelming question at this time. Thank you.

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

Question 11-14(6): Achieving Results Within Spending Targets

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Finance. I know that in the past three budgets and a lot of discussion we've had in the House, we've tended to focus a lot on revenue and, in fact, the deal we are not getting from the federal government and not so much maybe on the expenditure of programs and services that we are already providing and maybe not to the degree that we should be questioning whether or not we are getting value for money and whether or not these programs are effectively meeting their stated objectives. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if, in fact, he's given direction to the departments that they should be doing that before we start talking about layering more money on top of the programs and services we are already delivering.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 11-14(6): Achieving Results Within Spending Targets

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, yes. Every department is expected to set goals as part of their business plan. They have indicators, they have targets they have to achieve and they are to report back on their results before we begin the process of reviewing business plans for the next fiscal year. Very clearly, every department is expected to show us what results they are achieving with the money that we provide and vote in this House. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 11-14(6): Achieving Results Within Spending Targets

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if we apply the same standard to the strategic investment that we've been making and this is something we've been trying to sell to the federal government. We've suggested that a dollar spent in the Northwest Territories does not mean a dollar less for the rest of the country. It's not a fixed sum game, but they would have to take it on blind faith, the federal government, if we are not monitoring and evaluating the strategic investments we have made thus far. Are we doing so? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 11-14(6): Achieving Results Within Spending Targets

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, as much as we can we are monitoring all of the strategic investments we make. We are also looking very carefully at the cost to our government of non-renewable resource development to see whether or not the money, first of all, that we are spending is necessary in response to non-renewable resource development or in response to some other need and, second, whether or not this

is actually making a difference. It's certainly a consideration we have each year as we begin to review business plans.

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

Supplementary To Question 11-14(6): Achieving Results Within Spending Targets

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Minister has acknowledged that spending money is not enough and that we need to document results. Would the Minister suggest then that we be able to ask various Ministers of all the departments that have been making strategic investments to document the results of these programs and they would have that information for us? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 11-14(6): Achieving Results Within Spending Targets

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think every Minister is well prepared to respond to that kind of question and show what the results have been of the money we've spent, whether it's on infrastructure, transportation, employment development or whatever it may be. I expect that will happen as part of the review of the main estimates. Thank you.

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

Question 12-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes, to follow up on the senior home subsidy program. I wasn't too clear with regard to his answer. How soon can the Minister come back with the changes to the program so that we can implement these changes as soon as possible? Does he have any idea on time frame? How long are we looking at for this change? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return To Question 12-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We should be ready to deal with this issue and get a definitive answer on this within three or four weeks, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 12-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am glad he can get back to us, but there are a lot of seniors in our communities who have either given up on this program because they have been using the old information. I would like to ask the Minister, will he make a public statement on this change so that the seniors are aware of it and if it's going to be

retroactive to September of last year and that notice can go out as soon as possible, so they can be made aware of this change?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 12-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate time we will certainly make a statement on this and advise through a public announcement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 12-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the overall people I have mentioned, does the Minister have any idea how many people, who were on the original subsidy program and who may have been disqualified are not on there? Do you have any numbers to justify how much the intake is, how many people are actually on the program versus how many people may have been dropped off?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 12-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Naturally, we would have the people who would be on the system, Mr. Speaker, but I am not sure what kind of records are there and how far back we can go in terms of those who didn't qualify. I am not sure what kind of records are kept on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 12-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if it's possible, could the Minister get me a list of those people who may have been on the program previously and who may not be on the program, so that I can get an idea of how many people have qualified in the past who may not qualify today in my riding?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 12-14(6): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of our programs are protected by privacy and, therefore, we can't release names of individuals who are on the program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**Written Question 1-14(6): GNWT Policy On Employee E-mail And Internet Usage**

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is for the Minister responsible for the public service.

1. What is the official policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories regarding personal use of the e-mail system and Internet access?
2. How is this policy publicized to employees?
3. How is the policy policed?
4. Have there been any instances of discipline for improper use of computers, specifically for personal use of the e-mail system or Internet access? If so, how many in the last year? Again, if so, were there any disciplinary actions? Were these disciplinary actions appealed? If so, were the appeals successful? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS****Bill 1: Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act**

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 1, Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act, and wishes to report that Bill 1 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole, as amended and reprinted, and, Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and have Bill 1 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and have Bill 1 moved into Committee of the Whole today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. The request is granted. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**Tabled Document 4-14(6): Election Year Guidelines For Members Of The 14th Legislative Assembly**

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to table the Election Year Guidelines for Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

Tabled Document 5-14(6): Pension Administration Report To March 31, 2002

I also wish to table at this time, in accordance with section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and section 11.1 of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, No.1, I wish to table the Pension Administration Report to March 31, 2002. Sorry about that.

Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

Tabled Document 6-14(6): Letter And Attachments From The Inuvik Recycling Society

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter and attachments addressed to me from the Inuvik Recycling Society dated November 29, 2002. Mr. Speaker, the recycling society is seeking support for the implementation of legislation and a program for a territory-wide beverage container recovery program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. The Honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Tabled Document 7-14(6): First Ministers' Accord On Sustaining And Renewing Health Care For Canadians

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table two documents. The first is a document agreed to by the Premiers at their meeting in Toronto earlier this month. That is called the First Ministers' Accord on Sustaining and Renewing Health Care for Canadians.

Tabled Document 8-14(6): 2003 First Ministers' Accord On Health Care Renewal, February 5, 2003

Secondly, I wish to table the following document, entitled The 2003 First Ministers' Accord on Health Care Renewal, February 5th, which was attended by the Prime Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 10, petitions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 10, petitions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

REVERT TO ITEM 10: PETITIONS**Petition 1-14(6): Beverage Container Recovery Program**

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the Northwest Territories Beverage Container Recovery Program. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 364 signatures of Northwest Territories residents and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request the timely implementation of a territorial-wide beverage container recovery program including the legislation necessary to enable such a program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 10, petitions. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR
FIRST READING OF BILLS**

Bill 3: Appropriation Act, 2003-2004

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 14, 2003, I will move that Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-2004, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, with Mr. Delorey in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call Committee of the Whole to order. We have one item on the agenda, Bill 1. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we consider Bill 1.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Chair calls for a break and we will come back to consider Bill 1.

---Short Recess

Bill 1: Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call the Committee of the Whole to order. We are dealing with Bill 1. Does the Minister have any opening comments? Mr. Allen.

Minister's Opening Comments

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this bill is to make a series of technical amendments to nine acts administered by the legal registries division of the Department of Justice. Amendments to four of these acts will enhance program delivery by providing the public with additional choices, streamlining certain procedures and adopting standards consistent with other jurisdictions.

Amendments to the Condominium Act will streamline procedures for the registration of a condominium and add termination provisions specific to leasehold condominiums.

Substantive amendments to the Land Titles Act will:

- eliminate the duplicate certificate of title unless the owner requests one;
- allow the registrar to prepare plans to replace inadequate property descriptions rather than requiring the owner to do so in all cases;
- establish a procedure for recognizing changes in natural boundaries on the consent of the affected owners without the need to go through the courts;

- allow banks and other lenders to file the standard terms of a mortgage once rather than with each individual mortgage that is registered in land titles; and,

- extend the period of time that a writ of executive will be effective in land titles without a renewal from two years to five years.

The most significant amendments to the Securities Act are necessary to enable the Northwest Territories to implement the permanent, electronic national registration database for securities dealers and advisors now being developed specifically.

- the adoption of terminology and definitions for securities dealers and advisors consistent with other jurisdictions;
- amend procedures for the registration of dealers and advisors; and,
- provisions allowing for electronic filing and sharing of registration information among the jurisdictions.

Amendments to the Societies Act will revise the dissolution and liquidation provisions to bring them into line with more modern corporate law statutes such as the Business Corporations Act. Other amendments would provide societies with several options that they do not currently have, for example, permitting a society to choose whether or not they require a corporate seal and allowing for the amalgamation of two or more societies.

At the same time, this bill would make a variety of minor, mainly housekeeping amendments to these acts and to the Business Corporations Act, Devolution of Real Property Act, Factors Act, Garage Keepers Lien Act and Personal Property Security Act. These minor changes were either identified during the work being done to revise the statutes of the Northwest Territories or by registries staff or lawyers in recent years. In a number of instances, no changes would be made to the law but amendments are proposed to clarify or modernize unclear or outdated language.

The repeal of the Firearms Control Agreements Act is proposed as a housekeeping matter. There is no agreement in place to operate this program and the only section in this act refers to repealed provisions of the Criminal Code. The act therefore has no application.

A consultation draft of the proposed amendments was released to the Northwest Territories Bar and those specifically affected by the particular amendments, for example, surveyors and federal government officials in respect of some of the Land Titles Act amendments.

Comments in respect of the Land Titles Act amendments were received from the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors and from the Surveyor General's office have been positive. Several changes were made in response to their constructive comments. No comments were received with respect to the other acts to be amended.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review and support for this bill and would be pleased to respond to any questions or comments that the Members may have. I am also grateful to the standing

committee for advancing several motions with which the government agrees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Allen. Does the chairman of the standing committee reviewing this bill have any comments? Mr. Bell.

Standing Committee On Social Programs Comments

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted a public review of Bill 1, Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act on January 22, 2003. The committee would like to thank the Minister of Justice and his officials for presenting the bill. The bill will make several substantive amendments to the Condominiums Act, Land Titles Act, Securities Act and Societies Act, which will increase efficiencies in a number of processes and clarify some areas of uncertainty in the law. The committee applauds the Minister's efforts to make these changes which will help to save time, money and possibly avert the need for litigation on issues where the law is at present unclear. Bill 1 will also make technical amendments to these acts, as well as the Business Corporations Act, Devolution of Real Property Act, Factors Act, Garage Keepers Lien Act, Personal Property Security Act. Finally, the bill would repeal the Firearms Control Agreements Act which no longer has any effect.

During a public review, the committee and the Minister agreed to three minor amendments of a technical nature. Mr. Chairman, following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 1, Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Would the Minister like to bring in any witnesses?

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses in, please?

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

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate right is Mr. Mark Aitken, director of legislation; and also, Mr. Gary MacDougall, director of legal registries.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any general comments? Clause by clause? Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Okay. Bill 1, schedules on page 3. Schedule A, page 3, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Go to page 5, Schedule B, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 6, clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 8, clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Go to page 9, clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): We will go to page 11, clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Go to page 12, Schedule C, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 13, Schedule D, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 14, clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 16, Schedule E, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 17, Schedule F, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 18, clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 19, clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 20, clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 21.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 23.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 24.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 21, clause 25.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 26.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 27.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 22, clause 28.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 29.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 30.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 31.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 32.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 23, clause 33.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 34.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 35.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 36.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 37.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 38.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 39.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 24, clause 40.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 41.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 42.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 25, clause 43.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 44.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 45.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 46.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 47.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

-Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 26, clause 48.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 49.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 50.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 51.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 27, clause 52.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 53.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 54.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 28, clause 55.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 56.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 57.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 58.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 59.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 29, clause 60.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 61.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 62.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 63.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 64.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 65.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 66.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 30, Schedule G, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 32, Schedule H, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 33, clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 34, clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 35, clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 36, clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 37, Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 21.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 38, clause 23.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 24.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 25.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 26.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 40, clause 27.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 28.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 42, Schedule I, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 43, clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Page 50, clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): We will go back to page 1. Bill 1, Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions for clarification under amendments to the Land Titles Act, specifically bullet number three on page 2. It reads "current plans to deal more effectively with changes to the natural boundaries." What do you mean by natural boundaries, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Mr. Nitah, could you say where you are asking this question from? We are on clause 2, Condominium Act. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Mr. Chairman, I got caught up on page 2 before we started reading the clauses under Schedule F.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Mr. Nitah, we've already dealt with that. That's in Schedule F and we've already gone through Schedule F. Is it your wish to seek unanimous consent to go back to Schedule F?

MR. NITAH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to seek unanimous consent to go back to Schedule F.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Okay. Mr. Nitah, could you identify what paragraph you are asking a question under?

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is under Schedule F, amendments to the Land Titles Act. I don't have a clear understanding of this amendment. I have a number of issues dealing with land ownership, taxation to land ownership, et cetera, that my constituents have. I would just like to get a clarification from the clerk on the meaning of this amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Mr. Nitah, is it clause 27 that you are referring to? Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: I am not sure, Mr. Chairman. I haven't gone that far ahead. I don't think it's clause 27, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Mr. Nitah, maybe you can ask your question and maybe the Minister will be prepared to answer it, seeing as we have already dealt with Schedule F. So if you want to state your question, Mr. Nitah, probably the Minister can identify it. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to explain to me what these amendments mean to communities that have not settled land claims, that have issues with property taxes with this government, ownership issues of land with this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Minister, you are referring the question to Mr. MacDougall.

MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendments relating to plans filed to better define natural boundaries doesn't have any impact on unsettled claims. Natural boundaries are essentially boundaries that aren't fully surveyed. Typically those are water boundaries, any lot that abutted onto the Mackenzie River, for example, or any body of water. The boundary that is defined by the ordinary high water mark would be the best example of a natural boundary. The amendments simply allow plans to be filed in land titles and be recognized that the boundary moves and changes when the natural boundaries change, which they do over extended periods of time, in the case of water boundaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. MacDougall. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see this amendment also permits the registrar to produce a descriptive plan in cancelling or replacing existing certificates of title or in reference to a new plan. How would that be done for the people who have ownership of property that may not be recognized by this government be included in this act or those that are disputing the government's position on property lines and the certification of ownership of those properties? Would they be affected by this act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. MacDougall.

MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This act applies only to land that's already within the land title system, land that is privately owned where there aren't boundary issues to begin with. The amendments that provide that the registrar may produce a plan to replace an existing legal description is intended to deal with those situations where the description on an existing title is described in words, often referred to as meets and bounds descriptions. The plan that would be produced isn't intended, in any way, to amend the boundary. It's simply to produce a pictorial representation of the words that currently describe the boundary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (MR. DELOREY): Thank you, Mr. MacDougall. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, how does this address the concerns and issues that individuals have when they have a dispute on who holds what land? For example, a constituent wants to claim ownership to a property where public roads have been built on without the permission of the property owner. What I am afraid of is the amendment to this act might just take away his rights to deal effectively to force a resolution of this understanding between the government and the constituent. Other people in the Northwest Territories may have a similar problem. I'm not sure how this amendment to this act would affect a person who is in that position. That you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. MacDougall.

MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These amendments have no effect on instances where ownership is in dispute in any way. The plans filed relating to natural boundaries are only filed on the consent of all of the parties involved, including anybody with any adjacent interest, and the plans that are replaced meet balanced descriptions that are prepared by the registrar, describe only and may only describe the boundaries that actually exist at the present time. So there are no amendments relating to issues that may be in dispute between parties.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. MacDougall. Are we agreed we're concluded with discussion of Schedule F?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We'll go back to page 1 of Bill 1, Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Page 2, clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree that Bill 1 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 1 is now ready for third reading. I'd like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing. As there is no further business before the committee, I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now come back to order. May I have the report of Committee of the Whole? Honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1, Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act, and would like to report that Bill 1 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. May I have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland, seconds it. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, of Cabinet House Strategy, and also at 12:00 noon of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act.

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 13, 2003:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
6. Returns to Oral Questions
7. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Replies to Budget Address
13. Petitions
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
22. Report of Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1, Legal Registries Statutes Amendment Act
24. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly this House stands adjourned until February 13, 2003, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

