



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3rd Session

Day 29

16th Assembly

HANSARD

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Pages 3035 - 3072

The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker
Hon. Paul Delorey
(Hay River North)

Mr. Glen Abernethy
(Great Slave)

Mr. Tom Beaulieu
(Tu Nedhe)

Ms. Wendy Bisaro
(Frame Lake)

Mr. Bob Bromley
(Weledeh)

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
(Hay River South)

Mr. Robert Hawkins
(Yellowknife Centre)

Mr. Jackie Jacobson
(Nunakput)

Mr. David Krutko
(Mackenzie Delta)

Hon. Jackson Lafferty
(Monfwi)
Minister of Justice
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

Hon. Sandy Lee
(Range Lake)
Minister of Health and Social Services
Minister responsible for the Status of Women
Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities
Minister responsible for Seniors

Hon. Bob McLeod
(Yellowknife South)
Minister of Human Resources
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board
Minister responsible for Energy Initiatives

Hon. Michael McLeod
(Deh Cho)
Minister of Transportation
Minister of Public Works and Services
Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation

Hon. Robert C. McLeod
(Inuvik Twin Lakes)
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs
Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission
Minister responsible for Youth

Mr. Kevin Menicoche
(Nahendeh)

Hon. Michael Miltenberger
(Thebacha)
Deputy Premier
Government House Leader
Minister of Finance
Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Dave Ramsay
(Kam Lake)

Hon. Floyd Roland
(Inuvik Boot Lake)
Premier
Minister of Executive
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations
Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation

Mr. Norman Yakeleya
(Sahtu)

Officers

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Mr. Tim Mercer

Deputy Clerk

Mr. Doug Schauerte

Acting Principal Clerk of Committees

Ms. Jennifer Knowlan

Principal Clerk, Operations

Ms. Gail Bennett

Law Clerks

Ms. Sheila MacPherson
Ms. Sarah Kay

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>

Published under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	3035
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	3035
68-16(3) - Sessional Statement (Roland).....	3035
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	3036
Transfer of Government-Owned Assets to Communities (Beaulieu)	3036
Media Coverage of Governor General's Visit to Rankin Inlet (Groenewegen)	3037
Fact Finding Mission to Scandinavia to Examine Climate Change Technologies (Krutko)	3037
National Day of Healing and Reconciliation of Residential School Survivors (Yakeleya)	3038
Fact Finding Mission to Scandinavia to Examine Climate Change Technologies (Bromley)	3039
Proposed Northern Development Agency (Ramsay)	3039
GNWT Response to Supplementary Health Benefits Motion (Abernethy)	3040
Implementation of 911 Telephone Service (Bisaro)	3041
Closure of John Tsetso Memorial Public Library (Menicoche)	3041
Condolences to Constituents' Families that have Suffered the Loss of Loved Ones (Jacobson)	3042
On-Line Petitions (Hawkins)	3042
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	3043
ORAL QUESTIONS	3043
RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS	3054
PETITIONS	3057
REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	3057
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS	3059
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	3059
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	3060
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	3071
ORDERS OF THE DAY	3071

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, May 27, 2009****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya and priorities that we set for ourselves almost two years ago.

The House met at 1:36 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. I would like to welcome you back to the Chamber today as we resume the Third Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

This is a relatively short sitting of the House, but I understand there is a great deal of very important work to be done in the seven days allotted. I know, colleagues, that you are eager to begin and focus on the work at hand, giving it your usual thoughtful consideration. I ask that as you do that work, that you recall your renewed commitment to consensus government and to the people of the Northwest Territories who we all serve. I expect that Members will treat each other and this institution with the dignity and respect each deserves.

It is now my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and it reads:

"Dear Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, the passage of Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2009-2010, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2009-2010 and Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2008-2009 during the Third Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly. Yours truly, Anthony W. J. Whitford, Commissioner."

Thank you, colleagues. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 68-16(3):
SESSIONAL STATEMENT

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome Ministers and Members back to this Assembly.

Much like the spring that has taken over our North, I sense a new energy, a feeling of rejuvenation and a renewed spirit of commitment to the vision, goals

At that time, Mr. Speaker, we spoke with confidence of realizing a Territory filled with strong individuals, families and communities each sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous economy.

We envisioned a future empowered by the potential that exists in our people, our businesses and our communities.

However, we also recognized that our government was living beyond its means. We knew that if we didn't make changes, the good work we had planned would soon be overtaken by serious fiscal challenges.

It was apparent that, to realize our vision, we as the 16th Assembly would need to correct our financial course and make some courageous and aggressive decisions.

Many of the measures we have taken or suggested have been controversial, but they have produced the desired result and as recession has taken hold, our region is in better shape than many in Canada to weather the economic downturn.

Meanwhile, as a government, we are moving forward with a plan, five strategic pillars that are focusing and organizing our work and initiatives to meet the goals that we share as an Assembly.

Our plan is built around the 16th Assembly's vision: Northerners Working Together. It is responsive to the priorities that we have identified. Most importantly, it is focussed firmly on achieving the potential of our future.

In March -- and in the face of rising economic uncertainty in Canada, and around the world -- we took a bold and uncompromising approach to investing in this future. Our government introduced and passed, with overwhelming support, a \$1.2 billion budget focused exclusively on investment in our people, our economy and our environment.

There will be a cost to our approach that will require us to carry some debt. Significant fiscal discipline will still be needed. But we will manage our debt in order to provide the support and stimulus that NWT residents need to receive from their government to get through these times.

I would like to commend Members of this Assembly for their guidance, words, and commitment in making the tough decisions that we have made today. Today, as we return to this Assembly, I do so with a strong sense of confidence that we are on the right track with the growing reassurance that our plan is the right plan for the times. Much of what we have done to date has been ground work setting the stage for the second half of our term as an Assembly. Improved processes and investments that I believe have and will, and are already, paying dividends. We have increased our investment in capital spending. We have also made a fundamental change in our budget process to get projects underway faster, encouraging more bids, increasingly competitive quotes, and providing cost savings and efficiency for our budgets.

Our new approach to flow capital infrastructure funding directly to community governments is allowing them to make decisions that reflect local priorities and concerns, and has resulted in strengthened economic activity in many of our smaller communities. Meanwhile, our work to lobby and leverage federal economic stimulus programs and initiatives is also netting tangible results. Last week we unveiled a joint funding partnership that will see our two-year, \$50 million investment in housing for the NWT more than doubled with leveraged federal funds over two years. In recent months the Government of Canada has committed to more than \$277 million over two years for infrastructure projects in the NWT under the Building Canada Fund.

These are the times in which our role as government is to provide stability and support for the economy, to act as a counterweight and to provide the economic stimulus needed to maintain employment and sustain economic activity until the private sector can recover.

We will be investing \$246 million in capital spending this year. Our Infrastructure Investment Plan will inject over \$700 million into the NWT economy over the next five years. By providing business opportunities and employment for Northerners this record level of capital investment is serving to counter some of the challenges being faced by reduced activity in our mining and oil and gas sectors.

We know that, in time, the nature and magnitude of our region's natural resources will allow us to rebound from the challenges that now exist. So we are also investing in new initiatives that will help us maximize economic opportunities in our future, promoting the NWT as a place to live and do business, making investments to reduce the cost of living, implementing programs that diversify the economy and encourage our residents to enhance their skills and training.

Particularly when it comes to our northern business community, we are working to protect and sustain the economic capacity that we have built, and to preserve and maintain the potential that exists in our people, our businesses and our communities. Ironically, this time of economic transition has allowed us to cast a spotlight on our Territory as a jurisdiction whose economic potential and success still promises to have direct and significant positive impacts on other provinces and territories in Canada.

With this increased awareness to the North, with the strength of our resource potential, and with the current need for economic stimulus across our nation, I believe that the opportunities that we have long sought as residents of the NWT are as close as they have ever been. But we will need to work together and we will need to have the courage and conviction to see our plan through, to remain focused on the potential that exists for our Territory, and to keep our work firmly focused on the vision and goals that we have set out.

Mr. Speaker I look forward to sitting down with Members in that spirit of consensus that we have all recently endorsed and defined. A strong and independent North is going to have to be built on partnerships. As Members of the 16th Assembly we are, first and foremost, Northerners Working Together. And this is the greatest and most important source from which I am drawing my confidence for our future. I know that our spirit as Northerners is strong and vibrant. We have a vision. We have a plan. It is based firmly on the enormous potential that our Territory holds in its resources, its people, and its spirit. Quyanainni, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED ASSETS TO COMMUNITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Today I would like to speak about the transfer of government assets to communities. More specifically, the transfer of government-owned buildings and government-owned mobile equipment, and the transfer of resources that supports the operation and maintenance of these assets under the New Deal with the Department of MACA.

With respect to government-owned buildings, I am talking about an evaluation of the deferred maintenance and the development of a schedule

for preventive maintenance program, mid-life retrofits, and the realistic replacement costs for all assets, including mobile equipment and buildings. In addition, there will be a need for preventive maintenance programs and, again, replacement budget costs for assets. Special equipment that will be needed, like equipment to maintain chipseal and other dust suppressants, must also be budgeted for future years.

Often in these transfers the related O and M component of the asset is not included or duly considered. Communities must be given a fair opportunity to receive these assets and have the required capacity to operate and maintain these assets without adversely impacting on the current or planned program services.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to transferring assets to smaller isolated communities, such as Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution, this government needs to look at these transfers on a case-by-case basis to properly evaluate the merits of the transfer and allow the communities every opportunity to succeed. Mr. Speaker, of course, this approach must be used for transferring government-owned mobile equipment to the communities also.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the O and M component, this government must be flexible and work with the communities to ensure that all elements with a capacity have been identified and addressed. Mr. Speaker, this approach will help both the government and the communities, and the communities will not be in the position where the costs are greater than what they received from the GNWT. Also, Mr. Speaker, this will ensure there are no costly breakdowns and/or interrupted services to our constituents.

Later on, I will have questions for the Minister of MACA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MEDIA COVERAGE OF GOVERNOR
GENERAL'S VISIT TO RANKIN INLET**

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I could hardly believe my ears last night as I listened to interviews in the national media chastising our Governor General as she visited the community of Rankin Inlet on her Arctic tour.

Governor General Michaele Jean showed respect to her host by participating and partaking with them in an age honoured tradition of sharing the rewards of the hunt and of the harvest, in this case the consumption of seal meat. I doubt if those being interviewed representing the views of lobby, special interest organizations, who protest the harvesting of

animals for human sustenance and financial support, have any idea of what life is really like in the North.

---Applause

I doubt if they understand the cost of living, the cost of food, the cost of maintaining a family in an Arctic community, as they observe from the comfort of their homes in southern Canada. There is nothing disrespectful about using the bounty and riches of the land to clothe and feed ourselves as Northerners when it is done in keeping with the acknowledgement and practice of sustainability and stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, our statistics would indicate that many, many people in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories derive income and support and supplement their other activities by the harvesting and their traditional activities. Hats off to the traditional knowledge and traditional practices of northern hunters, trappers and harvesters who supplement their diet and their household income in the pursuit of these traditional activities. Shame on those who would criticize our Governor General for taking an interest in the people of the North, visiting and attempting to understand their culture and their traditions. It would do some of these organizations well to invest some of their efforts into awareness and promoting and supporting of the preservation of our indigenous people and their culture, who have for time immemorial relied on the land to sustain them. Again, I'd like to thank the Governor General for her interest in the North, in its issues and its people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
FACT FINDING MISSION TO SCANDINAVIA
TO EXAMINE CLIMATE CHANGE
TECHNOLOGIES**

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on a recent trip to Scandinavia, which got a lot of public press...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oooh.

MR. KRUTKO: I think it's very important to realize this was not a junket and I think we have to face the reality that the Northwest Territories and the potential we have for the forest sector, some 30 million hectares of forest that we have around our communities, down the valley and, more importantly, this is a resource that has been harvested in the Northwest Territories by aboriginal people for thousands of years, not only as a heat source but, more importantly to provide them with building goods and services, from their log homes to their boats and also developing our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to realize that as Northerners, we do have an obligation in the Kyoto Protocol, what effect is seen by climate change, and do something different than the dependency we have on fossil fuels in the Northwest Territories, from generating our power to heating our homes to running our public infrastructure. We do have to deal with this issue seriously, and seriously look at the policies, procedures and programs that this government has and enact policies that were established in Scandinavia some 30 years ago where they are totally not dependent on fossil fuels. They use all the biomass products within their jurisdictions, and more important is the \$2 billion industry to these countries.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to realize the potential this has by way of economic development for our communities. We have to realize the sawmills we generate in our communities, where most of us growing up in the Northwest Territories had sawmills in our communities. More importantly, to use the log industry and work with those communities that have developed a sawmill, such as Jean Marie, and use the wood products and byproducts that they have in that community to establish biomass systems to heat their schools, to run their power plants. This potential is there. It's there for us to use and, more importantly, to make the effort and the attempt to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, we spend \$15 million a year dealing with forest fires in the Northwest Territories. There are byproducts from these forest fires that can be used to consider biomass, which most people consider dead trees. The same thing with regard to cutlines. We have cutlines in the Northwest Territories...

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, as we all know, with industrial development in the Northwest Territories such as cutlines and the possibility of a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley, they are going to be destroying trillions of board feet of lumber that could be used for biomass and industry. We have to be serious, as government, as Northerners, that we have to stop wastage of our resources in the Northwest Territories and use, reuse and find ways to reduce the cost of living in our communities by way of our energy costs and our dependence on fossil fuels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NATIONAL DAY OF HEALING AND
RECONCILIATION OF
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation of residential schools in Canada. The date is sponsored by the Nechi Institute of Alberta, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and Presbyterian churches in Canada.

In October of 2005, this Assembly formally recognized the day by a motion in this House. We are still the only Legislature in Canada to officially recognize this important annual event. We passed this motion in support of our communities, our families and individuals who attended our residential schools and who continue to endure the impact of the residential school system and to recognize the seriousness the impact of the residential schools had on aboriginal people of the North. I thank all my fellow Members for your commitment to this.

The objectives of the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation are to create a positive collective healing and reconciliation movement within our families, communities, churches and our government on May 26th of each year; to educate ourselves and other Canadians about our collective history of our government policies, which impacted aboriginal communities and other groups, and to develop commemoration sites and encourage communities to join in the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, families continue to be affected by the effects of the residential school experience on the former students and their families. We all want the best for our families. At times that means getting on the healing path.

Communities have taken initiatives to deal with impacts of residential schools and with the support of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, we have heard of many projects that will happen in our communities. The government needs to continue to support these people, so they can hold more healing wellness workshops, have access to cultural counselling and have traditional healing camps.

In preparation of this day, I reread the Hansard from 2005 and when the House passed this motion to support the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation, and I was moved when reading the many statements of that Assembly about their own experience and the experience of their family members in the residential school systems. Many of the Members of that Assembly, of course, are in the House today.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the Government of Canada has yet to begin its work. Hopefully this will happen in the next month. It has taken too long. As a country, we need to heal. As a Territory, we need to heal. As individuals and families, we need to heal. One way we can do this is the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I understand the Bishop of the Mackenzie Diocese is meeting with the Dene leadership this afternoon in Inuvik and will ask for forgiveness and to say that the church is sorry for its role in displaying...

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to continue.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. YAKELEYA: ...the church is sorry for its role in its attempt at assimilation of aboriginal people of the North. This is one more step in the healing journey, but more and more and more must be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
FACT FINDING MISSION TO SCANDINAVIA
TO EXAMINE CLIMATE CHANGE
TECHNOLOGIES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned, my colleague Mr. Krutko and I just returned from a fact-finding trip to Denmark, Sweden and Finland...

---Laughter

...on behalf of the Joint Committee on Climate Change. The work was in recognition of the need to reduce territorial greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce our cost of living. Our goals were to learn about the technologies that Scandinavians have developed to economically produce heat and electricity and organic material on a neighbourhood to small community scale, to determine whether this technology and practice is potentially applicable in the Northwest Territories and to determine the costs and benefits of this approach.

These countries have replaced huge amounts of fossil fuels with renewable energy and are well along towards achieving new European targets of 30 to 50 percent of all energy requirements to be met with renewable energy by 2020, 11 years from now. Biomass for heat and power is a big part of their success.

The Scandinavians have developed a suite of biomass appliances, from small scale furnaces suitable to individual buildings to a range of boilers that service the heating requirements from

neighbourhoods to small communities. They now also commonly generate electricity from large biomass plants and they are beginning to scale these down to sizes appropriate to our communities. For example, we learned of systems that generate about two megawatts of heat and 500 kilowatts of power suitable for NWT communities of about 500 people.

Fuel for these systems is primarily wood chips made from chipping small trees, branches, stumps from locally managed forests. Here in the Northwest Territories, of course, we have 33 million hectares of forest to draw on and only 42,000 people to service.

The mechanized wood harvesting and transportation industry, which relies on GPS directions to wood resources, provides many local jobs and enterprises. Systems in the neighbourhood to \$200,000 to \$300,000 in cost were fully automated, being visited only twice a week by operators for a few minutes, and they are very suitable for our northern communities.

Scandinavians have developed a number of policies which achieved rapid and wide adoption of this technology, considerable employment, a new export industry and significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to further sharing and government action on the significant opportunities available with biomass and to discussing the implications to our review of electricity rates, cost of living, NCPC and ATCO proposal reviews. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PROPOSED NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak today about the proposed Northern Development Agency and whether or not our government is making any progress in discussions with the federal government on bringing this agency's headquarters to the Northwest Territories. I also would like to know what the federal government's intentions are when it comes to the future of northern development.

This new agency supposedly would consolidate existing northern development activities into one which, Mr. Speaker, I am fully supportive of. The announcement was made late last year and we still do not know where the agency will be located. The case has got to be made by our government as well as aboriginal governments located in the Northwest Territories that the Northwest Territories is best suited as a location for this new agency. Obviously, we are centrally located between our sister territories and have tremendous potential for

resource and economic development well into the future, all of which should and needs to be taken into consideration by the federal government when determining a location for this agency.

In March, I spoke of job postings pertaining to northern development which are located in Gatineau, Quebec. To me, Mr. Speaker, it is absurd that bureaucrats in Ottawa and Gatineau are making decisions about the future development of the three northern territories without actually being physically located in the North. I have hazarded a guess that many have never been north of 60. The NWT is poised to develop a multi-billion dollar Mackenzie Gas Project, yet there are 29 positions in Gatineau that pertain to northern oil and gas.

Where is our government at when it comes to encouraging the federal government to locate these positions where they rightfully belong, which is in the North? During the 14th Assembly, I believe there was some work conducted by former Premier Stephen Kakfwi's government to research and determine which federal positions existed in the capital region that could be relocated to the North. My suggestions to our government today is that they move immediately to catalogue these positions and coordinate an effort with the Yukon government and the Government of Nunavut to lobby the federal government to put positions involved in northern development on the ground where they will have the greatest impact. That, Mr. Speaker, is in the three northern territories.

Devolution or no devolution, the positions belong here. It is plain and simple, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Devolution may take many more years to negotiate. At a minimum, the federal government must be made to recognize that northern development positions belong in the North. I believe it is the job of this government to examine the positions that exist and present a case to the federal government. Let's convince them that these jobs would mean more to us, more for our economy and more for the development of our Territory as a whole if they were in fact located in the North.

Mr. Speaker, devolution will come, but why can't the jobs come first? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GNWT RESPONSE TO
SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS MOTION

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, during the February-March 2009 session of this Legislative Assembly, I put forward a motion asking Cabinet to defer the implementation of the changes they are proposing to the supplemental health benefits currently being offered by this government. The motion passed with all 11 Regular Members supporting the motion and Cabinet abstaining.

After the motion passed, the Minister of Health and Social Services indicated that the government would not be moving forward with their implementation. Rather, in Committee of the Whole on February 10, 2009, according to the unedited Hansard of the day, the Minister of Health and Social Services said, "With respect to the review of the changes on the supplementary health, I just want to state again that I will be coming forward to the Standing Committee on Social Programs, with a timeline and outline and some of the framework for the review. I expect that we will do that when this session is over, if that's okay. The officials are working on that so that we can have a document starting point and to get the input from the standing committee, and then after that we can move forward with public consultation and more of a back and forth information exchange."

I think the past two months have shown that not only we hear the public but then there is information the public will benefit from having as well. I look forward to that situation and that work. But I have heard that the Minister's statement had indicated that the officials were working on that. I had hoped that we would be hearing back from the Minister shortly after the last session.

Unfortunately, it has been almost four months, exactly 106 days and there had been no official response to our presentation made to the Standing Committee on Social Programs. To me, this is unacceptable. Given the importance of this and the fact that April 1, 2010, is rapidly approaching, further delay limits the ability of Regular Members and the public from providing real input into the process and the final result. It also further limits the ability of the department to implement the approved program in a reasonable and responsible manner.

Implementation in a reasonable manner will take months of upfront work. People of the North still have questions on the direction the government will take with respect to supplemental health. There is still uncertainty. As a government, we need to ensure that the people who may be affected are aware of what is going on. Will there be any changes? Will things stay the same as they currently are? Who will be involved in the review of what is going to be done? Regardless of this

direction, the people of the NWT deserve to know what the direction will be.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. ABERNETHY: Regardless of the direction this government is taking, the people of the NWT deserve to know what that direction will be. The Minister must live up to her commitment to provide a framework. The Minister must remove the uncertainty that the people are currently experiencing. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services questions on this topic. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 911 TELEPHONE SERVICE

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I have often spoken before about the need for 911 phone service in Yellowknife and the rest of the NWT. Members are likely aware that the City of Yellowknife this week received the results of a feasibility study for the implementation of 911 in the city and throughout our Territory. As an aside, it is important to note that the GNWT was a fully participating member of the study's management committee. Not surprisingly, the recommendation from this report is that 911 service should be established in seven of our 33 communities to start and that it be expanded to the other 26 communities as soon as possible.

Hard on the heels of this report and its recommendation, I have to again state how crucial it is that this government recognize our duty to take part in the establishment of this service. The need for 911 has been talked about for over a decade now. The City of Yellowknife has completed not one but two studies as they try to solve the implementation riddle. The GNWT coroner in 2001 articulated the need for 911 service and attributed a death in 2000 to the lack of that service.

The NWT is one of only two jurisdictions in Canada who lacks this service. It is time for us, the GNWT, to get off the pot, so to speak, and accept that it is our responsibility in a moral and a financial sense to assist in the provision of 911 service.

Just last weekend, Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister of MACA say that the government will only be involved in the implementation of 911 service if that service is provided to all communities in the NWT at the same time. Is that realistic? Not at all, in my opinion. The Minister cited a very real lack of phone infrastructure in most of our small communities and that one community should not have 911 service where another does not. This attitude will delay implementation of any 911

service by at least five to 10 years as we wait for our phone company to upgrade lines and provide the necessary telephone exchanges. That is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. We must start now in those communities that already have the appropriate infrastructure and not deny the majority of NWT residents a much needed public safety service.

We are already beginning to think about our 2010-2011 budget and what our strategic investment priorities should be for that budget. A stated goal of this Assembly is sustainable, vibrant, safe communities. The best way for this Assembly to accomplish that goal is to plan for and fund the implementation of 911 service in the identified seven communities.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MS. BISARO: We must stop making excuses for our lack of commitment to a 911 initiative. Stop dithering about our responsibility and our duty to participate in the provision of 911 service. We have to bite the bullet and do the right thing. The GNWT must partner with the City of Yellowknife and get the implementation of 911 service on its way. I will have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs later on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CLOSURE OF JOHN TSETSO MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Fort Simpson are concerned because with the closure of the old Deh Cho Hall, the John Tsetso Memorial Library is gone. Over the years, with one full-time staff member, the community library has been a place to browse, to pick up reading material for youth and adults. As well, the library has offered literacy programs and various activities including movie night, opportunities for adults to purchase books, to read to children, readings by visiting authors and access to computers and Internet.

I would also like to thank the members of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure who were visiting Fort Simpson. I took them on a short tour to see where the library had been and how our library is presently reduced to a resource centre. It offers only the use of computers and access to books on-line. Residents want at least the same standard of library that they had in the past. In the Public Library Act designation that came into force on April 15, 2009,

the John Tsetso Memorial Library continues to be designated as a public library.

A community of 1,200 people deserve a good library, especially since the community has made good use of it. We have benefited greatly in the past and we want our youth and adults to continue to enjoy the services of a public library. In fact, a region of our size -- about 4,200 residents -- could benefit from a regional library located centrally in Fort Simpson. Such a library could house a larger collection of books and these could be circulated to our smaller communities.

I continue to support and encourage the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to help Fort Simpson work towards a solution. I believe that having the John Tsetso Memorial Library designated as a regional library is the best solution. This will allow for proper planning of a permanent facility and for a solution for Fort Simpson and residents of the Deh Cho region. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONDOLENCES TO CONSTITUENTS'
FAMILIES THAT HAVE SUFFERED
THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In following my routine and in respect to a Member's statement, the first day of every session will always be paying respect to the people who have passed away and their families and friends in my riding of Nunakput.

Mr. Speaker, since the last sitting of the Assembly there have been many deaths in our community, in our region. Tuktoyaktuk has experienced all of the losses. Today I give condolences to the family and friends of Jean Komeak and condolences to Jimmy and family; to Donna Steen and to her children, Charlene, Nicole, and William; to Christina Noksana, condolences to David and family; and to Kyler Jacobson, condolences to Jim Jacobson and his mother Mavis Adjun and family. The community of Tuktoyaktuk is close knit. The loss of one is deeply impacted by all of us, but the loss of four in such a short time has been much more difficult for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to give condolences to all of the people in the Northwest Territories who have lost loved ones in the past few months. Our thoughts and prayers are with your families. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ON-LINE PETITIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk to Members about a relevant issue that happened two weeks ago in the New Brunswick Legislature. It all started when a retired school administrator, Frank Taylor, was forced to borrow \$35,000 after he was diagnosed with cancer. The drug he needs is not covered by the provincial medical plan. Mr. Taylor collected almost 7,500 names on a petition, but when the Conservative health critic presented the petition to the Legislature, the acting Speaker was forced to reject it. The reason for the rejection was that more than 4,000 names were collected on-line. The Legislature's rules require that petitions tabled include signatures. But with general agreement in the Legislature that Members would like to accept the on-line petition for tabling, the Liberal House Leader said it was about time to modernize their rules overseeing petitions. Thus, the antiquated rules will be discussed the next time the Legislature's Procedures committee convenes.

Although it's unclear how the technical aspects will be handled, the New Brunswick Legislature is willing to look at this in a modern context. Therefore, it is reasonable, here in the North, when we need to consider the vast distance and diversity, to consider, possibly, the idea of on-line petitions. Of course, it would take some updating of our rules to reflect that process.

Although in New Brunswick the petition was from a 71-year-old man, such a petition might come forward from younger northern people too. What do we do, for instance, if northern students wanted to exercise their concern about the cuts to the scholarship program in a method they are familiar with such as an on-line petition? Such a case exists now, Mr. Speaker, on Facebook with about 280 signatures that ask for the cuts to be reversed. However, rules, of course, say that we could not accept their petition. Our northern students are spread throughout Canada and, of course, the North, and just maybe an on-line petition is the only way they could rally their concern in a respectable, reasonable and certainly a timely way.

It's been my experience that far too often people will criticize our young folks for not getting involved or even taking action. Perhaps part of the blame lies on this process in that it's old, antiquated and it doesn't reflect young people in a meaningful way.

Mr. Speaker, I hope someday soon this House will be willing to begin research and examine the guidelines and consider on-line petitions, because when people, young or old, feel strongly about a matter, they should be heard, regardless if it's an on-line petition.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, if we don't consider this issue, the voice of democracy will fall silent on a

generation that demands to be heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to recognize my biggest supporter and wife of 35-plus years, Melody McLeod. Also, my sister-in-law, Evelyn McLeod, former long-time resident of Yellowknife who now lives in Cambellford, Ontario. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to recognize a constituent of Frame Lake, Ms. Barb Wyness, who is up behind me in the gallery representing the UNW, I believe. If there are any other constituents of mine up there who I can't see, welcome to the Leg.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last while we've heard many comments about the number of McLeods in the House. So I'd like to welcome a few more reinforcements. Two of my sisters-in-law are here. I'd like to welcome them both: Melody and Evelyn. Thank you for coming. I'd also like to recognize Rocky Simpson from Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize my constituent, Mr. Rocky Simpson. In a time of economic downturn, he's fighting the odds and expanding his business at a great pace in Hay River. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Mr. Byrne Richards, a constituent, who is with us in the gallery today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take the time to recognize one of our Pages, Ms. Paige Elkin. She's a constituent in Yellowknife

Centre as well as my kids' favourite babysitter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Blake Lyons, who is president of the Yellowknife Seniors' Society. I'd also like to recognize Byrne Richards, who is executive director of Aurora Osprey Society, and Heidi-Ann Wild, who is a constituent of Range Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: I'd like to recognize Baptiste Foisey, who is...Many people have seen migratory birds returning; we also have our students returning. So welcome back to Baptiste. I'm told he will be on the job today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I'd like to recognize a couple of constituents in the gallery. I'd like to recognize Roy Courtoreille, regional vice-president for UNW, in the gallery. Also Kathy McBryan is in the gallery today. Welcome to the gallery. If we've missed anyone else in the gallery today, welcome to the House. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 336-16(3): BIOMASS INITIATIVES IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Environment in regard to the biomass initiative in Scandinavia. I think it took them 30 years to get to where they are today. We don't have 30 years. I'd like to ask the Minister, in light of the efforts by this government to look at biomass, which are mostly taking place in larger centres, what is this government doing to ensure that we are able to put biomass projects into communities such as Jean Marie or other communities who have resources or have the assets in those communities and expand those systems so that we can cut down our dependence on fossil fuels during the term of this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has earmarked and this Assembly has approved a significant amount of money, for the first time ever, towards alternative

energy, one of those sources being biomass. And, yes, we have on the books a pilot project that we'd like to look at. In Jean Marie, we're looking at expanded waste recovery. We're looking at wood pellets both in institutions and in communities. We want to move that plan forward. We're waiting, with considerable interest, on the specific recommendations that the Member is going to bring forward with his colleague Mr. Bromley as a result of their fact finding trip to Scandinavia where they learned very many valuable things that they can share with us that will help us set our policy base and direction going forward as a government.

MR. KRUTKO: I believe that this government has to consider pilot projects of some sort. We have two budget cycles left to go and I think it's important that we get some of these projects off the ground and show the smaller communities that they also are part of the equation of this biomass strategy that this government is considering. I'd like to ask the Minister if there is a possibility of seeing some of these projects, such as Jean Marie, put forward by way of pilot projects so that we can move on it before the next budget cycle. I believe it's this fall.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, there have been millions of dollars voted for this year, in the neighbourhood of \$15 million or so, to get us started on the very many projects, both in biomass, wind, possibly geothermal, mini-hydro. There is a whole host of areas that we want to do work. Now it is incumbent upon us to roll out the work plans and the implementation, to get as many of these projects towards the construction stage as possible.

MR. KRUTKO: I also believe that this is a project that can stimulate a lot of our small, aboriginal communities by way of development and by way of developing for a sector around our communities. I'd like to ask the Minister in regards to looking at the forest management strategies that we have and considering the usage of these wood products in our communities, around our communities, so that we can get more usage out of those wood products and depending, continuing to use fossil fuels.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As we move as a government on our very ambitious alternative Energy Strategy on the area of biomass, very clearly one of the issues for us as a Legislature and a government is the pursuit of the secondary industry that would see us be able to manufacture wood pellets, set up communities and regions to be able to do the chipping or the pelletizing that may be necessary, to look at the employment opportunities, to work with communities as well to combine some of the value-added benefits of biomass with the concern in communities in the boreal forest to be better fireproofed when it comes to wildfire where we could set out bands of forest around the communities to be managed and maintained over the years, to offer protection as

well as a source of energy. There is a whole piece of work here that has to be done. The frame has to be put in place. This is a long-term commitment. This is our very first steps. We want to make sure we set the right foundation. We agree with the Member; this is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: As we all know, nothing gets done in this government without some sort of a policy. I'd like to ask the Minister, is there a policy being developed that can basically enhance the use of biofuels in the Northwest Territories and also ensure that the programs and services this government delivers considers that as a means of meeting the goals of the Northwest Territories by way of reducing greenhouse gases and our dependency on fossil fuels?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Work is being done by ENR. The work has been done and supported by the Climate Change Committee and the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee as well as Managing This Land when it comes to these various issues of the biomass strategy, moving forward with the technology, the issue, the impact on greenhouse gases, all those are part of the variable that we are considering as we deal with this issue as a government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 337-16(3):
ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT
NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The need for an independent and permanent Yellowknife Campus for Aurora College has been an issue that's long overdue in our city. It's a demand and something that people want. I'd like to reference the Slave River Journal, our fine Premier just the other day, it says that a northern university is something that needs to be looked at. I can reference the Globe and Mail, our Excellency Michaelle Jean said forcefully that we need a northern university. Even going back to 2006, the Minister of ECE said he will do a cost-benefit analysis to constructing a new college campus, and certainly their lease has been renewed in 2007, which expires in 2012. My question, with also the support of the board of governors and the former education Ministers suggesting we need an independent campus in Yellowknife for Aurora College: What has the Minister done to date or will he be able to update this Assembly on where this process is about establishing an independent Aurora College in Yellowknife?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. First of all I think we need to be proud of our northern college that we have here in the North, the three campuses that we have. I would consider them as a college and also a university because we do deliver university programs, degree programs that we're actively pursuing and other programs as well. So with the standalone university, I think we already see that in the Northwest Territories. Every time we meet with the board of governors, certainly that topic of discussion has been discussed and it's part of a long-term planning basis for the whole Northwest Territories. So whether it be in Yellowknife, Inuvik or Fort Smith, those are the discussions that are ongoing.

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate the Minister for answering every question, but the one I asked is: Where is the cost-benefit analysis on the process of looking at putting the Aurora College that's downtown on its own independent campus to establish itself in its own right?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I do believe I answered the Member's question on the college itself, the university that he is referring to. As I stated, we are still...It's all preliminary right now. We're working with the facts that we have before us. As the Member alluded to, previous Ministers have been discussing this. It was a discussion item at that time. We are working on that with the communities, with the board of governors as well. Because we can, certainly on that portion on our end alone, we continue to strive to make that part of the capital plans for the next few years.

MR. HAWKINS: Would the Minister be willing to supply that information provided through that cost-benefit analysis that was committed back in 2006 to be done, that would establish a view of establishing a long-term, permanent campus here in Yellowknife that's independent?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly I can provide...My department can provide the information that's available to the Members, not just from the Yellowknife Centre Member but all Members as well. We do have the facts in place, the discussion paper that's been discussed at that time and where we're going with it. Also, the board of governors meeting that we had, the minutes of the meeting, there's been a paper trail that's been documented, so we can certainly provide that to the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister said this issue is raised every time he meets with the board of governors and he's certainly said that this is a long-

term plan of, I assume, his department or the focus of this government. What exactly is the long-term plan and what is his response to the board of governors in reflection of that long-term plan about establishing an independent campus here in Yellowknife on its own property and its own facility to help our students?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly part of the long-term plans that we talked about within our department and also with the board of governors with Aurora College is strengthening our program delivery through Aurora College. The three campuses that we have here in the Northwest Territories, we need to strengthen that and make it exposed to all the students that are here in the Northwest Territories. Also, we have students from outside the Northwest Territories that attend our college as well. It has been a northern college recognition also going on to national recognition as a college. We do offer university courses as well. But this will be part of our strategic direction going forward. How can we develop a plan where we have a university in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 338-16(3):
IMPLEMENTATION OF 911
TELEPHONE SERVICE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and, as I mentioned in my statement, the Government of the Northwest Territories was a full participating member on the City of Yellowknife's 911 Management Committee. Given our government's participation on that management committee, I would like to ask the Minister to articulate the government's position regarding the need and urgency for 911 service in the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's position is they recognize that there is a need to provide a service across the Northwest Territories. I remember for a few times in the seven communities...We oversee all 33 communities in the Northwest Territories. This speaks well to the wide range of services offered across the Northwest Territories. We have so many small communities that would just like to have the cell phone service to be able to go to the next level. This is something that we have to sit back and have a look and make sure it's something that benefits all 33 communities and if it's the desire, and I still have to bring the report to Cabinet. It was my intention to bring it to Cabinet within the next week or so to get Cabinet's feedback and then

come up with a position and the next step as far as we're concerned.

MS. BISARO: I thank the Minister for his remarks. I can't argue with the Minister's statement that we have communities that are lacking such things as basic cell phone service. However, the report recommends that the seven communities -- and I'll mention them: Behchoko, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, Norman Wells, and Yellowknife -- that those seven communities should start the implementation of 911 and then we move on to other communities later on. Those seven communities comprise some 77 percent of our population. That's more than three-quarters of our NWT population. They will be targeted with 911 if we implement it in these communities. So I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the funding of a 911 for these seven communities will be a priority for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs or any GNWT department in the 2010-2011 budget.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I appreciate the Member's comments that these seven communities make up 77 percent of the population in the Northwest Territories. That's one of the reasons I need to bring this to Cabinet and get Cabinet's opinion on the report and see where we can go from here. If it's partial implementation, then we would have to consider if it's the desire of this Assembly. Of course, it would have to go through the whole budgeting process and have approval from this Legislative Assembly to implement partial service.

MS. BISARO: I appreciate where the Minister is coming from. I realize that there is a budget process that has to be gone through. I am hoping that we will get some certainty on funding to at least start 911. It's been said many times: Presumably our government is all about partnerships. Even today our Premier has stated a strong and independent North is going to have to be built on partnerships. So I'd like to know whether or not MACA is willing to consider a partnership with the City of Yellowknife to start the much needed implementation of 911 service.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Absolutely. Again, not only just with the City of Yellowknife. The Member talked about seven communities. So if there's a possibility of partnering with the seven communities to put together a plan for partial implementation and figuring out the costs and making sure that goes through this Legislative Assembly, then it's something that we would seriously consider.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. At the risk of debating with the Minister, I'd like to suggest that a partnership with the City of Yellowknife is required to get this process started. I'd like to know if the Minister will agree to start a partnership with the

City of Yellowknife and expand that to other communities as the project gets rolling. We certainly can start a project with seven communities.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We're going to have a chance to look at the report and analyze the report and cost figures and how it would be best to implement this. But, of course, once we do that, we would be willing to -- seeing as it was the City of Yellowknife that put together the report with some input and participation of the GNWT -- sit down with them and try to roll out the next step. Hopefully this can carry on to the other seven communities, which is a start, then hopefully get the rest of the communities in the NWT on board with this.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 339-16(3):
GNWT RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY
HEALTH BENEFITS MOTION

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services and are in follow-up to my Member's statement from earlier today. As I indicated earlier, it's been 106 days, almost four months, since the Minister indicated that she would be meeting with the Social Programs committee to provide them with a timeline and outline the framework for the review of the Supplementary Health Program. To date there has been no briefing or no briefing has been conducted. Could the Minister please give me an update on where the Department of Health and Social Services is with respect to reviewing the provision of supplemental health benefit services in the Northwest Territories?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the need for a little bit of drama, but I don't know where the Member gets this 107 days. The motion was passed on February 8th. I think everybody understands how busy our session was for six weeks. Our session did not finish until March 13th. Everybody went off to a break for two weeks. Now, for the last seven weeks -- that's 75 days -- the department and officials have been working to see how we do this better than we had done before. I have talked to the Member and said that we won't go into really getting into the work until the session was over. So now I have written to the standing committee chair this morning. I said, as I've always indicated privately, that we will not move ahead without talking to the committee first. What we are proposing to do is we have set up an interdepartmental committee that will look at income security models and other frameworks that

we could use to review some health programs. As well, we want to set up a stakeholders group, including all the NGOs and interested groups, to give us input on that. We will be sending out an invitation letter within the next few days. We hope to have our first real substantive meeting with those groups by the end of June. I am happy and available any time to meet with the standing committee.

MR. ABERNETHY: I think it's fair to reference the 107 days. It has been four months since the motion passed and nothing has been brought to committee. I think it's very important that it does come to committee because, as the Minister said, she wanted to get input from the standing committee. I'm happy to hear that a letter has been sent, but still it sounds like the Minister is moving ahead with some of these things and no information has been shared and no input has been gathered. So before the Minister moves forward with these committees and whatnot that she's making reference to, will she commit to meeting with the standing committee and getting our input on that process before she actually moves forward and implements the process that she's indicated she's going to be implementing?

HON. SANDY LEE: I've said that in e-mails to him at least three times, I will meet with standing committee or the Members to discuss input or to get their input and have further discussions. I have asked committee to meet at any time. So, yes, I would be happy to do that. I've always said that I will and I've e-mailed him at least three times to say that.

MR. ABERNETHY: As indicated in my statement, there's a lot of uncertainty out there. People don't know what's happening. So my question for the Minister is: How does the Minister intend to relieve some of this continued confusion and uncertainty that continues to exist within the public as residents wait for something to happen?

HON. SANDY LEE: Everybody here knows that and I have committed. I don't know if I need to explain more of that. I want to come and meet with the Standing Committee on Social Programs. I understand that we have a very short session, so the committee's time is always of high value. I think it's important and we are available to meet at any time to discuss. And we are not, we haven't moved further, I don't want that to be out there that we are somehow moving forward because I keep getting e-mails from Members suggesting that.

I want to make it clear that myself, as the Minister, and the government heard loud and clear that there are lots of major elements of that policy change that needed to be reviewed. I wanted to make sure that we took some time to review from the last session what we heard, which is what we've been doing for the last seven weeks. Before we do any public

meetings I will be happy to sit down with the committee. But it is important also that we hear from NGOs and the general public. We do want to have public meetings as well. Any time next week I think we could get together and talk about it more.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

QUESTION 340-16(3):
PROPOSED NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Premier today and it gets back to my Member's statement from earlier where I was talking about the Northern Development Agency that the federal government has proposed. I'm wondering if the Premier can give us an update on what exactly our government has done in trying to convince the federal government that the Northwest Territories is a good location for this Northern Development Agency.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for raising this concern. The work we've done on this comes in a number of layers. First and foremost we had a pan-territorial approach from the three northern Premiers as to making the pitch to Ottawa that the Northern Development Agency needs to be established in the North. Following that and putting that case in, I have worked directly with a number of the federal Ministers to highlight the fact that it makes sense, for a number of the reasons that the Member has raised, that we're central amongst the territories, that our economic potential is the greatest amongst the territories, and it would make sense to base that here in the Northwest Territories. We've put that on the table. My understanding is that it is before the Prime Minister's office and we are awaiting direction from there.

MR. RAMSAY: I'd like to ask the Premier if the federal government has come any closer to announcing a location for the Northern Development Agency. I know it's at the Prime Minister's desk now, but when are we expecting a decision on where that office will be located?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: We're hoping to hear something soon, but I can't comment on the Prime Minister's office and their timing of a decision there. At one point we thought it was in a matter of weeks, so we're waiting to see if they follow through on that. The legwork has been done. I think it's important for us to keep in contact with the appropriate parties, different Ministers. My letter went in to Minister Strahl and I've also spoken with the Minister who has involvement in northern development, and that would be Ms. Aglukkaq.

MR. RAMSAY: In keeping with the theme of jobs and federal jobs, I want to...We've talked about this before, about the fact that there are a number of jobs -- in the hundreds -- located in Gatineau and Ottawa, that belong in the three northern territories. There has been much work done in the past on identifying these jobs, finding out where they're located, and we've asked the federal government in the past to relocate these positions north of 60. I'd like to ask the Premier today if his government, our government here in the Northwest Territories, will push this forward again and give it some renewed effort to try to identify those jobs and try to get those jobs north of 60 where they belong.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: The Member is right in the sense that there's been quite a bit of work done in the past governments and work with the federal government to identify positions that were in southern Canada, in Ottawa, that had a direct impact and relationship to the Northwest Territories and the three territories overall. We've done that work and it came down to identifying a number of positions that we felt could be moved north, and that initiative was pushed along.

I must say that this government hasn't taken that information and moved it. Our focus has been the establishment of new positions and office that should be here and that is why we are putting a fair bit of focus on the Northern Development Agency. As well, we could use this avenue to further expand the discussions to look at those types of positions and having them moved north.

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

MR. RAMSAY: I'm wondering if we can get a commitment from the Premier today to in fact inject some new life into the effort to deal with these jobs that are located in Ottawa and Gatineau and southern Canada, and working with our colleagues in Yukon and Nunavut, to make sure that we have a united front to the federal government to again ask them. I know we've asked them in the past, but if they're looking at locating a Northern Development Agency in the Northwest Territories or in one of the other two northern territories, there's talk of Arctic sovereignty, there's talk of renewed effort on behalf of the federal government to take an active role in northern Canada. Now is the time, I think, to inject some life into these talks and work with our colleagues to ensure that the federal government is paying attention when it comes to these jobs. Again, I'm just looking for a bit of a commitment here or commitment from our government that we will at least start talking with Yukon and Nunavut on a united front to the federal government in terms of these jobs.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: We have worked quite well with our northern colleagues on a number of fronts. We've worked together on a Northern

Strategy, trying to build a vision, trying to get the federal government to look at that vision. We, in fact, will have our next northern Premiers meeting in Iqaluit in early July. I will commit to work with them and put that on the agenda to have some further discussions and try to put some renewed energy in that area as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 341-16(3):
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY OF HEALING
AND RECONCILIATION OF
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I mentioned that May 26th was the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation, and this government has been the only government on record to recognize May 26th as this day for the residential school survivors. I would ask the Premier of the Northwest Territories, in terms of his leadership of this government here if any type of gesture is going to be made in this Assembly to recognize May 26th as a day that we made a formal motion to recognize this day across the Northwest Territories for all survivors of the Northwest Territories.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member has pointed out, the Assembly of the Northwest Territories has in the past endorsed this, recognized that. We stand by that. Looking at the date and the time, we feel that is a commitment that still stands today. If Members would like to do something, we would be willing to sit down and have a discussion.

MR. YAKELEYA: I'm not too sure if we'll have enough time for how quickly we can engage the Members to see if we want to do something. I want to ask the Premier in terms of his leadership, in terms of the leader of this government here, in terms of taking a leadership role to say something on behalf of this government in terms of May 26 being the day that we recognize, in this government here, as the national reconciliation healing day for residential school survivors. Will the Premier do something?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to engage Members to see where they'd like to see something done. Being that the day has passed, in the past we've recognized the day when we were in session. Again, the fact that previous Assemblies stood by this and, as the Member has pointed out, we're the only Assembly who has done that, we stand by that. With the short days we do have, as the Member has highlighted, there are quite a number of messages that we have to get

out, but I'd be prepared to engage Members to see if we make any adjustments to what we're prepared to make statements on. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Premier, if he would give that some serious consideration in engaging the Members of the House here. I understand, also, Mr. Speaker, that other days of territorial significance or national recognition of different events or activities, that this government here does make a statement here. This being one that affects all the people in the Northwest Territories, would the Premier take on the consideration if he would come forward with a statement from the Premier's office in terms of this specific day? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, if the Member had approached me sooner, we probably could have started a discussion to see if we could make some adjustments to our planning scheduled around the sitting days. As I have committed, I am prepared to sit down and engage Members to see if there's a willingness to do that. I believe, again, the motion was an Assembly one. If we could, even myself, as a statement, or through that, we could look at doing something of that nature. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, these significant days in our people's lives, sometimes I think it would be a wonderful consideration if the government could take it on its onus to advance these types of issues forward in terms of a motion like this in the House here. So I would appreciate if the Premier could take it on in his leadership to engage the Members to see if something can be done within this short life of this Assembly here, to recognize this important day for the survivors of the residential schools.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: As I had said earlier, yes, I am prepared to sit down with Members. If it's a polling, one on one, to sit down and find out where we can move on this area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 342-16(3):
NWT DECLARATION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, the Premier of the Northwest Territories represents our government in many different forums and the mandate to represent us comes from the Members of this Assembly. Recently, I know when I was gone after session, I was surprised to hear of this organization that was putting forward something called the NWT Declaration. I understand that their mandate was to craft a new vision for the Territory.

Mr. Speaker, it hasn't been abundantly transparent or clear to me exactly what the parameters of this new organization is to craft a new vision for the Northwest Territories. I've heard some names of some people who are participating but I have some questions. You know, specifically, I suppose people can get together and do whatever they want, but specifically relevant to our Premier's involvement in an organization, I do have a few questions. I'd like to know who's financing the organization. I'd like to know what role our Premier played in the development of the principles of the NWT Declaration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. A couple of questions there. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll thank the Member for raising that question because it is a good one. It is an area of discussion that's been held a number of places across our Territory, from youth to seniors to businesses. This is not an organization. There is no company. There is no mandate established. What it was, was an invite to participate that went out to quite a number of people that were invited and those that accepted showed up. I was invited. I originally wasn't going to go but thought, well, if there's a discussion about what might happen or what the possibilities are in the Territory, I thought I might as well see what's being said and who's attending. So I attended that event, and the discussion that occurred looked at the possibilities of a Territory in the future, in 20 years or more, of what we could be. That's how that came forward and ideas were put back and forth as to how do we get a discussion going amongst people in the Territory. A number of them decided to launch a Declaration for the NWT.com, and a number have decided to, as well, put ads out there in papers to get discussion going about those seven principle areas. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, we all know that it isn't free to put full-page colour ads in the inside cover of News North, and it isn't free for a whole bunch of people to get together at Blachford Lake Lodge to launch some new organization to set a new vision and direction for the Northwest Territories. I would like to know who is financing this new forum. How does this differ, in terms of a vision, from our vision as the 16th Assembly for the future of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, again, there is no organization. My involvement was through the Executive. As I told them there, there are no methods that I could bring from a Cabinet or the Assembly because we had not had that discussion. The area of involvement from other companies, I'm not sure if the other people who participated paid their own way to the meeting as well. I didn't ask

about that. I just ensured that from our part that it was as if there's any discussion happening across the Northwest Territories around matters of what we could be or what our possibilities are, I'd like to be involved and I would, from the Executive side, ensure that we paid our ticket and not be held accountable to anybody else outside of our environment.

The issue of where they get their mandate from or those issues, again, it was a group of individuals who came together -- some had business, some youth, some had previous government experience -- to discuss the possibilities of the North. In a sense, there is no mandate that this goes to, because it is something for discussion.

Now, how it links to our vision is up to us here in this Assembly. If we would like to see what this declaration can mean for us or, in fact, I think we could look at our vision and goals and almost parallel them with that of what came out in the seven principles and have that discussion about what could be and how do we align ourselves or position ourselves to enhance what we could be as a Territory. I think that's the important one, is how do we take it up, how do the governing bodies of this Territory take this and make this work. That piece of work that was done is one for just discussion. Now I think it is up to us and I think here's an opportunity for us to say and look at let's take this energy and let's tap into it and see where we can go with it as a Legislative Assembly and move forward on that basis if we're willing. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm still not entirely clear what our Premier's role was in this. This was an exclusive meeting. It wasn't open to the public. I wasn't invited. No aboriginal organizations were invited. At a remote location that people couldn't get to, behind closed doors. I'm just trying to sort of get to, you know, the bottom of our involvement in this organization. Like I said, people can do what they want, but to the question again: Very high price tag on setting up a website like that and doing all that expensive advertising -- who's paying for this? It's a bit seemingly secretive. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we've lost the message in the sense of what it was all about. It was getting a discussion about what we could be in the Northwest Territories. Could we have a diversified economy? Could we have respect for our cultures across the Territories? Should we have the best education system across this country? Can we have a clean, affordable, abundant energy to help reduce the cost of living in the Territories? Things of that nature. Things that I think we can look at and say almost every government, whether a municipal government, to a certain degree, to the territorial governments,

whether it's this government or past governments, have wrestled with these subject matters. Again, there was a press conference that was held from the group, those that could attend. BHP was there. There were a number of other businesspeople there and individuals who are part of the ones that could make it and spoke to the issue. We were involved in some of our own work so I wasn't able to attend there.

The issue, though, is one of my involvement was there, as I heard them, to listen to what they were saying, well, as a GNWT we've done our work and this is where we focused our work in those areas, but that's to the extent. They don't have a mandate to go and send somebody else off to do any kind of work. It is the matter of having the discussion happening and I think this is where we plugged in, is where do we want to see this, or should we just let people continue to talk about. But I think it's incumbent on us, as we look at our vision and goals, to see how we're doing the work. I think, as I said earlier, we could almost take every one of our goals as the 16th Assembly, and line them up with the discussion that happened there. I think we're already showing that we are doing a lot of the work that was discussed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mayor Gord Van Tighem was in attendance, as well, and has reported subsequently back to his council as to his involvement and so on. So I hope that the Premier has a good and solid understanding of the fact that when he goes out and attends a forum like this as the Premier, his mandate comes from us and that we need to be in the loop as to what's going on. I can only assume time hasn't really permitted yet that he might have actually told us what had happened, but I was a bit surprised about it and to read it in the paper. But does the Premier concur that his mandate to participate in forums such as this comes from this House and we should be fully apprised of what's going on and have appropriate input? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, myself and the Minister, we get our mandate from this Assembly, our vision and goals. I must say, when these opportunities exist and there's an invite, I will take that invite. As I have, for example, I was invited to the Akaitcho leaders to talk at a workshop. The first time a Premier of the Northwest Territories was invited. I took that opportunity because that directly aligns with some of the work we're doing around regional leaders and so on. But with this group, yes, I had opportunity to address it shortly for a small amount of time when we had our Caucus meeting when we met at Blachford Lake and was hoping to have further discussions on that

piece, but again, time permitting wasn't long enough. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 343-16(3):
POWER CORPORATION MANDATE TO
DELIVER BIOMASS ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we learned that the Europeans are very progressive in the area of energy. They bundle heat and power and even broadband and combine them in their utilidor systems emanating from their heating and power plants. Municipal and regional governments provide this service and so does some private enterprise and, really, we're overdue to recognize that our NWT Power Corporation, our arm's-length fully owned corporation, needs to be thinking of things like this.

My question is, again, for Minister Roland. We'll keep him busy today. Basically, will the NWT Power Corporation review include a review of their mandate so we can actually bring in some of these things that we're learning and some of these things that have been frustrating us for a long time, such as the potential for the Power Corporation to play a role in implementing biomass? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for that question because that gives me the opportunity to say that the Power Corp is involved, to a large degree, on a number of fronts to try to bring best efficiencies forward from going from diesel to gas turbines, for example, in a number of areas. The biomass work and the work that the Members have done and will be coming back to that committee with their work and the report will help us as we move forward on some of our initiatives that Minister Miltenberger spoke of earlier.

As the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, I just recently had a discussion with the chair and the president of the Power Corp in this area and looking at how we would engage ourselves and become part of the renewed energy, in a sense, and focus to where we could go with these initiatives. I think there's opportunity there that we definitely have to tap into and plug into. That is an area that we're starting to have our discussions. As we formulate the response and the work that was done, going through that committee, to Minister Miltenberger and our Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee as well, we'll be able to tap into there and figure out how we'll be able to deliver on some of these alternatives that have been mentioned. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that response and I'll assume that the answer was yes, the mandate of the review, or the review will include the mandate of the Power Corporation, unless the Minister corrects me.

Will the review of electricity rates also include biomass and -- it's sort of associated with that -- is there any expertise being offered to the review panel or the expert panel in that area? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the alternative energy process we've engaged in is one through the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee and Members to look at these alternatives. In fact, we've done it so that it doesn't affect the rates, at this time, of how we implement some of the new technologies into our systems. We have to engage with the Power Corp at that level to see how we would do a full implementation. Again, looking at not impacting the rates of individuals. So that work is to be done.

The review itself that's happening, looking at the Power Corp, the internal process was one of how it operates in today's environment. Changes we want to make from their point out, that's going on, will result at looking at a couple of things: One, we've committed to the energy rates subsidy review that's happening; secondly, the Power Corporation specific review; and, thirdly, the ATCO proposal. At those stages we will be looking at what comes out of there and we'll decide as to just how much of a change we want to make going forward. So, yes, we can look at the mandate and the structure. Alternative energies, we have a process we believe in and we're trying to figure out just how we'll plug it in to our existing frameworks that we have in place on that and when required on the review panel itself. Specific to the Power Corp review, I'm going to be getting Members information on just who that team is and go forward on that basis.

MR. BROMLEY: Finally, Mr. Speaker, and thanks again for the response. The opportunities in biomass even affect the review of the ATCO proposal, and the Premier mentioned that proposal. Consideration of selling off our Power Corporation, of course, has been largely because of costs of electricity. We are pretty convinced that there are some opportunities for reducing those costs and at the same time, increasing or enhancing our local economies and, so, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Yes, just for confirmation, will the Premier commit that even the review of the ATCO proposal, to the degree that it's really trying to get at lower power costs, will also consider the biomass implications? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, as I've committed to you and just recently followed up, I believe a letter is going to committee on the latest update there looking at some of those functions and the future definitely would be part of the

conversation and discussion we'll have. I think, one, let's be clear, as we talk about partnerships in the energy generation distribution in the North, that's the process we're being engaged in with that. We've got these other two big ones that we want to do first and the biomass piece, the alternative energies are even a part of those processes as we go forward and need to be as we look at what options are available to us when it comes to trying to stabilize and lower energy costs in the North and look forward to more of that discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 344-16(3):
SOUTHERN BIDS AND NORTHERN
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to raise the issue with the Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, there's a disturbing trend that's happening in the Northwest Territories with regard to contracting and I believe that the time to raise the issue is now. What's happening there, Mr. Speaker, is that we're getting a lot of southern bidders, they're coming in with low bids. Mr. Premier mentioned in his sessional statement that it's an opportunity for government to save money but at the same time the missed opportunity for our local businesses and local employment. I would like to ask what specific programs and/or protection do we offer our communities and businesses, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories still has the Business Incentive Policy in place and operational. It provides a 15 percent preference for BIP approved companies; as well, a further 5 percent local preference for businesses from the local community. If a company comes in from the south and puts in a bid, the local companies have a 20 percent northern preference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am well aware of the BIP program, but I think the concern is that should our northern companies and local companies lose those bids, they are at risk of laying off local people and at risk of having a negative effect on our community. What I am asking, Mr. Speaker, is how can we protect our local workforce? If a southern bidder gets it, and opportunity to save money for government is fine, but can we ensure that our local businesses and people get employment and opportunities? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a number of tools at our disposal. Primarily we have a Negotiated Contracts Policy whereby we can negotiate or limit tenders to northern businesses that we have MOUs, and contracting with a number of aboriginal governments, and also we use the standing offer agreements with local businesses. As well, we can buy locally up to \$5,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what I'm after again is the worst-case scenario. A community loses an opportunity for a bid and it appears that the southern contractor will come in with their own sources and their own resources and not leave any benefits behind. That is what I would like our government to look at and see if anything can be done with that regard. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we want to maintain and maximize benefits to our northern workforce and northern businesses, so we take whatever steps and tools that are available to us to ensure that we maximize those benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible to write those in the...I think that we do bid offers or request for proposal. Is it possible to advertise it in those requests for proposals and/or bids to let it be known to all the bidders out there that proximity communities and their businesses and their workers should be a priority? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We operate in an environment where we have a number of internal trade agreements and we follow those conventions although we do have, through the Agreement on Internal Trade, the Northern Preference Policy is grandfathered. But certainly our existing programs already recognize what the Member is suggesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

QUESTION 345-16(3):
TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED
ASSETS TO COMMUNITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I spoke about the transfer of governments to communities. Now I have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister reviewed the issue of the GNWT deferring maintenance on the buildings that will ultimately be transferred to the communities and has the fact that deferring maintenance on the buildings and the lack of maintenance as a result of that being considered prior to the transfers? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has reviewed the issue of deferred maintenance. It is in recognition of the impact of the deferred maintenance, that being instrumental in MACA securing an increase in its operation and maintenance funding for the community from a whole average of \$17 million a year to over \$60 million today. In 2006-07, an independent consultant was hired to complete the community infrastructure assessment on the physical condition of community access. It is using that information. That information was provided to the community with the studies for their own infrastructure for their own use in developing their capital plan. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: I would like to ask the Minister if there is a preventive maintenance program in place for all of the assets, including mobile equipment, that are being transferred from the department or from the GNWT to communities. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The department would provide the framework for all the deferred maintenance on all the assets in the community. The community can take that and submit and do their own community preventative maintenance plan based on the framework provided to them by MACA. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Can the Minister advise me if there are budget numbers in the capital plan for communities to complete midlife retrofits for the assets that are being transferred from the GNWT to communities? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: There are budget numbers in the capital plan. It would be the community's capital plan that these budget numbers would be in.

Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for capital was transferred over to communities and the old funding method meant that the communities would have to compete with all GNWT projects. So now they have the ability to do their own capital plan and it would be the department's desire and intent to assist them in putting these capital plans together so they can work on their plan for a few years down the road. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise me if, in the transfer of the capital plan, the Government of the NWT has considered in the capital plan that there will be a need for replacement of assets or purchase of new assets for the work that the community would have to do in the future? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: This is a message that I have been working on trying to get out to the community, that communities have all the responsibility. MACA will continue to give them their capital money. There is a base funding that we are hoping that is ongoing so communities can plan for future capital needs. There are other sources of money, too, that the department along with the GNWT have been trying to access to pass on to the communities. The GAP tax funding is a perfect example. That is going on for another few years. The Building Canada Fund, any other money that we are able to get from the government to use that and pass that on to the communities so that can help them meet their infrastructure needs. That is what this priority of this department is and that is what we will continue to do. The bottom line is the capital plan and the capital infrastructure are now decided on by the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 346-16(3):
USE OF RENTAL VEHICLES
DURING MEDICAL TRAVEL

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine for some time has been travelling to Edmonton on medical travel and their travel expense claims continues to be somewhat similar each time. Out of this process some difficulty has arisen but also a possible solution. What they did was they chose the lower cost option by renting a car from the airport to drive into the city for their appointments and whatnot and, of course, they came back to file their medical travel claim. To rent the car was actually cheaper than it was to do the normal \$60 cab ride, \$60 back and as well as all those multi cab rides.

So, Mr. Speaker, my question would be focussed to the Minister of Health and Social Services to looking at creating options that may help solve the problem that, A, my constituent has and, B, maybe create simpler options going forward with choice.

Would the Minister be willing to look at creating a process so what people would normally do with meal claims and travel claims is check a box and get a flat rate? Would the Minister be willing to look at a process for medical travel to give people the option if they want the independence to rent a car on their own and use that as their only transportation cost while they are on these normal everyday and very typical travel process and trips to Edmonton? Thank you.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for that question. I did, in fact, talk to the particular constituents the Member is referring to and I have directed the department to look at ways to change our policies to allow patients to be able to claim a rental car as opposed to other modes of transportation like taxis, because things have changed now where renting a vehicle is often cheaper than riding in taxis. I think it's a matter of changing paperwork. That's why I have not been able to get back to that particular constituent. I will follow up in writing to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, my constituent is a loyal listener of the Legislative Assembly proceeding and I can tell you they're probably watching right now. Mr. Speaker, so he'll be very pleased with that brief an answer.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, you know, I'm glad to hear it's going to work out, from the sounds of what the Minister had to say, but sometimes it has to be approved up front and I am suggesting we create a process where we inform people up front that if they want the choice of independence, they can have that and make it on their own or if they want the choice to submit receipts, they have that choice as well. So would the Minister be looking at incorporating this as a normal process going forward to help streamline our travel claims because if they don't have to submit receipts, that saves a lot of time and energy and certainly in the long run it probably saves us a lot of money. Would the Minister be willing to look at incorporating that process? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I don't know exactly what the process is. I believe obviously if we change the Medical Travel Policy to allow alternative modes of transportation, then that rule has to be communicated to those who will be going on medical travel and they will have to be advised as to, you know, you can either take a taxi or rent a vehicle, whichever is cheaper and so on. So that information item or informing the public will have to be part of that change and will be part of that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 4-16(3): MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 4-16(3) posed by Mr. Yakeleya on February 16, 2009, regarding Mackenzie Valley Highway Construction.

The current estimate to construct the Mackenzie Valley Highway is \$1.8 billion. This figure includes permanent bridges at all river crossings.

The environmental assessment for the Mackenzie Valley Highway would comply with the requirements of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and related other legislation and regulations.

The construction of a Mackenzie Valley Highway cannot be self-financed without significant funding from the federal government. The Department of Transportation has and will consider user-pay and other innovative approaches as a way of financing this highway. Confirmation of federal funding will help establish what financing options are available to the GNWT. These options are also highly dependent on whether the Mackenzie Gas Project is built and what levels of post-project induced oil and gas development and traffic are expected.

The 2005 funding proposal Connecting Canada: Coast to Coast to Coast, which was targeted towards the federal government, proposes a GNWT-federal partnership to construct an all-weather Mackenzie Valley Highway to the Arctic Coast. An update of this proposal along with other actions is being considered as part of a federal engagement strategy being developed.

The Department of Transportation has had and continues to have discussions with DIAND and other federal departments on programs that could fund the construction of this road. The department also continues to explore other funding options to construct this road, including partnerships with private industry. The maximization of local employment will be one of the objectives of any program to construct the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 5-16(3): MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AT NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 5-16(3) asked by Mr. Ramsay on March 10, 2009, regarding Mental Health Services at the North Slave Correctional Centre.

We continue to meet the psychological health needs of our inmates through regular and timely interventions by our nursing staff, doctors' referrals, psychiatric interventions, traditional counseling and pastoral guidance. There are two psychologist positions: one is established for the North Slave Young Offenders Facility and the other for the North Slave Correctional Centre. The former position became vacant during the summer of 2008, and the needs of that facility are currently being met by a psychologist under contract. The latter position became vacant in the early fall of 2008 and we are

working with the Department of Human Resources to recruit a psychologist.

The Member also asked for statistics about remand numbers at this facility. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table historical data on the average daily count of remand offenders held at the North Slave Correctional Centre for the past five fiscal years. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 6-16(3):
NWT RESOURCE ROYALTIES

Mr. Speaker, I have a return To Written Question 6-16(3) asked by Mr. Yakeleya on March 11, 2009, regarding NWT Resource Royalties.

The NWT corporate tax revenues received from resource companies from 1999 to 2007 was \$153 million. Tax returns for 2008 have not yet been assessed. The NWT property tax revenues received from resource companies from 1999 to 2008 was \$106 million. The NWT fuel tax revenues received from resource companies from 1999-2000 to 2008-2009 was \$63 million.

In August 2008, the GNWT provided the Prime Minister with a proposal to resolve the outstanding devolution issues; this included a response to Canada's resource revenue sharing proposal. I provided a briefing to Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning on this proposal. Preliminary discussions with Canada on the GNWT proposal have commenced. Aboriginal governments have been provided the details of this proposal and are regularly updated on discussions with Canada.

In addition to our agreement with Canada, we remain committed to our resource revenue sharing AIP with aboriginal governments.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a chart providing the available federal resource revenue from non-renewable resource development in the three territories in the previous 10 years including the following categories: Norman Wells project profits, oil and gas leases and royalties, quarrying royalties and mining revenues. The federal government does not release information for the Northwest Territories separately, but we believe that most of the revenues shown come from the Northwest Territories. The chart includes Yukon mining revenues up to 2003-04, when resource revenues from these sources were transferred to Yukon. It includes mining and oil and gas revenues from the NWT and Nunavut for the full period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 7-16(3):
ACTIVITIES OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 7-16(3) asked by Mr. Ramsay on March 11, 2009, regarding the Activities of the Northwest Territories Business Development Investment Corporation.

1. Are Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) delivery agents working closely with the Business Investment Development Corporation (BDIC) to help promote BDIC programs in the regions according to the service agreement established with ITI in 2005?

The April 1, 2005, agreement for services between BDIC and ITI engages the department as an agent of the BDIC for the delivery of programs and services in accordance with the NWT BDIC Accountability Framework, which addresses the roles and responsibilities of the BDIC and ITI in delivering the BDIC's financial (loan and bonds) programs.

Regional ITI staff attend conference and tradeshows and, when in smaller communities, meet with community leaders and businesspeople to promote the services of the BDIC.

2. From April 1, 2008, to present, what is the number in total dollar amount of BDIC loans processed by ITI and approved in accordance with the agreement for services in the current fiscal year?

Under the April 1, 2005, agreement for services between BDIC and ITI, all loan applications are received and evaluated by ITI's regional offices. Based on the amount requested and the amount of existing loans to the client and/or related parties, the decision on the request is made by either:

- The regional superintendent (ITI) (amounts up to \$200,000) or
- The BDIC (amounts over \$200,000).

From April 1, 2008, to March 13, 2009, loan requests worth \$12,757,270 were received. Of the loans requested:

- \$3,648,926 worth are pending the completion of the application package or a decision;
- \$450,000 worth were withdrawn by the client before a decision was made,
- \$845,960 worth were declined, and
- \$7,812,384 worth were approved. Of the loans approved:
 - \$901,545 worth were approved by the regional superintendents (ITI), and
 - \$6,910,839 worth were approved by the BDIC.

3. What are the BDIC loan balances for March 31, as of 2006, 2007 and 2008?

On March 31, 2006, the BDIC's loan portfolio totaled \$47,090,539.

On March 31, 2007, the BDIC's loan portfolio totaled \$46,112,577.

On March 31, 2008, the BDIC's loan portfolio totaled \$41,704,940.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 8-16(3):
DEHCHO PROCESS AND
PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 8-16(3) asked by Mr. Menicoche on March 12, 2009, regarding the Dehcho Process and Protected Areas Strategy.

General Observations

The GNWT fully supports the successful conclusion and implementation of aboriginal rights agreements throughout the NWT, including the Dehcho Process negotiations. The GNWT, as represented by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, has a fully staffed negotiating team that attends all sessions and makes every effort to contribute to the negotiations in a productive manner. However, as the questions indicate, there are always challenges associated with negotiations throughout the Northwest Territories, including the Dehcho Process. In an effort to share some of the table specific challenges with the MLA for Nahendeh, at least two briefings have taken place to provide status reports and discuss the dynamics at the Dehcho and Acho Dene Koe tables.

It should also be noted that all parties at negotiations have bilateral meetings from time to time. For example, the federal government has had bilateral meetings with the Dehcho negotiating team and the territorial government's negotiating team. Dehcho leaders have also taken the opportunity to meet with federal Ministers to discuss table specific issues. This is a common feature in many aboriginal rights negotiations.

Answers to the Specific Questions

1. Please provide to me the number of meetings and phone conferences he has had with the Minister Chuck Strahl of the federal government, INAC.

Depending on the political issues of the day, I am in regular contact with Minister Strahl. In addition, communications with Minister Strahl's office also occur regularly at the officials' level.

Specifically, I have had at least eight meetings and phone conferences with Minister Strahl (November 2007, March 2008, June 2008, August 2008 twice, January 2009, March 2009 twice), and my staff have had ongoing discussions with officials in Minister Strahl's office on a regular basis.

2. Will the Premier advise how many times these discussions were in topic to the Dehcho and the Dehcho Process?

Phone calls with Minister Strahl have not been initiated to discuss any specific topic or negotiating table. Typically, these ministerial calls deal with big

picture issues and serve as an opportunity to touch base. In that respect, discussions with Minister Strahl and his officials have at times included an exchange of information respecting the Dehcho region generally, the Dehcho Process, and discussions on the Nahanni Park Expansion.

3. Can the Premier provide the negotiation position that our Cabinet has with respect to the Dehcho negotiations process?

No. GNWT negotiators are guided by Cabinet approved mandates, which are confidential, in the same way as Dehcho and federal negotiators have mandates which are not shared publicly.

4. Will the Premier report how many of the discussions were in relation to the Nahanni National Park boundaries?

National parks are a subject for negotiations in the Dehcho Framework Agreement. The Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement also commits Canada and the Dehcho First Nations to bilaterally negotiate an interim agreement for the management of national parks. A Naha Dehé Consensus team was created by Canada and the Dehcho First Nations to do this work. From time to time, the Dehcho main table receives reports from the consensus team.

As noted above, my staff and I have engaged with Minister Strahl and his staff in discussions on the Nahanni National Park boundaries.

5. Will the Premier advise how many of these discussions were around the EdeZhie Protected Areas Strategy?

I have discussed the issue of the Nahanni National Park and the Dehcho Land Use Plan in general terms with Minister Strahl, but I do not recall having spoken to him about the EdeZhie Protected Areas Strategy specifically.

The GNWT is part of the working group considering the EdeZhie Protected Area Strategy Candidate Area. GNWT and federal officials, in collaboration with the sponsoring community, are currently reviewing the proposed protected area.

6. Please advise how many times he has met with the Dehcho grand chief and with the Dehcho leadership.

During the term of the current 16th Legislative Assembly, I have held six meetings with regional aboriginal leaders to date, with the Dehcho First Nations having been represented at five of these meetings.

I recently held a bilateral meeting with the Dehcho First Nations in Fort Simpson (January 2009) and attended their 2008 Annual General Assembly in Kakisa (June 2008). I also attended additional meetings where the Dehcho were represented, including two Dene leadership meetings (April 2008 and February 2009).

I also met with the grand chief twice in my office (February 2008, Fall 2008) and on three other occasions in the Dehcho (May 2008, August 2008, December 2008), and talked by phone with Grand Chief Antoine at least twice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 10, replies to the opening address. Item 11, petitions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Petitions

PETITION 6-16(3):
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF CHILD AND
FAMILY SERVICES ACT

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of child and family services. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 15 signatures from Inuvik residents. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the Legislative Assembly immediately conduct a comprehensive review of the Child and Family Services Act in order to recommend changes to this legislation and its administration that would be more effective in supporting NWT families and more respectful of northern families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

PETITION 7-16(3):
LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY IN ULUKHAKTOK

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the long-term care facility in Ulukhaktok. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 88 signatures of residents of Ulukhaktok. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the government build, maintain and staff a long-term care facility in Ulukhaktok for elders and disabled people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 5-16(3):
AUXILIARY REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE
REPORT OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2007
ELECTION

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures is pleased to provide its Auxiliary Report on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

on the Administration of the 2007 Election and present it to the House.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures tabled its first report, Committee Report 4-16, on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2007 Election on March 11, 2009. That report stated that additional research would be undertaken on three topics:

- criminal records checks for candidates;
- special ballots; and
- strengthening enforcement.

This report is the result of the research and identifies additional recommendations by the standing committee to the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Criminal Records Checks For Candidates

The standing committee members reviewed and considered a legal opinion from the Department of Justice on whether or not persons found guilty of an indictable offense or those with criminal records could be barred from being candidates in a territorial election. It was determined that such a ban would violate section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees all citizens the right to vote and to run for office, without restrictions on these rights.

The standing committee members have directed the Law Clerk and research services to examine options for a voluntary disclosure related to criminal convictions for all candidates. That information will be made available to all Members for consideration.

Special Ballots

Further to recommendations 16 and 25 contained in Committee Report 4-16(3), the standing committee further reviewed the provisions to simplify the process for the use of special ballots, making it more efficient and more likely to attract the participation of northern voters. The members of the standing committee considered the establishment of a new electoral official: the special ballots officer. This officer would be responsible for distributing and accepting all special ballots, for counting special ballots on polling day and communicating the count to the returning officers. In addition, this position would also have the authority to run mobile/advance polls. It is thought that this centralized service will result in faster turnaround of ballots by mail, could be established sooner and would be more efficient.

The committee agreed that the Chief Electoral Officer should be given the authority to use e-mail and Internet technologies for the distribution of special ballots, when the CEO is confident that the technology is secure enough for use.

In addition, the special ballots officer would be authorized to operate advance special mobile polls

for people who want to vote by special ballot, such as mobile polls at the mine sites or at NWT college campuses.

Special ballot mobile polls may be easier to deliver in our multi-electoral district setting than a regular mobile poll, as the officer does not need 19 ballot boxes and 19 different ballots. Polls could be held on both polling day and in advance of polling day and would be limited to people who are not resident in their home community at the time of the special poll. The poll locations would be established by regulation. The counting of ballots may not be able to include candidate's agents; however, two "electors" could be identified and included as witnesses. Returning officers would no longer be responsible for special ballots. The NWT elections office would incur new travel costs for any special ballot polls.

The special ballots officer would only have jurisdiction in the NWT.

Recommendation 1

That the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to establish a special ballots officer that would be responsible for special ballots and would possess the authority to hold advance mobile and polling day polls for voters not resident in their home community on polling day and at locations identified in the regulations.

Recommendation 2

That the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to give the special ballots officer the authority to use e-mail and Internet technologies for the distribution of special ballots, when the Chief Electoral Officer is confident that the technology is secure enough for use.

Improving Enforcement

The current categorization of many of the offences listed in the Elections and Plebiscites Act could be changed to allow them to be prosecuted using a "strict liability" standard. A strict liability offence is one where a person is liable for the damage even if there is no negligence or fault. With a strict liability offence, the person charged has the ability to raise a defence of due diligence (meaning, they have done all that was reasonably possible in the circumstances to avoid the offence).

Offences now considered to be "campaigning" offences could become summary conviction offences, allowing the offender to be "ticketed" under the Summary Convictions Procedures Act, and thereby simplifying the prosecution process.

Further, additional amendments to the act should be made to allow the Chief Electoral Officer to:

- enter into compliance agreements,

- issue compliance orders, and
- issue formal cautions.

Another amendment would allow late fees to be imposed on late filers of elections expenses reporting.

All of these mechanisms would increase the variety of enforcement and prevention measures available to the Chief Electoral Officer.

Recommendation 3

That the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to change the act to allow as many offences as possible to be prosecuted using a strict liability standard and as many offences as possible to be prosecuted under the Summary Convictions Procedures Act.

Recommendation 4

That the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to give the Chief Electoral Officer the power to enter into compliance agreements, issue compliance orders and issue formal cautions.

Recommendation 5

That the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended so that late fees could be imposed on late filers of elections expenses reporting.

Conclusion

This concludes the committee's auxiliary report. It is hoped that the recommendations included in this report will support the Legislative Assembly in its desire to continually improve the processes used to administer territorial elections.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the auxiliary report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2007 Election.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 5-16(3) AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CARRIED

Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Committee Report 5-16(3) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and

have Committee Report 5-16(3) moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 6:
SPECIES AT RISK (NWT) ACT

BILL 14:
AN ACT TO AMEND
THE MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to this Assembly that the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure has completed its review of Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act, and Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act.

The committee wishes to report that Bill 14 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole and also Bill 6 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

BILL 2:
SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
INVESTMENT DISPUTES ACT

BILL 15:
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW
AMENDMENT ACT, 2009

BILL 12:
SECURITIES TRANSFER ACT

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has completed a review of Bill 2, Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act; Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act; and Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009. The committee wishes to report that Bills 2 and 12 are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole and Bill 15 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and printed.

Further, Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) to have Bills 2, 12 and 15 moved to Committee of the Whole today. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 35-16(3):
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 1
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), 2009-2010

TABLED DOCUMENT 36-16(3):
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 2
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
2009-2010

TABLED DOCUMENT 37-16(3):
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 4,
2008-2009

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents entitled Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010; Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010; and Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

TABLED DOCUMENT 38-16(3):
NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE –
REMAND STATISTICS

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. Further to my Return to Written Question 5-16(3), I wish to table the following document entitled North Slave Correctional Centre - Remand Statistics. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 39-16(3):
FEDERAL REVENUES FROM NON-RENEWABLE
NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE NORTH

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Return to Written Question 6-16(3), I wish to table the following document entitled Federal Revenues from Non-Renewable Resources in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TABLED DOCUMENT 40-16(3):
CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER
REPORT DATED MAY 25, 2009,
RESPECTING ALLEGED BREACH BY PREMIER
ROLAND ON SECTION 75 OF THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. I wish to table the report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner dated May 25, 2009, pursuant to section 201 of the Legislative Assembly and

Executive Council Act respecting an alleged breach by Premier Floyd Roland on section 75 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

TABLED DOCUMENT 41-16(3):
CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER
REPORT DATED MARCH 25, 2009,
ALLEGATION OF JANE GROENEWEGEN THAT
PREMIER ROLAND BREACHED SECTION 86 OR
SECTION 75 OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACT

Also, I wish to table the report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner dated March 25, 2009, pursuant to section 102 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, respecting the allegation that Premier Floyd Roland breached section 86 or section 75 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

Mr. Clerk.

TABLED DOCUMENT 42-16(3):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 1-16(3)

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a response to Petition 1-16(3) provided by the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, in response to a petition tabled by Mr. Ramsay on February 4, 2009.

TABLED DOCUMENT 43-16(3):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 2-16(3)

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a response to Petition 2-16(3) from the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, in response to a petition tabled by Mrs. Groenewegen on February 4, 2009.

TABLED DOCUMENT 44-16(3):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 3-16(3)

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a response to Petition 3-16(3) from the honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services in response to a petition tabled by Mr. Glen Abernethy on February 5, 2009.

TABLED DOCUMENT 45-16(3):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 4-16(3)

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a response to Petition 4-16(3) by the honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, in response to a petition tabled by Mr. David Ramsay on February 5, 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 2, Settlement of

International Disputes Act; Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act; Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act; Tabled Document 35-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010; Tabled Document 36-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010; Tabled Document 37-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-2009; Committee Report 5-16(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Auxiliary Report on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2007 Election, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to call the committee of the whole to order. Bills 2, 12, 15, Tabled Documents 37-16(3), 35-16(3), 36-16(3), Committee Report 5-16(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish of the committee today I believe is to deal with Tabled Documents 37-16(3), 35-16(3) and 36-16(3). Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We will take a short break and we will begin with tabled documents 35, 36 and 37.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call the Committee of the Whole back to order. I'd just like to read out the items for Committee of the Whole: Bills 2, 12, 15, Committee Reports 37-16(3), 36-16(3), 35-16(3), and, again, Committee Report 5-16(3), Tabled Documents 37-16(3), 36-16(3), 35-16(3). I'd just to get clarification. What's the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish of the committee is, in fact, to deal with Bills 2, 12, 15 and Tabled Documents 37-16(3), 35-16(3) and 36-16(3). Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. With that, we'll begin with Bill 2, Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act. Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to appear before the committee today to review Bill 2, Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act. The purpose of the bill is to provide for adoption in the Northwest Territories of the Convention on the Settlement on Investment

Disputes between States and National of Other States. The convention established the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, an institution of the World Bank, in the belief that the centre would promote international investment, especially in developing countries where people are fearful of investing because of the lack of an effective means to resolve disputes.

The convention is intended to assist with the settlement of investment disputes between governments and foreign investors, providing the parties with dispute resolution services on a user-pay basis. The use of the arbitration or conciliation services is voluntary, by agreement between the parties. This bill, based on the model act developed by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, provides for the recognition and enforcement of decisions in the Northwest Territories that are made through the centre.

Over 140 countries have ratified the Convention, but Canada has not done so as it required legislation in every province and territory. The Government of Canada passed implementing legislation in March 2008, and is now making ratification of the convention a priority. Ratification of the convention would be seen as making Canada a more attractive place to do business, thereby promoting foreign investment in Canada. To date, five Canadian jurisdictions have enacted legislation to implement the convention.

The convention would provide NWT residents investing abroad and NWT companies doing business with member states with an additional option for resolving disputes, a significant benefit in member states where the courts are not as experienced or considered to be as reputable as those in Canada.

The centre would also be available to this government as an alternative means of resolving disputes in agreements that it may have with foreign companies or investors operating in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for their review and comments on the bill and would be pleased to respond to any questions the committee may have regarding Bill 2. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. At this time I'd like to call the chair of the standing committee which reviewed the bill to make comments. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 2, Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act, on May 25, 2009. Bill 2 will allow for the adoption of the convention on the Settlement on Investment Disputes between States and National of Other States. The Settlement of

International Investment Disputes Act will allow parties to use the rules for arbitration or conciliation under this convention to settle disputes that deal with international investments. The use of the convention is voluntary, however, once the parties have agreed to use the mechanisms and a decision has been made, the contracting states are required to have mechanisms in place to enforce any award that has been granted as an outcome of arbitration or conciliation. This bill allows the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories to have jurisdiction and powers with respect to the recognition and enforcement of such awards.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 2, Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 2. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. At this time I'd like to ask the Minister sponsoring the bill if he would bring in any witnesses. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that the Minister brings in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Minister Lafferty, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have Mark Aitken, director of legislation, and Gary MacDougall, director of legal registries. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. General comments in regard to Bill 2. Clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. With that, I'd just like to defer you, in consideration of the clause-by-clause, we start in regard to the schedule of the bill, which is on page 5. So we can turn to page 5. Does committee agree that we defer to clauses and deal with the schedule first?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. Turn to page 5. Page 5 in regard to the schedule. Agree to the schedule?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Can we turn back to page 2. Bill 2, Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 13 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that we have concluded Bill 2, and it is now ready for third reading?

---Bill 2 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that, I'd like to thank the Minister and thank the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses out.

Next item for Committee of the Whole is Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act. With that, I'd like to defer to the Minister responsible for sponsoring the bill, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to be here to talk about Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a set of rules for the transfer and holding of securities, in particular the transfer of securities by electronic means across provincial, territorial and international borders consistent with the rules across North America.

Several years ago, it was recognized that Canadian law relating to the transfer and creation of interest in shares and other securities had become outdated. The law did not reflect changes in securities market practices that had occurred over the previous 25 years, particularly the holding and trading of securities electronically through multiple parties. The law was still based on a paper-based system in which a share certificate was provided to the shareholder. This was no longer the reality in the case of publicly traded securities and the result was a degree of uncertainty as to the validity of many transactions.

Securities market participants and Canadian financial services industries agreed, without exception, to the need for modern uniform legislation to improve the efficiency and legal basis of the Canadian Securities Settlement System. The Canadian Securities Settlement System handles an enormous quantity and value of transactions on a daily basis. Issuers, investors and financial institutions rely heavily on the system. It is crucial to the continual growth and competitiveness of the Canadian capital market that a system be supported by a modern legal foundation that produces predictable results, especially in a situation involving cross-border transactions.

As a result, the model on which the bill is based was developed by the Canadian Securities Administrators and the Uniform Law Conference of Canada after a period of extensive consultation with industry stakeholders. The Council of Ministers responsible for security regulations support this bill

in its effort to harmonize laws relating to securities. In the past few years, eight provinces have enacted this legislation.

This bill provides a solid legal foundation for existing practices and supports the further development of market practices in the future. While detailed rules are not directed to the general public to understand and comply with, as clients of the industry participants, the public will nevertheless be the ultimate beneficiary of this bill.

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for their review and comment on the bill and will be pleased to respond to any questions that committee members may have regarding Bill 12. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. At this time I would like to ask the chair of the standing committee who reviewed the bill if they have any comments on the bill. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act, on May 25, 2009. Bill 12 concerned commercial transfer law. The proposed Securities Transfer Act deals with modern security market practices, in particular the holding and trading of securities electronically through multiple tiers of intermediaries.

The bill follows the uniform Securities Transfer Act created by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada in 2004. It is anticipated that all Canadians, territories and provinces will adapt this modern law resulting in greater certainty as to the validity of many transactions that are already common practice for publicly traded securities.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 12. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. At this time I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if he would be bringing in any witnesses. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Committee agree that the Minister brings in his witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in.

Mr. Lafferty, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have Mark Aitken, director of legislation, and Gary MacDougall, director of legal registries. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. We are dealing with Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act. This time we are on general comments with regard to Bill 12 by Members. General comments? Clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): So we can turn to page 10 of the bill. Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act, clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 109 inclusive approved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that Bill 12 is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Bill 12 as a whole approved for third reading.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that, I'd like to thank the Minister and thank the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

As we agreed, the next item to deal with is Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009. At this time I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for sponsoring the bill, Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the purpose of Bill 15, the Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009, is to amend various statutes of the Northwest Territories for which minor changes are proposed or errors or inconsistencies have been identified.

Each amendment included in the bill had to meet the following criteria:

- a) it must not be controversial;
- b) it must not involve the spending of public funds;
- c) it must not prejudicially affect rights;
- d) it must create a new offence or subject a new class of persons to an existing offence.

Departments responsible for the various statutes being amended have reviewed and approved the changes. Most amendments proposed in Bill 15 are minor in nature and many consist of technical corrections to a statute. Other changes have the effect of repealing certain statutory provisions that have expired or have otherwise ceased to have effect. The amendments are of such a nature that the preparation and legislative consideration of individual bills to correct each statute would be time consuming for the government and the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for their review and comments on the bill and would be pleased to respond to any question the committee members may have on Bill 15. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. At this time I'd like to ask the chair of the standing committee responsible for reviewing the bill if he has any general comments. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009, on May 25, 2009. This bill makes minor changes to 18 statutes in the Northwest Territories. A non-substantive amendment was made to the bill by committee motion and with the concurrence of the Minister. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. This concludes committee's opening comments on Bill 15. Individual members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. At this time I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he will be bringing in witnesses. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that the Minister brings in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in.

Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witness.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I have Mark Aitken, director of legislation. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witness. At this time I'd like to ask for general comments, in regard to the bill, by members. General comments? Clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clause-by-clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009, reprinted. Moving to page 1, Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009, clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 18 inclusive approved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that Bill 15 is now ready for third reading as amended and reprinted?

---Bill 15 as a whole approved for third reading.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to thank the Minister and the witness. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witness out.

As we agreed, we will begin with Tabled Document 37-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-2009. With that, I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the supp, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger, for any general comments in regards to this supp.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-2009. This document requests authority for additional appropriations of \$46,691,000 for operations expenditures for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

There are two items in this request:

1. To provide appropriation authority in the amount of \$9.3 million for the Department of the Executive, Financial Management Board Secretariat to record the increase required to the estimated accrued environment liabilities of the Government of the Northwest Territories as at March 31, 2009, as required by Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
2. To provide appropriation authority in the amount of \$37.3 million for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to record a grant-in-kind for the costs associated with community infrastructure that will be transferred to community governments. There is no outlay of cash as the funds were expensed in previous fiscal years. The impact on government operations is nil as the department will record an offsetting revenue amount.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Are there any general comments in regard to the Supplementary Appropriation No. 4? With that, I'd like to ask the Minister if he will be bringing in any witnesses. Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that the Minister brings in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Miltenberger, could you introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me the deputy minister,

Margaret Melhorn, and Sandy Kalgutkar, the deputy secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome witnesses. If we can move to page 5, 2008-2009 Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, Executive, operations expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, government accounting, not previously authorized, \$9.348 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice that \$9.348 million for environmental liabilities. We are playing catch-up, but I think we are learning how to treat the environment properly. I understand that this is also only part of what our liabilities are that we will be hearing more in the future. Is the Minister assured that we will be taking care of these liabilities so we don't accrue these sorts of costs in the future, taking care of the environment?

Secondly, is there any kind of estimate of what we can expect for costs the next time around on this same line item, the environmental liabilities? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money is going to be booked for what we anticipate our liabilities yet to be expensed. The money is not going to...As those liabilities come due, we will draw down this fund. We have, for example, booked the government, as well, over \$27 million for Giant Mine that is being...That was done a number of years ago. As this fund is drawn down, then we will deal with those. We agree with the Member that the intent is to do the proper planning so that we can build in these costs into the cost of the development so that there is no further cost to the taxpayer. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate the response. I understand the comments from the Minister. Perhaps there is not an estimate of what the future cost will be that are not yet accounted for in this proposal. I am wondering whether any of these that are accounted for with the \$9.348 million are Commissioner's land that is leased to other holders other than GNWT. Are all of these environmental liabilities on Commissioner's land that we actually are off-buying ourselves?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, we provided the list to committee. I would be happy to share that. We have all the details of these known liabilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We look forward to you sharing that information. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the list in front of me. It is listed by department. May

I assume, then, that if it is just a department listed and not another entity, that if it is just a GNWT department, that it is, in fact, a GNWT facility that is on that land and it is not leased out to others? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: When I look at the list, there is one under new sites at Deline that is attributed to MACA that is referenced. There is a former site of a laundry drycleaner. I wouldn't be able to speak definitively on that one, but the rest are water treatment plants, the highway maintenance facility, airports, schools, tank farms, I would say that they would be government assets. But I have to commit to get the information on the Deline site.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay, we are dealing with Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-2009. Executive, operations expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, government accounting, not previously authorized, \$9.348 million. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we had gone through this in committee. I just wanted to get clarification on page 6. It starts off with a number and then the grant-in-kind net book value of the transfers occurs, not previously approved. That adds together for a total. The same number is added again, which appears to increase the total by the same amount twice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Beaulieu, we are still on page 5. Page 6 would be a problem of its own. Maybe we can conclude page 5 and then we will get to that, unless the Minister wants to respond to the question now.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to ask the Member to repeat the question. I think he is asking whether the \$37 million has been counted twice.

MR. BEAULIEU: Are we on page 6? Okay. Just on the regional operations, there is a number in the \$37 million grant-in-kind added and it becomes another number and then down the right side of the column, it appears to be added again. It increases that original number by the same amount two times.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We are still on page 5. We can hold our questions until we get to the page we are asking the questions on. With that, we will hold the question until we get to page 6.

Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-1009, Executive, operations expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, government accounting, not previously authorized, \$9.348 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total, Financial Management Board Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$9.348 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$9.348 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. We are on page 6. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to the question raised by Mr. Beaulieu on page 6?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will start with the deputy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Melhorn.

MS. MELHORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The line titled regional operations is one activity within the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. The total activity approved to date is \$116 million. This supplementary appropriation is seeking approval for \$37 million, which would bring total regional operations to \$153 million. The line entitled total department is the current appropriation for total department adding \$37 million brings the requested appropriation for the total department to \$190 million. That is the way it should work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: I understand. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$37.343 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$37.343 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that the review of tabled document 37-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-2009, is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mrs. Groenewegen.

COMMITTEE MOTION 16-16(3):
CONCURRENCE OF TD 37-16(3):
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 4,
2008-2009,
CARRIED

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 37-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-2009, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 37-16(3) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is on the floor. The motion is being considered. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that the review of Tabled Document 37-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-2009, is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. With that, I would like to thank the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses out, please.

As we read the next item, we are going to deal with Tabled Document 35-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2009-2010. With that, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the supp for opening comments. Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2009-2010 (Operation Expenditures). This document outlines an increase of \$4.27 million in operations expenditures for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The major items in this supplementary are requesting two:

- 1) \$3.6 million for the Department of Health and Social Services for the increased cost associated with a new contract between the Government of the Northwest Territories and NWT positions.
- 2) \$485,000 for the Department of Transportation to continue research and development projects funded under the Building Canada Plan for which funding was approved and lapsed in 2008-2009.

I am prepared to review the details of the Supplementary Appropriation document. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. With that, will the Minister be bringing in witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree to bring in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me is Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance, and Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar, the deputy secretary for the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. Are there general comments in regard to Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2009-2010? Are there any comments? We can move to page 3, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$3.785 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$3.785 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We are on page 4, Transportation, operations expenditures, corporate services, not previously authorized, \$485,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Highways, not previously authorized, \$300,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$785,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 5, Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, tourism and parks, not previously authorized, negative \$300,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$300,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mrs. Groenewegen.

COMMITTEE MOTION 17-16(3):

CONCURRENCE OF TD 35-16(3):

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 1,
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), 2009-2010,
CARRIED

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 35-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, (Operations Expenditures) 2009-2010, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 35-16(3) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is being circulated. To the motion.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree the review of the Tabled Document 35-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2009-2010, is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that, I would like to thank the Minister and thank the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses out.

Okay, the next item for Committee of the Whole is Tabled Document 36-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2009-2010. With that, I will ask the Minister if he has any opening comments in regard to this supp. Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2009-2010 (Infrastructure Expenditures). This document outlines an increase of \$69.835 million for operations expenditures, and an increase of \$101.669 million for capital investment expenditures in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. To clarify the document, of the \$172 million in the total additional appropriation being requested through this supplementary appropriation, \$112 million is for the carry-over of funding for infrastructure project, funding for which was approved and lapsed in 2008-2009. The carry-overs in this supplementary appropriation represent about 34 percent of the revised 2008-2009 capital budget. It declined from 48 percent and 43 percent for the two previous fiscal periods. I, therefore, encourage that some of the initial steps of the new capital planning process such as the fall approval of the capital estimates have had a positive result in helping lower this request. As we move to fully implement the other steps in the process including ensuring that the scope of project is more clearly defined and therefore project budgets based on more stringent estimates, I anticipate the level carry-over threat will be lower.

Other major items include:

1. \$43 million for the acceleration of projects identified under Building Canada Plan Amended and Restated Agreement;
2. \$3.2 million for projects identified under the Canada-Northwest Territories Infrastructure Stimulus Fund 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 agreements;
3. \$3.1 million for the Department of Education Culture and Employment for the replacement of the Western Arctic Research Centre in Inuvik. The total estimated cost for the centre is \$11 million which is fully funded under the new

federal government's Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund;

4. \$3.1 million for the Department of Education Culture and Employment to advance the Diamond Jenness Secondary School renovation project in Hay River.

If approved, the revised capital plan for 2009-2010 will be \$425 million. We do not have the capacity within the NWT to deliver this plan in one year. Ensuring successful timing and delivery of this substantial investment will require this to be in our capital plan for the next one or two years. There is no capacity within the system to do more. People may therefore ask if this level of investment is appropriate now. I would say yes that is it for several reasons. Lack of deferred maintenance has resulted in significant deterioration of government and community infrastructure. Previous reductions to capital budgets has resulted in an aged infrastructure that needs replacing. In 2008, capital spending in the resource sector was \$1.3 billion. In 2009, it was \$721 million, a decline of over \$600 million, or over 45 percent. The NWT economy is experiencing a downturn due to mining, oil and gas activity slowdowns. These capital projects will help stimulate the economy. Construction costs are also lower than they have been for several years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you Mr. Minister. With that I would like to ask if you will be bringing in any witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Committee agreed that Mr. Minister brings in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Mr. Minister, can you introduce the witnesses.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate left I have Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance; to my immediate right, Mr. Michael Aumond, deputy minister of Public Works and Services; to his immediate right, Mr. Russ Neudorf, deputy minister of Transportation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. Are there any general comments to Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2009-2010? Comments? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am really pleased that we have this huge opportunity with our government to revisit some of the capital investment expenditures for 2009-10 and some of the investments from the federal government dollars.

I just wanted to continue to reiterate some of the transportation concerns from the Nahendeh region. Something that I have been trying to get on the books, at least the long-term capital plan were several...(inaudible)...that is going to be addressed, one of them, of course, is the Trout Lake relocation. And we can see that it is under discussion here.

As well as some of the things that are not on here, I just want to make mention that one of the priorities of my constituents and my riding is to continue to look at the long-term chipsealing of Highway No. 1 from the Providence Junction over to, to complete that section over to Checkpoint Junction, as well as to look at from the B.C. border back to Fort Liard. Having these done is the key strategy to improving the economic well-being of my residents, to increase tourism, to increase traffic flow and so that is something that I am looking to get on the capital plan; it is not here.

As well, I am pleased to see a continued investment in Highway No. 7, in the section that failed, and I will continue to construct that there, Mr. Chairman. But overall, I think that we have a beginning here with the capital investment expenditure that is before us. At the same time, I would like to reiterate some of the concerns according to myself and my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you Mr. Chairman. We appreciate the Member's concern on behalf of his constituents. We have before us the single biggest capital plan for the Government of the Northwest Territories' history. And while we recognize that it is large, there are going to be challenges and issues. We do recognize that there is a far greater list of needs than there are resources, but this will give us a very good start, as the Member indicated, and we will put all our efforts collectively into getting all delivered as soon possible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next on the list I have Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like to see some more money going into Highway No. 6. I am pleased with the fact that there is probably enough money in Highway No. 6 to chipseal half of that highway and probably do some work on the other half, but not enough money there to complete the entire project right from Fort Resolution all the way into where Pine Point used to be. It is paved to there. It would be good to see chipseal to there. I would like to see the government examine the completion of that road, for sure.

One of the more important items, as far as within the communities go, inside both of the communities of Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e, getting some sort of permanent dust suppression there. I recognize that money flows to the communities but I still think that there should be more money flowing to the communities for them to address that important issue. I speak for the two communities in Tu Nedhe, but at the same time I am aware that many of the small communities have real serious issues with dust and I think that for the health of the community and just the overall well-being of the community, I think that government should actually work with the municipalities to address that issue. If there is more money being put into the communities, I think that this government should be sitting down with the communities and making this a priority. It seems to be a very high priority for the citizens of my two communities and also I have spoken to other people from small communities who have very similar concerns and that I think that is just a basic need of the people of the Northwest Territories, not to have to deal with dust problems all summer long, and mud problems all spring long. So I would like to see certainly this government start to work with various municipalities, as far as I am concerned, specifically for Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e to deal with the dust problem. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, we're prepared to work with the Member and, as we indicated in our meetings with the small, rural, remote communities committee, the idea of sitting down with the committee and some of the members from the communities and Association of Communities would help us initiate that process.

I would like to point out, though, that while we managed to keep government expenditures to 2 percent, the money that flowed through the communities was kept at 9 percent in recognition of the fact that there are needs at the community level.

So I take the Member's concern and we'll have those discussions about working with communities to see how we can best move on the priorities from constituencies in communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments. Detail. With that we can move to page 5 in regard to the 2009-2010 Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, (Infrastructure Expenditures), Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, community operations, not previously authorized, \$46.479 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): ...(inaudible)...\$46.479 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Go to page 6, Municipal and Community Affairs, continued, operations expenditures, not previously authorized. Sorry, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$20.091 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$66.570 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 7, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$1.078 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.078 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 8, Transportation, operations expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$2.187 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$2.187 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 9, Legislative Assembly, capital investment expenditures, Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$254,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$254,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 10, Finance, capital investment expenditures, general, not previously authorized, \$5.413 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$5.413 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 11, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital investment expenditures, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$308,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$308,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 12, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$4.095 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Technology Service Centre, not previously authorized, \$1.337 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Going on to page 13, Public Works and Services, continued, capital investment expenditures, petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$3.267 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$8.699 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 14, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$11.534 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$13.728 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$25.262 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): On page 15, Justice, capital investment expenditures, courts, not previously authorized, \$187,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$1.337 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Services to the public, not previously authorized, \$447,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.971 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 16, Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$11.142 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$7.004 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$18.146 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 17, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$5.091 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Marine, not previously authorized, \$142,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Road licensing and safety, not previously authorized, \$760,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 18, Transportation continued, capital investment expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$33.469 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$39.462 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering, I had a question on page 17, I was wondering if we could go back, seek your indulgence to go back to 17 for a quick question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 17?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Ramsay, page 17.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question on the renovation to the Yellowknife licence issuing office. Personally I have had good experience going to the road licensing officer here in Yellowknife, downtown Yellowknife, but I have heard from other people who experience long waits and they are there for hours and there never seems to be -- even though there are three cubicles in that office -- three people working there, and oftentimes one cubicle is closed. I am just wondering, with the renovations, are we going to see an increased level of service to the public with those renovations being conducted there? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer that question, with your indulgence, to Mr. Neudorf.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Neudorf.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you. This project here will not change the number of agents that we have that provide services to the public, but we are going to renovate the office to make it a little more functional. So we are going to improve the waiting area, we are going to provide a little better separation from the people who are waiting in the office and those that are getting service, so a little

bit more privacy. Then we are going to just update the functional, improve the layout of the counters where the agents provide their service to the public. So it should make their life, their operations a little bit easier and we'll get a little bit better improvement in service that way. We are within the same general envelope, the same area, so just improvement to what is happening there.

We do have other initiatives underway where we are looking at the information system and seeing if we can improve that mainly through some on-line services and take away some of the demand that is required for people to come to the office, but that is a separate initiative that we have underway. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I thank the deputy minister for that and I do look forward to the renovations that are going to take place there and the work that's ongoing. Just as an aside, I think if there is an issue out there -- and I'm not sure if other Members have heard the same issue -- maybe we do need to look at staffing levels at that office and make sure that we do have it staffed adequately to service the public. That's a discussion we can have down the road in the fall during business plans. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just will note the Member's comments and will look forward to that discussion, as the Member suggested, during business plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. Mr. Yakeleya, page 17.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to get some clarification from the Minister in terms of the air terminal building rehab at Fort Good Hope in the books. Is this something that we will see become a reality in this fiscal year, in terms of that building getting some work done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Deputy minister of Finance, Mr. Neudorf.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, it's our intention to proceed with the improvements to the terminal building. This involves improving some insulation and the siding on the building. So we do hope to get it done this summer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay, have we concluded page 17?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): If we can turn back to page 18, Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, tourism and parks, not previously authorized, \$1.567 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.567 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 20, Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$77,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Forest management, not previously authorized, \$436,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Wildlife, not previously authorized, \$74,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$587,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Tabled Document 36-16(3) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mrs. Groenewegen.

COMMITTEE MOTION 18-16(3):
CONCURRENCE OF TD 36-16(3):
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 2
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
2009-2010,
CARRIED

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 36-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009-2010, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 36-16(3) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Tabled Document 36-16(3) is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Tabled Document 36-16(3) has been concluded. With that, I'd like to thank the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses out.

With that, I believe that's the end of the items that we said we were going to deal with today. So with

that, I'd like to ask Mrs. Groenewegen what's the wish of the committee.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I will rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 2, Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act; Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act; Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009; Tabled Document 37-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 4, 2008-2009; Tabled Document 35-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2009-2010 (Operations Expenditures); and Tabled Document 36-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2009-2010 (Infrastructure Expenditures, and would like to report progress, with three motions being adopted and that Bills 2, 12 and 15 are ready for third reading and that consideration of Tabled Documents 37-16(3), 35-16(3) and 36-16(3) are concluded and that the House concur in those estimates and that three appropriation bills to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

---Carried

Item 23, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Thursday, May 28, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions

9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy
 - Committee Report 4-16(3), Report on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2007 Election
 - Committee Report 5-16(3), Auxiliary Report on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2007 Election
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 2, Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act
 - Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act
 - Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 28, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.