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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, November 2, 2009****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, 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

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, Mr. Roland.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 28-16(4):
MEETING OF MINISTERS OF ABORIGINAL
AFFAIRS AND LEADERS OF NATIONAL
ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to report on the results of last week's meeting between federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and leaders of the five national aboriginal organizations.

This meeting marks the renewal of a national process involving all levels of government and national aboriginal organizations to advance aboriginal issues. Aboriginal Affairs Ministers and the leaders of the national aboriginal organizations came together for the first time in more than four years to find ways of working together in an effort to address a broad range of issues facing First Nation, Metis and Inuit peoples today.

At the 2009 Council of the Federation meeting, provincial and territorial Premiers held a pre-meeting with national aboriginal organization leaders and announced their intention to form a ministerial working group with national aboriginal leaders and the federal government.

This working group was directed to examine how governments and national aboriginal organizations can work more effectively to improve the quality of life for aboriginal peoples living in all parts of Canada. At this time, the focus of this working group is on results-oriented action in the areas of education and skills training and economic development, with the intention of having this action serve as the foundation for a possible First Ministers meeting on aboriginal issues in 2010.

I believe that this meeting marks a significant milestone in addressing the difficult and complex socio-economic conditions often encountered by aboriginal people in Canada. Participants acknowledged that the area of health and well-being is fundamental to achieving progress in education and economic development. It will be of utmost importance that the federal government works with its provincial, territorial and aboriginal partners for this process to succeed.

At the meeting I was pleased to share some of our success stories, showing how we are working with our northern partners to support the aspirations of our aboriginal population. I also took the opportunity to learn from others about the good things going on all over this country. It was agreed that we will meet again early next year to advance work in the identified priority areas and I look forward to reporting further progress at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 29-16(4):
MINING INDUSTRY IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to provide an update on the mining industry in the Northwest Territories.

Economic activity relies strongly on the use of natural resources. We live in a global era with a rapidly expanding world population dependent on the sustainable development of resources. Fortunately, in the Northwest Territories, we are blessed with an endowment of non-renewable resources and have been successful in using these to sustain economic growth.

Mineral exploration has brought significant economic opportunities to our Territory.

In 2007, almost \$200 million was spent on mineral exploration in the Northwest Territories. This means contracts to fly planes and helicopters to exploration sites and camps. This means jobs to unload supplies, prepare camp meals, carry out geological and geophysical work and walk the exploration grids. We have the local capacity to fulfil what is required by this sector. However, the exploration sector has been very challenged during the past two years. For 2009, forecasted spending

on exploration has dropped from almost \$200 million to less than \$30 million.

We are engaged in positive work to support industry and our economic growth of income and competitiveness. For example, the territorial and federal governments are partnering to gather new geosciences data. It is estimated that every \$1 million of government investment in the geosciences knowledge base stimulates \$5 million in private sector exploration. This, in turn, could result in the discovery of an estimated \$125 million worth of new resources. We will continue to do our utmost to realize sustainable Northwest Territories opportunities from this development.

Developed mines have also brought significant opportunity to Northwest Territories residents and businesses.

Since our first diamond mines began construction in 1996, we have seen almost 14,000 person years of northern resident employment. Since 1996, the diamond mines have bought more than \$7 billion of goods and services from northern businesses. More than \$3 billion of those purchases were from aboriginal northern businesses.

In our experience, partnerships are integral to successful resource development. Like the exploration sector, mining in the Northwest Territories has been challenged in the last few years. In 2008-09, the Diavik and De Beers Snap Lake diamond mines planned temporary shutdowns and the BHP Billiton Ekati Diamond Mine reduced expansion plans in response to the global economic downturn. Diavik and De Beers implemented their temporary shutdowns planned for this summer. I am pleased to report, however, that the temporary shutdowns planned for this winter will not be taking place due to improving economic conditions.

Throughout this, the diamond mines have remained sincere in their original commitments to the North. As a mark of this sincerity, as I mentioned last week, they are working with us under the Workforce Memorandum of Understanding to increase their northern resident employees.

Northern spending by the mines is exceeding predictions. Reported purchases from northern businesses in 2008 ranged from 74 percent to 83 percent of all purchases at each of the three diamond mines.

What is needed now is for the federal government to live up to their responsibilities and regenerate mining and exploration in the Northwest Territories. The federal government receives handsome royalties from these developments so it is in their best interest to make this commitment. The Government of the Northwest Territories will be doing its part. We will be lobbying the federal government to remind them of this responsibility and the importance of this investment. And

investment will fuel national income growth and is essential to the sustainable economic growth of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 30-16(4): CAREER FOCUSING

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today marks the beginning of Career Week and I am very happy to share details about some of the many events and activities going on across the Northwest Territories. Regional education authorities, community groups and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment have workshops, career fairs and other activities taking place throughout the Territory to mark the importance of career development planning.

The South Slave region is kicking off this week with a chilli luncheon and career presentation by Thebacha Business Development Services at the Fort Smith Career Centre. Later in the week, the career centre is hosting the Condensed True Colours Workshop, which helps people build understanding of which careers may be best for them.

During a presentation today from northern student services advisor Nona German, Grade 12 students at Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik will learn about post-secondary education in Alberta. Thursday features the Guiding Circles Workshop at the Inuvik Centennial Library, which is designed to guide people toward possible career paths.

This week in Yellowknife, the department's North Slave office hosts a resume writing workshop and information sessions on career development and apprenticeship programs in the Northwest Territories. Aurora College learning centres in Ndilo and Behchoko feature career planning workshops and apprenticeship information sessions.

Mr. Speaker, Aurora College students and residents of Fort Simpson are working on a career-themed mural to be displayed at the Open Sky Creative Society Friday at the Coffee House and wrapping up the week in Fort Simpson also on Friday is an open house and luncheon at the career centre.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to these activities, Wednesday is Take Our Kids to Work Day. Throughout the Territory, kids have the chance to experience working life and develop interest in possible careers with their parents and guardians. On Wednesday, my daughter Cheyenne and I are spending the day together and I am sure she will appreciate the opportunity to learn outside of her school. I encourage all parents to bring their Grade

9 children to work to benefit from this important work experience.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to our plans for Career Week, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is pleased to share with you an exciting new partnership with BHP Billiton that helps prepare students for post-secondary educational pursuits. Our department values and respects diversity. This new partnership is a three-year pilot project called Career Focusing. Career Focusing is a great program that recognizes everyone's uniqueness and celebrates the strength in diversity.

Career Focusing provides a clear process for students to learn what motivates them and focus on their personal goals. This information then helps students make career decisions by matching their focus with opportunities in the work world.

As the lead financial partner, BHP is covering all costs related to training instructors to administer Career Focusing in schools and communities throughout the Northwest Territories. Both teachers and career development officers are getting trained to deliver the program and enable Northerners to reach their full potential, lead rewarding lives and contribute to a strong and prosperous society.

Mr. Speaker, BHP will also support a three-year licence to "Career Cruising," an on line career planning and information tool for all Northwest Territories schools, libraries, career development offices and Aurora College campuses. The department is pleased to work with BHP in equipping our educational facilities with increased access to information and resources and appreciates the company's commitment to our students.

Career Focusing is a process that targets students at different grade levels. The program has been implemented in many jurisdictions throughout Canada and is extremely successful. This past September, Mr. Speaker, the developers of this program were in Yellowknife high schools supporting the first phase of the program's implementation. They also led a select number of teachers and career development officers through the first phase of Career Focusing instructor training.

In closing, I want to emphasize the importance of lifelong learning and career development. These programs and activities support our most valuable resource, our people, in contributing to a strong and prosperous society. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CENTRE FOR NORTHERN FAMILIES FUNDING DIFFICULTIES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak on the urgent situation facing the Centre for Northern Families. Every night up to 23 women have had to flee their homes and find safety at the centre. The centre further provides a prenatal nutrition program, a family support program, a daycare and early childhood development program, a weekly drop-in medical and sexually transmitted infection clinic for women, and a youth suicide prevention and addiction treatment program to name only a few, all important priorities of this government.

GNWT funding to the centre totals about \$400,000 a year in return for this amazing array for vital services, which are nationally and internationally as well as locally recognized. Right now the centre faces a financial crisis, a deficit of about \$350,000 including about \$200,000 to Revenue Canada largely built up due to an unfortunate accounting failure, but no ill intent. This amount is roughly equal to the rent they pay the Housing Corporation for their building, which they cannot afford to purchase.

This House has been reviewing capital estimates and show significant cost overruns in some departments' projects, some in the millions of dollars. It is not good, but these things happen and sometimes we have to look at how we fix critical problems and not point fingers of blame. While we casually approve millions of dollars for such overruns under the variably interpreted category of forced growth or unexpected expenditures, the Centre for Northern Families has asked for and been refused emergency funding to manage its deficit so its doors can remain open and its services continued.

I will be calling on the Minister today to take that action or explain how she intends to house 23 women in need of shelter each night. The centre's executive director, Arlene Hache, will be in Ottawa on Friday to accept the Order of Canada for the very work...

---Applause

...for the very work that we are letting be terminated by refusing the required support or leading the charge to resolve. It will be a shame if Ms. Hache's appearance on the national stage coincides with the forced closure of the Centre for Northern Families.

This also raises the larger issue of the current child and family services review.

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

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, colleagues. This also raises the larger issue of the current child and family services review. Informed input from the Centre for Northern Families and other advocacy groups are critical to the success of that review. If we want good new law, we need the best experienced advice we can get. I will be asking the Minister what resources she intends to make available to the Centre for Northern Families and others to help them prepare a detailed, well researched input on the basis of the terms of reference just adopted by the House. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GYMNASIUM FOR ECOLE ALLAIN ST-CYR

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to follow up on a Member's statement and questions made by my colleague Mr. Ramsay from two Wednesdays ago. Over the last several months, I received a large number of letters from parents and students who attend the Ecole Allain St-Cyr. They continue to be concerned and frustrated that their children are attending the school without gym facilities. I share the frustration.

Physical education is a critical portion of a child's development. It is about providing children with the knowledge, skill, capacity, value and enthusiasm to maintain healthy lifestyles into adulthood. Many physical education programs are designed to promote physical fitness, to develop motor skills, to instil knowledge and understanding of rules, concepts and strategies which will be of value throughout a person's life. A healthy body leads to a healthy mind, which helps youth excel through their school years and well into the future. So by building facilities without gymnasiums, we are making it more difficult for schools to provide these important lessons to our youth. I acknowledge that alternate arrangements have been made to facilitate physical education within Ecole Allain St-Cyr; unfortunately, I don't think they are suitable.

The majority of the school year falls within winter. Asking young children to travel between schools and the multiplex or other locations in the dead of winter at 40 below zero is unfair and irresponsible. It increases the school board's difficulty in delivering quality physical education. I was happy to hear the Minister say that discussions with the Minister of Heritage are ongoing. Unfortunately, it also sounds like we are in a holding pattern of waiting for a response from the federal government.

On behalf of the board and the parents, I want to encourage the Minister and his department to take a more proactive stance on this file. Stop waiting for a response to take action. Set up more meetings with the federal government. Obtain the funding required to move forward with this phase two and build the much required gym for Ecole Allain St-Cyr. Let's stop talking and start doing. Let's help the children and adolescents of the Yellowknife's Francophone community by building facilities they need in their schools to reach their full potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON THIEVES TARGETING UNLOCKED MOTOR VEHICLES

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to speak about protecting your property from thieves. I've lived in Yellowknife for almost 30 years. There was a time when I remember that most people thought nothing of not locking their homes when they went out shopping or to visit friends, and locking your vehicle was certainly not your first instinct when you arrived at your destination.

Times have changed, Mr. Speaker. Like many Yellowknifers, I have been hit by these roaming bands of thieves who target vehicles that are left unlocked. It didn't happen at the store. It didn't happen at work. It happened right in my own driveway. In July I had made the mistake of leaving my wallet in the centre console and the thieves took the couple hundred dollars I had and all the spare change that was in my vehicle that night. Fortunately, the thieves didn't grab the entire wallet; they were after cash. Again, this was right out of my own driveway.

Mr. Speaker, the RCMP caught a pair of individuals at the beginning of September who they believe were responsible for a number of thefts that were occurring around Yellowknife. However, thieves are still operating in the city, targeting unlocked vehicles. They are looking for items they can sell quickly -- likely phones, cameras, computers, i-Pods -- and any money they can find. These thieves are working many areas of the city: the Finlayson Drive area, Bourque Crescent, Gitzel Street, Con Road and in the downtown core. No area is safe from these thieves who are preying on people who forget to lock their vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, money and goods can be replaced, but when a digital camera is stolen which contains thousands of pictures of children, family and special events, it's something that just cannot be replaced and you can't put a price on that type of loss.

I'd like to thank the RCMP for all they're doing to try to apprehend these thieves and trying to get them off of our streets. They obviously have no respect for other people's property and think nothing about stealing.

This recent wave of vehicle break-ins undoubtedly speaks to a bigger issue and that is drug use in our city. These thieves, no doubt, are looking for quick cash or something they can turn into quick cash to feed their addiction.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to remind people to lock their doors, especially in their vehicles and in their homes. That is the best deterrent, Mr. Speaker. Just remember to lock your doors. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRANSFER OF GNWT POSITIONS TO SMALLER COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. Speaker, today I'll use my Member's statement to talk about the decentralization of territorial government positions to smaller communities such as Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of the GNWT positions are staffed here in Yellowknife and the decentralization and delegation of authorities is something we need to look at. We should do so within the regime of this government, the 16th Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I recommend that this government start the process of negotiating a transfer of positions to the smaller communities as soon as possible.

In the past, the GNWT had tradespersons, renewable resource people, social program jobs in smaller communities; however, for some reason or another, many of these positions were eliminated or moved. Mr. Speaker, the employment rates in our small communities paint a dismal picture, and action is needed now. Putting GNWT positions into these smaller communities is one sure way of improving the employment situation in our smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying this cannot occur tomorrow. However, a plan to move in that direction must be implemented as soon as possible. This will not be an easy task. However, creating infrastructure such as office space and housing in itself will begin to narrow the employment gaps that exist between larger communities and smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, many of our households in the smaller communities rely solely on short-term employment and social programs for income. This creates a

dependence on government resulting in continued spending pressures on the GNWT's social purse.

Mr. Speaker, if the government is to develop a strategy to move 75 to 100 positions from Yellowknife and the regional centres to small communities with a target to increasing employment rates in smaller communities by 20 percent, immediate positive results would be realized in smaller communities. As well, the overall economic picture of the NWT will also be positively impacted.

Mr. Speaker, today I'll have questions for the Premier on this at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED MACTUNG MINING OPERATION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to go back to a critical and important topic I raised earlier in this session: the proposed Mactung Mine in the Yukon. Over the next 16 years, Vancouver-based North American Tungsten wants to build, operate and eventually close the mine within 1,000 metres of Sahtu land on the NWT/Yukon border.

Mr. Speaker, North American Tungsten plans to mill 2,000 tonnes of ore every day. At peak operation, the mine will send 10 trucks each weighing 40 tonnes down the North CANOL Road every day. The mine requires construction of a dam, water reservoir, a tailings facility and several access roads. Water will be piped from the Hess River to service the mining camp and milling operation. The company also wants to store two million litres of fuel for its power generation at the mine site. Approximately 150 people would work at the mine. All of them will be flown into the mine site. If the project goes ahead, there will be a major impact on land, water and wildlife in the entire area. These impacts must stop at the border.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a chief negotiator for the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim back in the 1990s, the land on the NWT side of the border was set aside for a park. This is land within one kilometre of the proposed mine. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Sahtu have been waiting for 16 years, the estimated lifespan of the Mactung Mine, for an agreement for a park to be implemented. The land for the proposed park still has to be transferred from the federal government. This transfer hasn't happened yet because of the environmental cleanup that needs to be done in the areas of the last invasion of Southerners on our land, the CANOL oil pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, if government puts as much energy into tuning up the environment as they do allowing

it to be destroyed, that cleanup work would be done by now. Mr. Speaker, I understand that ENR staff have been working with the Yukon Environment and Parks Canada through their due process for the Mactung Mine. The deadline for comments on this project is November 23rd. Mr. Speaker, we have less than one month to act on behalf of the Sahtu people and our land. We need to ensure that development that takes place so close to our border will not have a negative impact on the Sahtu people and our land. I'll have questions for the Minister of ENR at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SENIOR FUEL SUBSIDY INCOME THRESHOLD

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Most of our elders want to stay in their own homes as long as possible. In that way they can be independent and maintain their dignity. This is less expensive for the government than continuing care. It is not uncommon for the adult son or daughter of an elder to reside in a parent's home. It is often a good solution, as the elder has someone checking on them every day and they can call upon their son or daughter in a crisis situation.

I have a constituent who lives in her own home and benefits from her son's presence. Her personal income is basically old age pension and she has received senior's home subsidy in the past. This past year, with her son's seasonal income, her household income rose above the qualifying threshold and now her son is unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, we need to recognize extenuating circumstances in the policies and regulations of the seniors' home heating subsidy. We should make the exception in these types of circumstances where an elder can only continue to live independently with someone else living in the home. I do not think we should include the caretaker's income in the calculation of net income.

We need to change our guidelines to reflect that they do need assistance at home, otherwise it is a disincentive for family members to stay with their parent and in the long run it will cost government more in continuing care.

I urge the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to review the calculation of the household income thresholds for seniors with these circumstances in mind. Mahsi cho.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF FALL CAPITAL BUDGET ON PROGRAM DELIVERY

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about programs and services and also capital this government delivers. Mr. Speaker, we made a political decision to reform our allocation to capital from the spring session to the fall session so we could meet particular demands on ice roads to ensure we had enough time for groups or companies bidding on contracts to be able to resupply those communities and get the materials in. Mr. Speaker, I think one thing we forgot is the programs and services the government also delivers which depend on a similar type of arrangement, especially through the Housing Corporation for maintenance and assistance programs, seniors programs or the CARE program or other programs we have in government, because they also depend on similar shipping requirements and the building of capital in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from a constituent of mine who was approved for CARE through the Housing Corporation. The individual came to the community last month and then wasn't able to get back into his community because of freeze-up. Now the person has half a job done and they are stuck holding the bag and they don't have any hot water in their home because of the way this contract was let. If anything, these contracts should be let in an allowable time where contractors can deliver on their contracts, can provide good housing programs to our residents and streamline so they do fit with government decision-making such as changing the capital process in the Northwest Territories.

So I would like to, at the appropriate time, ask the Minister of Housing if we have looked at the delivery system, such as CARE, to fall in line with our capital allocations and the budgetary process we have just approved and just gone through so that people aren't found in a position where they have a plumber coming to do the work, they leave the community and they don't have any hot water because of freeze-up. Thank you.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON DESIGNATION OF STREET NAMES TO COMMEMORATE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of years ago, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for the Status of Women met in Iqaluit. In the course of their discussion, they spoke to the Iqaluit City Council. They suggested the idea of naming streets to commemorate violence against women and victims.

Mr. Speaker, the mayor and council of Iqaluit thought it was such a good idea, they voted to name the road which runs by Qimaavik Women's Shelter in Apex, Angel Street. The mayor said she would call on other Canadian capital cities to create their own Angel Street.

Last month, the capital of Saskatchewan designated a well-travelled city block Angel Square. The mayor of Regina, Pat Fiocco, said the city hoped that victims of violence would find strength in knowing that Angel Square means there are places and people that can help them.

Mr. Speaker, in the Northwest Territories we are all aware that there are adults and children in our Territory who are victims of abuse. We have also had dedicated people who have worked in the system who have tried to stop this violence. Mr. Speaker, I would define many of these people who work in the system to stop the violence as local heroes.

We have special places in our community in the city of Yellowknife such as the Centre for Northern Families and the Alison McAteer House who continue this crusade to protect women and give them a safe place to go. Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress enough how much these organizations provide a lifeline to many women in many situations.

Mr. Speaker, we all know far too many people who have suffered needlessly. Whether you are a man, a woman or a child, violence is violence and it certainly has no place anywhere, Mr. Speaker. So today I will be encouraging the Minister responsible for the Status of Women to ask if she could work in collaboration with the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to see if we can keep this initiative up here in our Territory to make sure people know we stand against violence and we want people to recognize that we think it is wrong and we can do better working together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PSYCHIATRIC ASSESSMENTS CAPACITY

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak to a situation that has recently been highlighted by one particular remanded individual. This man was arrested, determined to need a psychiatric assessment and held in jail to wait for an appointment for his assessment. It is now some eight months later that he has finally gone out to get the evaluation that he needs.

This may be a one-of-a-kind experience, not the norm, and I certainly hope it's not the norm, but it is an experience, nevertheless, which should not occur. I understand the courts and the accused

must wait for an available placement date, but to wait eight months? That's not acceptable, Mr. Speaker.

This particular incident clearly shows us a need for the Department of Justice to evaluate their agreements with external providers. I believe that is Alberta Health agreements regarding psychiatric assessments. What we have now is not working. If Alberta cannot provide timely access to treatment and evaluations, then we must look elsewhere.

Why do we not have agreements with Saskatchewan, Manitoba or British Columbia in addition to Alberta? Better yet, Mr. Speaker, why not establish our own service here in the NWT? Oh, there is not enough demand is the likely answer. But we must think bigger. We must think outside of just the justice box. Who else could use a psychiatric assessment centre? Well, Education and Health and Social Services for a start. How many children and adults are sent out for testing or assessment for all sorts of disorders? Has the GNWT ever considered establishing such a centre in the NWT? I suspect not.

We are still too bound to our department silos. Each department is protecting their own turf, looking inward and not outward. An NWT psychiatric assessment and testing centre would not only be used by the courts but by education authorities, health authorities and possibly NGOs. The program review office of the government is supposed to be the area of government looking for efficiencies. I challenge that office to try this one on for size, to find the efficiencies in this situation. Calculate how much money is spent sending children, patients and criminals out for assessment and testing, and then compare that to the cost of our own centre in the NWT. I suspect we will be surprised. At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Justice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great pleasure to recognize today Arlene Hache, the executive director of the Centre for Northern Families and the heart and soul, I suspect, of the organization as well. With her is a good healthy contingent of keen supporters of the Centre for Northern Families. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I would like to welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope you are enjoying the proceedings. It is always nice to have an audience in here.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 136-16(4): PROPOSED MACTUNG MINING

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been reviewing the proposal for the Mactung Mine to determine what level of involvement it will require. What is the status of this review work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Work is currently underway with other departments to assess how best to move forward about the concerns that have been raised with this proposed development on the Yukon side of the border as it may affect the Northwest Territories with wildlife, water and the environment. So the work is underway. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said it may affect that. I believe that it will affect the wildlife on our side of the border. I want to ask the Minister, in terms of submitting comments to the proposed project to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, when will the Minister submit his comments to that board?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We are working for the deadline that has been laid out in November. We will be trying to comply and get our comments in by that time. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, will these comments relate to the Sahtu people and to the agreements for the proposed park that is within one kilometre of the mine site?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We are going to work closely recognizing the impacts are going to be felt in the Sahtu and the need to be coordinated within the government, be able to make sure that we are looking at things like the Mackenzie for River Basin Trans-Boundary Water Agreement and the bilateral that currently exists between the Yukon and the Northwest Territories as well as what role MVEIRB may play as we try to raise the issues to protect our interests in this proposed project.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be working with the Sahtu people through the various meetings between now and the deadline for

submission to the Yukon Environmental Assessment Board? Would the Minister work closely with the Sahtu people?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We will be working in a collaborative fashion, as we do in many circumstances like with the caribou and other related issues to water, to make sure that we coordinate our efforts, that while we put forward the GNWT position, it is in conjunction with the collaboration with the people of the Sahtu and the aboriginal governments so that we have as coordinated a response as possible. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 137-16(4): DESIGNATION OF STREET NAMES TO COMMEMORATE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about an initiative called Angel Street and it is about naming, as I said earlier, streets in recognition of violence. My question will be to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister responsible for the Status of Women be able to work in collaboration with the Minister responsible for Community Affairs about trying to raise the profile of this initiative to a territorial level in the Northwest Territories here and see if we can get more uptake from our municipalities in recognition of this problem out there? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for bringing this issue to the attention of the House. I would be happy to consult with my colleagues in Cabinet as well as on the other side, as well as municipal leaders and the Status of Women and the Native Women's Association of the NWT to learn more about this initiative and see how we could implement it. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 138-16(4): CENTRE FOR NORTHERN FAMILIES FUNDING DIFFICULTIES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every night up to 23 women find shelter from violent and abusive homes. If there were no Centre for Northern Families, these victims would have nowhere to go. We can imagine the financial and human cost of their being trapped in dangerous situations.

Just putting these people in a \$100 per night hotel room would cost the GNWT more than twice the \$409,000 in annual funding provided by the GNWT. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if she can tell me what contingency plan and at what cost is being put in place to replace the programs and services lost if the centre closes its doors. Thank you.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I am well aware of the fact that the Centre for Northern Families provides a very valuable service to marginalized and vulnerable homeless women living in Yellowknife. I am also aware that the centre has experienced cash flows and debt issues and that it is having a difficult financial time. Our department and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment have been working with the Centre for Northern Families. We will continue to work to look at what the financial challenges are and look for some solutions as to how we could go about working on debt reduction and increasing capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that support from the Minister. Hopefully it came from the department. I am certain that if it didn't, it came from the centre in making sure the government has been involved. Again, I don't know what support is being offered there. I don't know what assurance there is. Is the Minister committing to assure us that the centre will not be closed and its programs will continue? I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, the financial difficulties of the centre has been an issue that has been ongoing for many, many years. The government has provided funding to the centre under different programs. We very much value the services that they provide. What we need to do is to work with them. We are working with them to find out more of the details about their financial difficulties and then to see how we could... We need to determine what is being underfunded and what options we have to secure their financial stability. Right now we don't have all of the details on their financial situation in terms of exactly what is leading to the deficit situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: I would ask why the Minister isn't on top of the details, but I'm sure we would hear nothing and use up a lot of time in response. I would like to know, Mr. Speaker -- the increase in the budget for the centre that has happened over the years is pitiful compared to the forced growth increases in this government over the last five years alone -- what is the Minister doing to address this shortfall and to start providing real support in terms of real costs that are being dealt with in

dealing with real human lives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: I don't think it is helpful for us to go through all of the financial details. I think there is some disagreement about what should be funded and such, but I just want to say I am proud of the work that the centre does. I recognize the important work that the centre does. It is an integral part of a spectrum of services that we need to provide not only in Yellowknife, but also for a lot of people that use their service all across the Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud, actually, of the level of funding that we have provided to the centre too, so it is not always about how much money you receive. I could give you the details of how much government has funded over the years. The fact is, we agreed that this centre is under financial difficulty. We are saying, along with the Education, Culture and Employment staff who are our senior management and have been meeting with the centre to get to more clear and precise answers as to why we are where we are in terms of their financial difficulty and what options we have to resolve those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: The Minister seems to insist on talking about details, and thinking that I am asking for details, and insisting she needs more details, and insisting on meeting about more details. What is needed here is decisive action to support this centre that provides a very important service. For example, this centre is paying \$40,000 per year for rent on the building that they are in to the Housing Corporation. Is the Minister acting to work to get that forgiven or to provide funding specifically for that?

The Centre for Northern Families has an option to provide important advice to the child and family services review. Will the Minister provide support so that the centre can provide that important advice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, in the fiscal year 2007-08, we have government departments combined, between Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, the Housing Corporation and MACA, about \$940,000 to the organization. I understand and I appreciate; I am not going to challenge that. I have too much respect for the work that this centre does to argue about details of the money here, because I want to respect their privacy rights and such.

What I am saying is we value the work that they do. We are committed to working with them to support them, and that, in order for us to ensure financial stability of this organization in the long run, we need to get at what is causing the shortfall.

I believe that most of their debt is with Revenue Canada and it is not something that we could deal with by just writing the cheque. We need to get to the bottom of how do we work together and how do we get the long-term solution. I am committed as a Minister to have our officials meet and work together on that. They have met a number of times with the board and we will continue to do so.

With respect to funding for the standing committee process, I believe that is a separate budget item in this House that has to be dealt with by the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 139-16(4):

PSYCHIATRIC ASSESSMENTS CAPACITY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Justice. In my Member's statement I spoke to a particular situation which, unfortunately, transpired over the last eight to nine months, and I wonder if the Minister could explain to me why this particular individual had to endure an eight-month wait before he could get out for an assessment. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I do believe this certain circumstance is before the courts. Really, the case is before the court currently and I cannot, therefore, comment any further on this particular case. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Ms. Bisaro, did you have another question that is not pertaining to the...Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was addressed to the process, not to the individual. I wonder if the Minister could explain to me, and to the House, what our current situation is with regard to agreements that we have for providers of...who we have who provides psychiatric assessments for us in the NWT, who they're with and what our situation is with that. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the assessment, we deal with the Alberta hospital and Alberta jurisdiction. Those are the agreements that we have to deal with these inmates that are going through the process. But, certainly, we can gather more information for the Member on the numbers of agreements that we have in place with other jurisdictions, as the Member alluded to earlier. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: I appreciate the offer from the Minister to get me the information on who we have agreements with and where they are. I presume most of our agreements are with Edmonton or

Calgary organizations. But I wonder, if we have agreements with outside of Alberta, with Saskatchewan, Manitoba, B.C., etcetera, or if we have them with a number of different communities or cities, how is it that as a matter of course it takes an awfully long time for an inmate to get a psychiatric assessment? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, there are psychiatric assessments being done recently with Alberta, but we have to work with the Alberta government, the hospital there. It's all based on the beds that are available. That's why it took some time. Then there was a bed available, so that gave us the opportunity to assist the individual. So, certainly, Mr. Speaker, we deal directly with Alberta, but I have to gather more information on outside of Alberta, if there are any agreements. As far as I know, there are agreements particularly with Alberta. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Minister for that. I guess I would reiterate that if we are dealing only with Alberta and that's not suiting our needs, then we need to look beyond Alberta and look to other jurisdictions and make agreements with other hospitals, other organizations, other provinces.

My final question to the Minister has to do with the suggestion in my Member's statement. As the Minister responsible for Justice and several other departments, I'd like to ask him to comment on the suggestion whether or not the department has ever considered the possibility of developing our own psychiatric assessment and treatment centre here in the NWT. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly I need to get back to my department on what kind of discussions they've had in the past or current. If they have discussed options or alternative measures to deal with that assessment tool, then certainly we can discuss those alternatives as the Member discussed earlier, possibly dealing with other jurisdictions. Those are discussions that we need to have. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 140-16(4):

DEVOLUTION AND RESOURCE
REVENUE SHARING NEGOTIATIONS

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier and it gets back to some of the questions that I had last week when it comes to devolution and resource revenue sharing. I just wanted to follow up a little bit on that, if I could. I've spoken in the past about the approach the Government of the Northwest

Territories is taking to devolution and I'm wondering why the Government of the Northwest Territories wouldn't look at an incremental approach to devolution, specifically in the area of minerals, oil and gas. I'd like to ask the Premier that question. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process that's been engaged by previous governments and the process we picked up on was one that included a package combination of devolution and resource revenue sharing. It engaged the aboriginal leadership across the Territories. We started off on that footing, as well, and looked for an additional infrastructure commitment from the federal government attached to that. That's the process we would go. If we want to change the approach, then we would have to relook at that file to see if, in fact, we wanted to take it down, as we have in the past. For example, when health and social services was transferred to the Northwest Territories, transportation and so on. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Yes, with health and transportation, those are areas of our operation that cost us money. When I talk about minerals, oil and gas, those are areas of our operation where, if done properly and we get control over those areas, we could actually benefit, fiscally benefit from the federal government devolving those responsibilities to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Last week I also mentioned the fact that it's close to \$300 million that the federal government is currently taking in resource revenue from the Northwest Territories. So I'd like to ask the Premier, if it does take us changing gears, how could that happen? Would he engage the aboriginal leaders across the Territory and we could go after minerals, oil and gas with the aboriginal governments' say in that as well? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, indeed, the approach would be through the regional leaders table that we've established. Our next meeting will be later on during this month and the devolution and resource revenue sharing re-engagement with the federal government will be one of the items we'll be having discussions on. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Again, the reason this is becoming important, we're talking recently about changes to the diamond policy area and the fact that the Government of the Northwest Territories really doesn't have a leg to stand on when it comes to trying to ensure that the producing mines here in the Territory offer up the value-added industry that we're trying to support as a government. So, again, I'd like to ask the Premier, will the Premier put that item on the agenda when the regional leaders meet again in November? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I would say that, number one, through our socio-economic agreements with the industry, we have secured a supply of rough diamonds potentially for our own secondary industry and that's why it's been going on for as long as it has. Secondly, the commitment to sit down at the regional leaders table, I did make that. We are going to be sitting down with them later on this month and re-engagement of devolution and resource revenue sharing will be one of the items that we will have discussion on so we can incorporate just to what level we'd like to see that re-engagement happen on. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, my questions last week and questions again today are based on the fact that I just don't see us making any progress. I'd like to ask the Premier, how are we going to ensure that in the next two years we see some progress on these files, specifically on minerals, oil and gas and the devolution of those responsibilities to the Government of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, number one, there has not been an initiative specifically on minerals, oil and gas. The devolution and resource revenue sharing has been a package put together, and at some point we'll have to discuss if we even keep those two packages together. But this will take a discussion at the regional leaders table, because as has been shown in the past, without the support of regional leaders, the federal government isn't too keen on moving forward, either without ourselves as the GNWT at the table or without regional leaders at the table. So the partnership approach is the best one and we're working on that. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 141-16(4):
IMPACTS OF FALL CAPITAL BUDGET
ON PROGRAM DELIVERY

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation in regard to the whole area of housing program delivery and also the change the government has made in regard to our capital estimates where we now approve the capital in the fall time so that we can deliver it through the winter months and have the jobs, hopefully, completed within a shorter time frame. I'd just like to ask the Minister of Housing exactly what is his department doing to correlate his programs with the change that we've made as government in regard to capital and also to ensure that people who apply on the home repair programs can get the programs, but,

more importantly, have those programs completed within a reasonable time frame? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a concern that I've had raised to me personally by some contractors on the delivery of the contracting and how he thought if they had the contracts out sooner, they'd get a better delivery time. This is a discussion that I'll commit to the Member that I will have with the department and we'll see if we can work it out so it's all in line with the capital process that we go through in the fall time so the contracts and materials can be let a lot sooner than they are now. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I'm also talking about the whole area of the delivery care programs in regard to seniors' home repair programs and also in regard to the programs that people depend on. I mentioned in my Member's statement that there's a situation I have in McPherson where a contract was let, the company came in from Inuvik in October, then the ferry went out in Tsiigehtchic. So, basically, the contractor never came back and he only did half the work. I'd just like to ask the Minister if there's a possibility of looking at those types of contracts going out at a reasonable time so they're put out, say, after Christmas or whatnot, and people are able to access the communities through the Winter Road Program or even the summer highway program, but do it in a reasonable time. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the application process that's going through right now, we're hoping to have all these folks approved as soon as possible, so then the ordering of the materials can start, so it would fit into the scenario that the Member mentioned, because it is a concern as to the lateness of some of these contracts being started and we are taking steps to ensure that we're out there quick and the work can get done a lot quicker than it is now. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, my next question to the Minister is about a situation that we have in McPherson where we have a half-completed contract, and now the homeowner does not have any hot running water because they never finished installing the hot water tank. So I'd like to ask the Minister, is there a possibility that the local housing authority or the Minister's office direct the housing authority to complete the work and have it charged back to the contractor who never completed the work? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the particular situation the Member is speaking of, but I will commit to the Member that I will look into it. If a contract has been signed with a

contractor, then he would be asked to honour that contract and if he doesn't, then other alternate arrangements will be made and if there are some costs to be borne, they would be borne by the contractor. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to reviewing programs and services of the government, again back to my original question, is that we have to also look at the program delivery side, not only the capital construction side, and see if we can correlate them so that they basically flow together. I'd just like to ask the Minister and his fellow colleagues of the ministry to work together to ensure that we correlate all our programs and services in consideration that we changed our capital planning process, but I think it should also apply to the program side. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We are always trying to improve the delivery of our programs. We do evaluations every so often and this could be one of the things that we could have a look at and if there's an opportunity there to change the process so we deliver our programs a lot quicker, more efficiently and have everything on the ground sooner, then I'll commit to the Member that we'll look into that. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 142-16(4):
DECENTRALIZATION OF GNWT POSITIONS
TO SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I spoke about the need to look at placing some GNWT positions into smaller communities to address the employment rates in these communities. I have questions for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, I understand a committee was formed in either the 13th or the 14th Assembly to look at decentralization. Can the Premier tell me what the mandate of that committee was and if there was any final report from that committee?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd have to get more details to do a full response to the Member, which I will commit to doing, but I believe it was the 14th Assembly. And if we're on the same path here, the 14th Assembly was doing some work in regard to federal decentralization of positions out of Ottawa to the North. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Can the Premier tell me if this government has a strategy to close the employment

rate gap that exists between larger communities and smaller communities? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: There's a number of initiatives that we've undertaken during the 16th Assembly when it comes to looking at program delivery or the way we deliver our programs in our communities across the North. Looking at that scenario and having to come back to Members to see if we will change the way we do our delivery could have an impact on the level of delivery and the level of services in our community. So that work is ongoing now, as a Legislative Assembly, along with the cost of living scenario where we're looking at a number of fronts, looking at what we need to do differently as a government as well. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Speaking specifically about decentralization, would the Premier commit to having discussions with the departments, through the Ministers, of course, to discuss, examine and develop some sort of strategy for transferring GNWT positions into the smaller communities? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: As this work is being done about how we deliver our programs and services in our communities and in light of the question from the Member, I'd be happy to, once we pull this information together, sit down with Members and go through what options may be presented as to how we deliver those services, and that could have an impact to the levels of services and employment in communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Your final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Premier commit to giving direction to departments through the Minister to take a serious look at what functions can be delegated to the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: A practice that we've had as this Assembly, and because I'm familiar with previous exercises, as well, whenever we go through our business planning process we do look at the level of services and how we carry out business across government, whether it is in growth or when we tighten our belts, so to speak. So getting direction and myself setting direction for this Assembly I would, again, go back to the Members and in line with this questioning the work we're doing already on program service delivery in our communities is to sit down with Members to look at that information to see if we would set up an additional piece of work to look at what steps would follow on that work we're doing. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 143-16(4):

SENIORS FUEL SUBSIDY INCOME THRESHOLD

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement on the Seniors' Home Fuel Subsidy Program to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

At this time of year we've got our elders that want to access this program. Maybe the Minister can just tell me a little bit about the program and some of the guidelines around it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the subsidies for the cost of home heating fuel for winter months for resident seniors aged 60 and older who own their own home and meet the income tests is one of the criteria. It provides an income scale and fuel scale depending on the length of the heating season. Community income threshold and fuel scale divide into three zones depending on which communities they are from. So those are the areas just capturing some of the policies that we follow through the program that we offer. Mahsi.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'd like to thank the Minister for that answer there. It kind of details it a bit for myself and the public out there. I had raised this issue because there's an elder in my community of Fort Simpson, as well as the other communities that I represent, Wrigley, Nahanni Butte, and I'm sure in other ridings as well, we have the issue where the elder or the senior is living at home and through no fault of their own they want their son or their daughter to live with them, but it's household income that is, I believe, one of the determining factors.

So I'd like to ask the Minister, here we've got a sector or specific group, is there a way that we can change the guidelines, include a caretaker or a portion that maybe their income can be exempted?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We did make some changes to our programming back in April of 2008 where we've increased the threshold of \$10,000 so that it did benefit some of the elders in the communities. But with respect to more changes, we're always re-evaluating a program where it's based on the household income. A caretaker, it can be generic where a caretaker could be making upwards of \$100,000 living with a grandma. We can't just ignore that, Mr. Speaker, and certainly those are the assessments that we need to undertake. Now we're looking at options of individual elders in a household having two or three individuals living with them, whether it be their grandchildren or children, not to penalize the elder,

but those individuals that are making a wealth of income. So those are options that we're currently working with and we need more input from the communities and also the MLAs. So those are the program changes that we're certainly looking forward to. Mahsi.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Certainly there's a whole range of different family living arrangements. Certainly those that can afford it, should afford it, Mr. Speaker, but I'm talking about cases where the elder or senior needs that caretaking ability and often it's a son or a daughter. I'm asking, can we look at the Seniors' Home Fuel Subsidy Program, can we re-evaluate some of the parameters and guidelines and look at an exemption for caretaker? I don't know; government has to design it. So that's what I'd like to see there. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Those are the areas that we can certainly look at. I believe we have looked at, as a department, how we can get around where a caregiver is looking after a grandma or a grandpa or a parent so we don't penalize the household based on their income, but we have to reassess the household where what kind of income is coming in, how can we exempt in certain areas. So those are the discussions that we're currently having. Certainly there are going to be changes. We'll certainly notify the standing committee. If it's going to be a positive impact in the communities with the seniors, certainly we'll provide that information. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final supplementary, Mr. Menicoché.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Minister did indicate they just reviewed it in 2008. Do they have plans to review the income thresholds of this program any time soon? Perhaps this year? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We just wasted last year -- April -- and we did an implementation. So those are the discussions that we're currently having. What kind of other changes should we undertake? If it's going to be a threshold increase, we need to find out the cost factor and/or exemption in the household. So that discussion is ongoing and if there is, like I said, any changes, I'll be more than willing to come back to the standing committee and get their input in the future of possible changes. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 144-16(4):

911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Many NWT residents spend time in our larger population centre from time

to time and, in fact, of course, the Minister spends a great deal of time in Yellowknife each year. I've got a challenging question for him. I know from time to time he's here with his family members and so on. Can the Minister, perhaps even with the help of his colleagues, tell us what numbers you'd call in Yellowknife to contact the police, to contact the fire department and to call an ambulance? Thank you.

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

MR. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's 873-1111 and 873-2222. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: The Minister did indeed do very well. Recent polls show that the majority of Yellowknifers, and in fact in the Territories, could not do nearly so well. In fact, to this day I couldn't have done it myself. However, knowing this, that the majority of people do not know those numbers offhand, that delays, of course, result in injuries and possibly more serious concerns. Knowing that 911 is technically feasible throughout much if not all of the NWT, why is the Minister stubbornly denying -- stubbornly denying -- the 911 service? Mahsi.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oooh.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The money that we flow to the communities is part of their capital formula funding and is part of the gas tax money. We flow that to the communities. Questions were raised to me by other Members of the Assembly on infrastructure in their communities and I tell them that we flow the capital infrastructure money if projects they speak of meet the criteria. I think money that we flow to the city, the money that we flow to the seven communities that are the ones that were mentioned in the report comes close to \$17 million and if those communities want to use that money to implement a 911 service, then they would have the authority and the funds to do so. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Of course, this is a territorial-wide issue, it's not just those communities. My understanding is that, indeed, the City of Yellowknife, for example, has already put up significant dollars and is willing to do more there, but I was ruled out of order on Friday for speaking about both 911 service and a cell phone ban. So I will now ask the most important question equally critical to both examples. How can the Minister justify the failure to protect the health and safety of the majority of citizens in these two cases when all the evidence of need, feasibility, economy, public desire and government responsibility call him to act in the public interest and take these two steps? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we do take the safety of the residents in the Northwest

Territories very seriously. I'll make that point quite clear. The seven communities that are in question here, there are a couple of them that have said that they're not planning on 911 at this particular time. The one I spoke to in particular said they're looking to enhance their own emergency services before they go to the next step of implementing 911.

The communities have it within their means to provide this service. Obviously it's an important service for the city, because they initiated the report -- and I commend them for that -- and they believe it's a service that's needed in the city. So they would have to take that first step. They have the money to put the infrastructure in place.

We have many concerns that I have heard from some of the other communities and when we talk about a territorial-wide initiative, because it's the seven largest communities in the Territories doesn't make it a territorial-wide initiative. We still have 26 other communities out there.

I just want to assure the communities and the public, we do take the safety of our public very seriously. Money is provided to all communities to act on the priorities that they set in their communities and if 911 was a priority in Yellowknife, then they do have some funding from the government to make that come about. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was sort of with the Minister for awhile there, but once again he put it onto the small communities versus large communities. I think it's a most unfortunate argument when we are talking about the safety of people and what's achievable and where our responsibilities lie. So I guess I'd like clarifications from the Minister on that question, the banning of use of cell phones while driving and other devices, for example, simply because it only protects people in the larger centres. Does this Minister agree with his own reported reasoning that because there is no application to small communities, that is reasonable grounds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the public is waiting to hear that.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I don't think I gave the impression of small towns versus big communities. I have been hearing that argument a lot. I have no intention of saying anything of the sort. We are the Government of the Northwest Territories and that includes all 33 communities and not just seven. There are opportunities there that see 911 as a priority, to use the money that is given to them by this government to enhance their emergency services. That includes 911 and, Mr. Speaker, that would be a decision that they have to make.

I have already said I have heard from a couple of communities that are not going to pursue 911 at the

moment. They would like to enhance their own emergency service. We do provide the service. Someone has to respond and if we don't have a proper emergency response service, then 911 would really be no good. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 145-16(4):
GROUND RESCUE SERVICES ON
WINTER ROAD SYSTEM

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs in terms of services in the communities. I want to ask about the ground rescue services for communities in the Sahtu.

From Wrigley to Colville Lake, there are 800 kilometres of winter road. I want to ask the Minister if there are resources being looked at by the Sahtu communities in terms of coordinating ground rescue services between the communities. We don't have the luxury of having cell phone services or having those types of initiatives. Could the Minister advise me as to what type of work MACA and the hamlet are working on with the departments of Health, Justice, and probably even Transportation on what types of services could be delivered in the Sahtu?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do know that there is some funding available to some of the communities that do provide emergency services. We always want to improve the services that are delivered and if communities come forward with a good action plan, then we are always willing to sit down and hear what the communities are saying.

As far as the funding goes, that's an issue that is going to need to be worked out if it falls within their community. I spoke to the Member previous. There is the gas tax money. Disaster mitigation is one of the criteria that is allowed under this pot of funding and there is also the capital formula funding. So there are different pots of funding out there and we are always willing to work with the communities and work within the government, the different departments, to see if there are ways we can pull all this together and have a proper response team. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: So what I am hearing -- and the Minister can correct me if I misunderstood this -- is that the communities that are on the winter road system in Tlicho, Behchoko... Sorry, the Tlicho, the Sahtu or the Beaufort-Delta, anywhere where there is a winter road system, the communities in that area come to the department with a proposal to

coordinate or organize themselves regarding ground rescue services, and the Minister would be willing to look at this to see how they can coordinate with the different departments to have a coordinated management approach to ground rescue services on the winter road system. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I said we will continue to work with the communities and see what kinds of plans come up. We are always willing to work with the communities. I think sometimes there is always the question of...Well, there is always the big question of funding. When we do work with them, they think we are going to bring our cheque book when we've already given them all the money we've got, so we have nothing left in the bank, the MACA bank anyway. So we will continue to follow up on this and work with the communities and see if there is some kind of action plan that is being put together. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Then would the Minister put in coordinating efforts in the communities, for example, the Sahtu region? Would the Minister instruct his officials if he could work closely with the communities in the Sahtu to coordinate with each community when there is this type of service that may be needed, so the communities are well aware of who to call regarding emergency services, ground rescue services in the communities and which team members could get involved and how to go about it? These are some of the things that members from the Sahtu talked about in the past. We would like to know for sure about this type of strategy. Can the Minister inform me?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Most communities do have an action plan and, as I said, we are always willing to work with the communities. If the communities came to us and said we need help in trying to develop something, we are willing to go there and work with them. But for us to go and say you are going to do this and you are going to do that, we always leave the onus up to the community and then we will work with any community that requires our assistance. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue again is sometimes we get conflicting messages in our communities. When there is an accident on the winter road, sometimes there is a policy within the Health department that the nurses are unable to go out. With the RCMP, there is a policy. So the community takes it upon themselves to do their rescue here and sometimes it's difficult in terms of the coordination. I will ask the Minister again, will he work very closely with the officials, work with the communities in terms of who they call and that nobody is left in the dark? Can the Minister work on that, please?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As many of us live in small communities, we see how in times of emergency the communities usually respond very quickly and usually have good results because of it. There is always the planning and that, and sometimes you don't worry so much about the planning, but action that needs to be taken. So they take it upon themselves to do that. But I will commit to the Member that I will speak to the appropriate departments and see what is being done about an overall action plan for emergency services and rescue. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 146-16(4):
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR
SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education. It's in light of the issue heard in this House where people are asking for gymnasiums for all the schools in Yellowknife. I think I would just like to point out, for the record here, that there are certain communities in the Northwest Territories that don't have gymnasiums. They have to use the community hall as a means for recreation. In most cases they have to travel to Inuvik to take advantage of the swimming program, to drive to Fort McPherson for the hockey program, because they don't have those programs in their communities. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Education what are we doing to ensure we have gymnasiums in all our communities in the Northwest Territories and for those communities that have to go out of their communities to get these services, drive an hour and a half to Inuvik or a half an hour to Fort McPherson because you don't have these programs being delivered in the communities, especially the community of Tsiigehtchic? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this area has been brought up in this House and I did commit to looking into it even further with PWS and other departments on a going forward basis. We do have some old buildings that don't have suitable gymnasiums or other sports activities in the communities, but we are working closely with local education authorities or education councils to have some sort of agreement with them to deliver or transport students to specific areas so they can be actively involved with physical recreational activities, whether it be soccer, volleyball, hockey or other activities that may be happening in larger centres.

So those are the areas that we continue to work with. Those individual communities that do not have gymnasiums, we continue to develop programs that are nearby the communities. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. KRUTKO: Again, getting back to the community hall in Tsiigehtchic. Last year they realized they had some problems with the community hall because it is on pilings. They found they are eroding and they had to shut it down for awhile, so no one had access to that facility. So, again, we took away the only means of recreation programs for the students and residents of Tsiigehtchic. So I would just like to ask the Minister, are you considering looking at recreation-like programs like gymnasiums for the smaller communities in the Northwest Territories?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Those are the discussions that we are having, whether it be the centres, with our departments. Those individual communities that do not have a gymnasium, what can we provide to them that's suitable or, as the Member alluded to, a gymnasium-like facility where we can deliver recreation activities. So we continue to work. Some communities have been very good being creative, being innovative, generating ideas on how we can improve on certain areas, transporting students to different communities. So those are the areas of the discussions we continue to have.

Small communities that do not have gymnasiums, we understand the challenges, but we continue to work with those challenges. I think it's great to have more opportunities for us to have a great dialogue about how we can improve in those areas and find solutions.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with the communities' local education authorities, even as it falls under Municipal and Community Affairs, sports and youth. We need to work collaboratively with all the departments as well. Mahsi.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me when he expects this review to be completed and when can we see a report in regards to what the review has found and what this government is going to do to improve recreation services for communities that don't have gymnasiums? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The discussion that we are having at the community level, that can certainly be brought forward to my department. We can certainly present it to a standing committee, if we need to, on the status of our discussion. So, certainly, we can do that, Mr. Speaker. I will make a commitment to gather the information from my department meeting with certain groups and education authorities and meeting with Municipal

and Community Affairs and different departments what we've gathered. We can certainly share that information. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 147-16(4):
NURSES' ATTENDANCE AT
COMMUNITY RESIDENCES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services in terms of the response call-out policy with the local health centres. When there is a call from one of the community members in the communities asking for the nurse to come because of situations where a person can't leave their house, what is the policy in terms of the nurse responding to a call?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Generally speaking, that call will be determined by the situation, obviously, and also the availability of nurses in the health centre. Sometimes if they have to be on call -- I mean, they usually have to be on call -- they may not be able to leave the centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, if the call-out situation is very grave and is a matter of life and death, even if the nurse is on call, does this give enough warrant for the nurse to leave the health centre to attend the patient at their home?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I believe there are specific practice guidelines on this which I don't have right now, so I will have to take the question under advisement and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister then provide some policy that states very clearly in the health centres that when there is a life or death situation, the nurse will attend at the patient's home?

HON. SANDY LEE: This goes to, obviously, the core of the service that our health care professionals do provide and I believe there are practice guidelines on that. I will, once again, take the question under advisement. I will get back to the Member on that and verify what is on there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 9-16(4):
RENEWABLE ENERGY AND COST OF LIVING
INITIATIVES IN THE SAHTU REGION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

1. Can the Minister provide to me in detail what renewable energy initiatives are planned for the Sahtu region in the next two years?
2. Will the Minister provide to me a comprehensive alternate energy plan that will reduce the cost of living in the Sahtu in the next two years?
3. Will the Minister of ITI outline how the department will work with the Arctic Energy Alliance to reduce the cost of living in the Sahtu; for example, training residents of the Sahtu to be certified energy advisors?
4. Can the Minister provide to me a final report on the upcoming hydro symposium and an action plan to their recommendation?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 36-16(4):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CORONER'S
SERVICES 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled NWT Coroner's Services 2008 Annual Report. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

TABLED DOCUMENT 37-16(4):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Pursuant to section 21 of the Human Rights Act, I wish to table the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2008-2009.

Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 4-16(4):
REPORT OF SOLE ADJUDICATOR -
ROLAND INQUIRY

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the report of the sole adjudicator be accepted.

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

MOTION 5-16(4):
HAND-HELD DEVICES BAN FOR
MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the NWT Motor Vehicle Act be amended to ban the use of hand-held devices while driving; and further, that the Department of Transportation initiate a comprehensive public awareness campaign to inform the public about the risks of driving while distracted.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 6:
APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE
EXPENDITURES), 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, I will move that Bill 6, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2010-2011, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

BILL 7:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE SUMMARY
CONVICTION PROCEDURES ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, I will move that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act, be read for the first time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted.

Motions

MOTION 4-16(4):
REPORT OF SOLE ADJUDICATOR -
ROLAND INQUIRY,
CARRIED

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS a letter of complaint, dated February 16, 2009, and signed by six Members of the Legislative Assembly, was addressed to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and requested that the Commissioner carry out a formal investigation regarding certain conduct of Mr. Floyd Roland, Premier of the Northwest Territories and MLA for Inuvik Boot Lake;

AND WHEREAS section 101 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act directs the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to conduct an investigation into such a complaint;

AND WHEREAS the Conflict of Interest Commissioner carried out an investigation and, pursuant to section 101(1)(b) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, submitted to the Speaker a report, with reasons, directing that an inquiry be held before a sole adjudicator;

AND WHEREAS the report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner was laid before the Legislative Assembly at the first opportunity, in accordance with section 102(4) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

AND WHEREAS a sole adjudicator, appointed pursuant to section 103(2) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, conducted an inquiry into the matter;

AND WHEREAS the sole adjudicator has submitted a disposition report in accordance with section 106(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

AND WHEREAS the disposition report of the sole adjudicator was laid before the House by the Speaker at the first opportunity;

AND WHEREAS the sole adjudicator has dismissed the complaint pursuant to section 106(1)(a) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the report of the sole adjudicator be accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of the motion, I want to be the first to rise in this House and express my unconditional support for the disposition report of Mr. Ted Hughes. Mr. Hughes has served this House with great distinction and I want to thank him for guiding us through this difficult process. Mr. Speaker, I and the other MLAs who made this complaint said from the start that we wanted an independent view of the appropriateness of the relationship that developed with the Premier and the Committee Clerk of this House. We also stated that we would accept the final result, whatever it was. I accept the conclusions of Mr. Hughes and I will vote for the motion.

Mr. Speaker, I feel I owe it to the public to explain a little of what the report actually says. Some media outlets have reported that Mr. Hughes had found that the relationship was not a conflict of interest or not a breach of the legislation. This is not what the report says, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Hughes stated repeatedly in his report that the actions of Mr. Roland do indeed constitute a breach of section 75 of the act. On page 36 of the report, Mr. Hughes states, and I quote, "...the MLA for Inuvik Boot Lake performed his duties of office and arranged his private affairs in such a manner that he failed to maintain public confidence in his integrity, objectivity and impartiality as a result of entering into an intimate relationship with the Principal Clerk...without timely disclosure of that relationship."

Mr. Speaker, on page 37 of the report, Mr. Hughes goes on to say, and I again quote, "In my view Premier Roland made an error in judgment, as he weighed competing interests, the pros and cons and decided not to make the disclosure until he was satisfied that his new relationship was going to be a permanent one. For the reasons I have explained, I have concluded he was in breach of the identified section of the act when he did so."

Mr. Speaker, I am not raising these matters to in any way rehash the inquiry or diminish the final result; I am raising them here to make sure that the public understands what the report really says.

The report finds that the Premier was in breach of the act, that he did fail to arrange his private affairs in a way to maintain public confidence in his integrity, objectivity and impartiality, and that he exercised poor judgment. In concluding that the error in judgment was made in good faith, Mr. Hughes is not saying that there is nothing the Premier could have done differently. He is not saying that anyone would have behaved the same way given the circumstances. He is not saying that a relationship of this kind is acceptable. In

concluding that the error in judgment was made in good faith, Mr. Hughes clearly states, on the bottom of page 37, that he believes that the Premier understands the error he made and realizes now in hindsight that he should have disclosed it earlier.

Mr. Speaker, I want to touch briefly on the motivation of the complainants in making this complaint. Much has been said about the reason why this complaint was brought forward. Suggestions have been made that the complaint was politically motivated and without merit. I am not going to relive that debate here today. I will, however, put on the record exactly what Mr. Hughes concluded on the matter.

On page 36 of the report, Mr. Hughes quotes from the closing argument of Ms. Bisaro at the inquiry; what he calls a thoughtful and well-reasoned submission. Ms. Bisaro is quoted as saying, "The failure of the Premier to understand the impact that the affair would have on the effectiveness of our institution and the failure to disclose it even to the Speaker, who had the ability to remedy the situation and would have treated it with the sensitivity it deserved, was in our opinion, wrong, and we seek your confirmation." In response to this, Mr. Hughes writes, and I quote, "In this section of my report I have given that confirmation and the reasons for it with the result that the contravention referenced in the terms of reference for this inquiry is found to exist." He goes on to say on the same page that, "In my judgment the concern of the complainants that prompted their complaint to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and which in turn resulted in this inquiry was a fair and reasonable one to be taken to the Commissioner seeking confirmation of what they believed to be wrong."

I will have some more to say, Mr. Speaker, in my closing remarks, but I hope that helps obtain a clearer picture of what the report actually says in the lead-up to this debate today.

I personally want to thank everyone involved in this difficult process, including the Premier and his counsel, for the professional way in which it was conducted. Mr. Speaker, these things are never easy. I hope the debate that we will have here today will carry that same tone.

I also want to thank the many constituents and residents of the Northwest Territories who have been so supportive throughout this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. We will go to the seconder of the motion, the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the conclusion of a process that began about a year ago with the Premier acknowledging that there certainly was an affair, and many Members...My

colleagues were extremely concerned that there was an absolute appearance of conflict that launched this inquiry.

I am a strong believer in our institution. We went down that road there, Mr. Speaker. I think, for my constituents and my leadership, they have told me over the years and they, in fact, coming into this fall session, is that we're not interested in the drama that's happening there, we're interested in programs and services and real action of ourselves as an Assembly. That has always been my focus when I share with my colleagues about where I was going to stand. I was public about it and I told my constituents where I was going to stand.

So now, before us, we have the report. To me, yes, Mr. Hughes had to go down many roads, he had to listen to many views. It's a semi-legal institution that we went through, but for me, his conclusion was that he had no choice but to dismiss the complaint based on the factors he listed in his report.

It may be a technicality, Mr. Speaker, but at the same time it's a...Legally, this happens all the time in court, lots of people that have even admitted that they've done a wrong but at the same time, technically, they get dismissed. So it's easy for me to stand up here to support the report and tell the people and my constituency that he recommended it be dismissed, and that's the end of it. That's the approach that I'm taking and that's the approach I'd like to see.

We have been chosen as MLAs to serve in this House. It is a great honour. But as is often said, we got a little bit of a price and we have a ransom glory, Mr. Speaker. That means we are public figures. So that's the cost of the glory, of the honour that we serve.

Again, when I came back here for the fall session, my constituents, as I travel around, told me up front that we're here to work together, we've got to use our best energies and skills to better the lives of our community and our people, and I continue to maintain that focus. I'd like to see that we take this point, we went down every road we could to find out about was there a breach, was there certainly conflict here, and we exhausted all those avenues, Mr. Speaker. My constituency is not happy that we had to use resources, time, money, the energies of the House to continue this debate, but at the same time, we went down that road to explore and we had to see. So, once again, the people want our Assembly to put this behind us now. I believe that I'm up here to say that we're going to have to start doing that. We have to concentrate. We've got just less than two years left and if we're going to continue to use our energies on spy drama, Mr. Speaker, then we will be doing exactly that, we'll be using our energies.

One other important point is that we cannot change the result of the report, Mr. Speaker. It's dismissed,

it's over and it's time to move on. I know that they've told me, my constituency has told me time and time again, it's not relevant to our government and, once again, we're using our time and energy. I think the cost of doing that inquiry is something that the public is always watchful for. Those public funds could have been better used for programs and services. That's what my constituency is telling me.

Because we've come to this point of almost a year of this issue, it's not going to serve us to continue rehashing it, Mr. Speaker. For myself, it's has been dealt with. I know that the complainants, my colleagues, certainly are not happy with the outcome of the report, but the report is the way it is there, Mr. Speaker. The greatness of Mr. Hughes, who led the inquiry, he listened to all and he's bound by our legislation as well.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, overall, I'm content with the content of the report. Yes, there was a perceived appearance of conflict but, at the same time, I think the people of the NWT and my constituency still want us to move on, concentrate on programs and services, concentrate on our communities, concentrate on our people to improve the lives and make life better for the whole Territory by working together, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In signing my name to the conflict of interest complaint against the Premier, I accepted the process in place to deal with these types of concerns. On Friday last week we received the final ruling of the complaint that was filed by the six complainants. As I understood the process and agreed to it beforehand, I am willing to support the conclusions of the adjudicator. Therefore, I will be supporting this motion today to accept the report. However, in doing so, I want to be clear that I support the report in its entirety, not just the fact that the complaint was officially dismissed as a result of 106(1)(a)(ii), but also that the adjudicator was incredibly clear throughout his report that, and I quote from page 36, which I know has already been done but I'm going to do it anyway, that, "...Floyd Roland, the MLA for Inuvik Boot Lake performed his duties of office and arranged his private affairs in such a manner that he failed to maintain public confidence in his integrity, objectivity and impartiality as a result of entering into an intimate relationship with the Principal Clerk, Committees of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly in the summer and/or fall months of 2008 without the timely disclosure of that relationship."

It's important to acknowledge and learn from the findings of the adjudicator in this case. It's important to be aware that the precedent is set for future Assemblies. It's clear from this report that it is

inappropriate for a Member of the Executive Council to be in an intimate relationship with the Clerk of Committees of the Legislative Assembly and, by the way, I'll suggest that this precedent also applies to other staff that are present at committee meetings such as the research staff. Ultimately, it is an important precedent for the future operations of the Legislative Assembly.

I was pleased to see that in retrospect it was even confirmed by Ms. Russell. On page 19 of the report, Ms. Russell is quoted as stating the following when asked questions by the adjudicator, and here's the quote:

Sole adjudicator asked: "Well, assuming your relationship with Mr. Roland continues, is it your view that you should ultimately be back performing the duties as Clerk of the House?"

The answer: "While Mr. Roland is a Member?"

The sole adjudicator followed it up with, "Yes."

And then the following answer was: "I accept that it would be better for me to stay at Elections. I fully accept that."

To me this demonstrates an awareness of the inappropriate nature of a relationship between the Clerk and a Member of the Executive Council. I hope for the remainder of this Assembly and in future Assemblies that Members, including Members of the Executive Council, remember this precedent and perform their duties of office and arrange their private affairs in such a manner as to maintain public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of those Members.

Since this situation first came to light, I had a number of conversations with the Premier. I've always been consistent in my approach and response to this clear and obvious breach. The Premier and I have always disagreed as to whether or not a breach had, in fact, occurred. Obviously, I believed, and have been proved correct, that the Premier had failed to arrange his private affairs in a manner to maintain public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of the Member. I've constantly indicated that in the absence of a formal apology, that acknowledges the severity of this behaviour and the negative impact it has had on the institution, that the Premier should, in fact, resign. I still feel this way today. I believe this report clearly demonstrates his guilt and, as a result, I feel that he should do the right and honourable thing.

Believing the Premier to be an honourable man who made a poor judgment call, I expected him to come forward with an honest apology or resign. Clearly, the Premier disagreed with me, which is his right, and felt that he had arranged his affairs in an appropriate manner. I respect his position and his belief and, as a result, obviously, no resignation or apology occurred.

After no apology was provided and no recognition of wrongdoing was provided, I was left with no option; therefore, I signed the complaint. To ensure the credibility and integrity of this government, I had no choice but to sign the official complaint.

For the sake of the families and the people of the NWT, I had honestly hoped that we wouldn't have to come to this point. Shortly after signing the complaint letter and prior to the beginning of the hearing, I had an opportunity to speak with the Premier on the topic. I once again expressed my opinion and I also indicated that if I was wrong and the adjudicator ruled that the Premier did arrange his affairs in a manner to maintain public confidence and trust, that I would be first in line to apologize and I would go so far as to make an official apology in this House.

We have a decision from the adjudicator which clearly indicates that the Premier failed in this regard. This is once again confirmed by the adjudicator on page 35 when he states, and I quote, "Notwithstanding all of these factors that should have been apparent to Premier Roland, particularly the opportunities to disclose his relationship in early October, he chose to continue it in secret for another six weeks. Once he passed up these opportunities, it is my" -- Hughes' -- "opinion that he foreclosed the possibility of any subsequent assessment of his actions relating to his disclosure from being judged as having occurred in a timely way."

The fact is, he did not make the disclosure until he was satisfied that his relationship with Ms. Russell had cemented into a permanent one. What, of course, was wrong was that his primary responsibility to his colleagues in the House, the democratic institution they serve and the maintenance of public and trust of those who he was elected to lead, took second place during that period of time. To me, this means that the Premier's primary responsibility to his colleagues in the House -- and those are Mr. Yakeleya, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Beaulieu, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Krutko, the three Mr. McLeods, Mr. Miltenberger, Ms. Lee and Mr. Lafferty and even the Speaker, Mr. Delorey -- took second place during that period of time from September through the entire month of October and the 2008 October session until late November 2008, arguably even up to the receipt of this ruling. What's more scathing, in my opinion, is that the public trust of those who he was elected to lead also took second place during that period of time. That's a tough one for me.

When the Members who signed the complaint letter, without assistance of the government-funded lawyer, were able to provide enough evidence to clearly demonstrate that the Premier did fail in this

regard, the Premier's government-paid lawyer was unable to convince the adjudicator that he should find that contravention had not occurred. Fortunately, he did have a great lawyer working for him. The lawyer was able to convince him -- and that's Hughes -- and I once again quote from the report, specifically page 36, "Rather than me" -- Mr. Hughes -- "recommending to the Legislative Assembly the imposition of a punishment as provided for in section 106(1)(b) of the act, she" -- Ms. Peterson -- "submitted that my" -- Hughes -- "focus ought to be on section 106(1)(a)(ii), which sets out reasons why, notwithstanding a contravention of the provisions of the act, the complaint should be dismissed."

Given that the complainants are not lawyers and we did not have any provided to us like the Premier, we failed to recognize the importance of this argument and as such did not make any response to it. Frankly, I don't really understand the value of clause 106(1)(a)(ii). If it existed in the Criminal Code, criminals who can demonstrate that they didn't mean to commit the crime -- that is, they were distracted or they didn't mean it -- would be, like, go. To me, it's an odd clause. It's a bit of an odd escape clause that was put in place by former Legislatures and, quite frankly, I don't understand it. But, regardless, in the end, the adjudicator has based his decision on the evidence and the arguments presented to him. I believe he came to the right conclusion and his decisions are the right ones based on the evidence and the arguments provided. In the absence of any counterarguments or reasons outlining why 106(1)(a)(ii) should not apply, the adjudicator had no other choice but to accept it and dismiss this complaint. Therefore, as mentioned earlier, I will be supporting this motion.

However, before I sit down, I would like to once again send a message that I have sent previously. I would like to encourage the Premier of the Northwest Territories to do the honourable thing and take responsibility for the damage that his failure to arrange his private affairs in such a manner that maintained public confidence in his integrity, objectivity and impartiality has caused. This can be done by way of a sincere and general apology that acknowledges his actions or if the Premier is unwilling to provide that sincere and genuine apology, he could always resign in the best interests of the Legislature and the people of the Northwest Territories and to those people who took second place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. To the motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting this motion. First I would like to recognize the good fortune this government has of having a Conflict of Interest Commissioner with the

experience, qualifications and wisdom Mr. Gerrand exemplifies and of having the opportunity to call upon an equally esteemed individual such as Mr. Ted Hughes for the duties of an adjudicator when one is called for.

The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides the legislation and guidelines for conduct of Members of the Legislative Assembly in relation to conflict of interest and maintaining public trust in our democratic process. When questions of interpretation arise, it provides a way to resolve these questions and this has been done in this case.

The issue here was that in the absence of any recognition of wrongdoing by Premier Roland, Members, out of concern for the impacts of the Premier's conduct on a democratic process, raised the question with the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Mr. Gerrand, after a thorough review, agreed there was a serious question to answer and moved the question into the hands of adjudicator Hughes. The results are clear. A grievous error of judgment was made by Premier Roland, as reflected in the following quote from the decision tabled in the House on Friday last, and I quote from the report, "In a thoughtful and well reasoned closing submission Ms. Bisaro, on behalf of the complainants, in a manner that was devoid of any adversarial flavour, made the same point in the following words:

'Mr. Roland's commitment to his family apparently shown by the lack of disclosure of the relationship until he decided it was a lasting one, while commendable for the family values it may reflect, disregards his obligations and duties to the people of the Northwest Territories and the institution of public government. He had opportunities to amend his travel plans and business commitments to make it a priority to deal with his personal situation, to advise his colleagues and family, but he chose not to. We believe it not only contributes to the loss of public confidence and trust, but also shows a lack of respect for all.

'The failure of the Premier to understand the impact that the affair would have on the effectiveness of our institution and the failure to disclose it even to the Speaker, who had the ability to remedy the situation and would have treated it with the sensitivity it deserved, was in our opinion wrong, and we seek your confirmation.'

Mr. Hughes continues, "In this section of my report I have given that confirmation and the reasons for it with the result that the contravention referenced in the terms of reference for this inquiry is found to exist. That is to say Floyd Roland, the MLA for Inuvik Boot Lake performed his duties of office and arranged his private affairs in such a manner that

he failed to maintain public confidence in his integrity, objectivity and impartiality as a result of entering into an intimate relationship with the Principal Clerk, Committees of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly in the summer and/or fall months of 2008 without the timely disclosure of that relationship.

"In my judgment the concern of the complainants that prompted their complaint to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and which in turn resulted in this inquiry was a fair and reasonable one to be taken the Commissioner seeking confirmation of what they believed to be wrong."

Further, Mr. Roland's legal counsel suggested that were Mr. Hughes to find this conclusion, he must also conclude that the error was made in good faith and that the complaint must be dismissed as per the legislation. Such was in fact the case as per the following quote in the tabled document, and I quote from page 37, "...I have also concluded that Premier Roland had an appreciation of the error he had made when he posed the question during the presentation of his evidence of whether he had arranged his affairs appropriately. In answering his own question he acknowledged that in hindsight he probably should have come forward sooner with his disclosure. As he spoke, his sincerity was both apparent and real. In making that acknowledgement, in the manner that he did, he left me with no doubt that his error of judgment was one made in good faith.

"What occurred here is, I believe, the type of situation that the legislators of the day had in mind when they placed section 106(1)(a)(ii) in the act. It follows that the complaint is dismissed."

Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence in Mr. Hughes and I fully support his conclusions based on the evidence presented at the hearings. With this acceptance, I am sure we will hear from Premier Roland a clear and coherent apology to our public for his actions, an apology which reflects the clarity of Mr. Hughes' report, a new depth of understanding about how his actions breached public trust and confidence in his integrity, objectivity and impartiality.

Mr. Speaker, I have to comment on one further issue. At the same time admitting that while I fully accept the adjudicator's report within the context of the information available to him on this case, we in the Assembly have a much more thorough and ongoing record of behaviour and, in my opinion, questionable judgments by Premier Roland. Within this context, my enthusiasm for the less significant part of the report entitled "Disposition" is somewhat dim. I asked myself, did we fail in making the full context of Mr. Roland's record available to Mr. Hughes and, if so, how or why? During the course of the lead-up to the public hearings, I learned that while legal counsel would be provided to Mr.

Roland, it would not be provided to the complainants, apparently because of an unintended consequence of a recent revision of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Legal counsel was also provided to the adjudicator. As I learned during the hearings, the hearings are essentially legal proceedings with an adversarial relationship between the complainants and the defendant. Mr. Speaker, in such a venue, to prohibit legal counsel to any party is to undermine their rights and effectiveness in upholding the law. That is, it is unfair. In my opinion, that is unfair. As a consequence, I will be writing to the Board of Management urging them to address this shortcoming of the legislation.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, I thank the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the adjudicator, Mr. Hughes, for their important service. I thank them for the clarity they have brought to our question and the confirmation that, indeed, a breach of public trust in competence has occurred. This is a significant finding that I anticipate will help avoid such contraventions in the future. I fully accept the adjudicator's report and I look forward to the Premier's apology and will vote in favour of the acceptance of the motion in the House here today.

Finally, I want to thank the public for their support and their forbearance with respect to the personal and financial costs that resolution of issues such as this bring. I know they are aware of the need for resolution of fundamental and important questions for a healthy democratic process, one that is fair to all in order for it to proceed. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This inquiry has been a long and a difficult process and it has been somewhat complicated by the fact that it is a new and an untested process. This is the first time that we have gone this route after a change in the Legislation in the 15th Assembly. This complaint was the first test of that new process.

I'd like to thank everybody who was involved, particularly Mr. Hughes, who adjudicated marvellously; Mr. Gerrand, who accepted the letter of complaint initially; counsel for Mr. Hughes; and also the counsel for the respondent, Mr. Roland.

It is most gratifying to me that the complaint is not considered frivolous by the adjudicator. On page 36 of the report he wrote the following: "In my judgment the concern of the complainants that prompted their complaint to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and which in turn resulted in this inquiry was a fair and reasonable one to be taken to the Commissioner seeking confirmation of what they believed to be wrong."

I had a very definite reason for participating in the forwarding of the complaint to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. I did so because I believed, and I still believe, that the actions of the Premier were wrong. I did not bring the complaint forward because I was concerned about information leaking to Cabinet from committee. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner did not consider that concern to be part of the inquiry either. Nowhere in the terms of reference for the inquiry does it mention the exchange of confidential information. No, I was party to the complaint because I sought confirmation that the Premier had contravened the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, particularly section 75(a) of that act, and that confirmation was received from the adjudicator in his report.

Again, on page 36, the adjudicator said, "...I have given that confirmation and the reasons for it with the results that the contravention referenced in the terms of reference for this inquiry is found to exist." Again under "Disposition" on page 36 he says, "Counsel for Premier Roland was unsuccessful in convincing me that I should find that a contravention has not occurred."

On page 37 of the report the adjudicator wrote, "In my view Premier Roland made an error in judgment" and "...I have concluded he was in breach of the identified section of the act when he did so." All three of these statements tell me that Premier Roland did contravene the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and that I was right to pursue this complaint. It must be noted, though, that the adjudicator goes on to say that the complaint is dismissed, and I accept Mr. Hughes' determination of dismissal.

I stated before, when asked whether or not I would accept the results of this inquiry, that I would accept the report of the adjudicator and any of its recommendations wholeheartedly. There are no recommendations to consider, but I will support this motion to accept the report. With the tabling of Mr. Hughes' report last Friday and with this motion today, the process is now complete.

I have one last comment that I must make. As much as I love CBC North, I must say how disappointed I am that accurate media reporting of this story was so very lacking in their reports from last Friday and I'm grateful to Mr. Ramsay for clarifying the point of the inquiry and the conclusions within it today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I have very few words to say about this motion. I represent the people of Tu Nedhe and the people of Tu Nedhe do have mixed feelings on what has

occurred and what this Legislative Assembly should have done. I have given the people of Tu Nedhe opportunity to speak to me on the matter, and over the last year I have taken 12 trips into two of the communities that I do represent.

The majority of the people in Tu Nedhe didn't care to discuss this or had not given me the opportunity or taken the opportunity to discuss the conflict of interest inquiry with me. A few people, actually, that did discuss the report with me were mixed on it. Some people thought that the Premier should resign his position as Premier as a result of what had occurred, and some people said that there was absolutely no negative impacts upon them and thought that whatever report that came out of this should be accepted and that if that report made some recommendations, then those recommendations would be what the Legislative Assembly should follow.

I made a decision early in this that once the inquiry started, that I would accept the report and if the report had found that the Premier was in conflict, then it would be up to us as legislators on what the punishment would be.

So with those few words, I say that I support the motion and I accept the report. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a regrettable day in our Assembly that we need to be talking about a matter such as this.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier's conduct I believe has put all Members of this Assembly in a very untenable situation. We've had to ask ourselves do something or do nothing, and that's a question that I have had to ask myself many times during this process. Is this something that I can say and do nothing about?

I guess I have been in this Legislative Assembly for 14 years. I have devoted quite a large chunk of my working and adult life to this institution and it does bereave greatly when we have to deal with situations such as that before us today. I respect this institution and I think we all have an obligation, every one of us elected to this office, to try and uphold a standard that the people can feel is acceptable and we feel is acceptable amongst ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I have to ask these questions and I don't want to rehash what happened in the inquiry, but from me signing the letter came down to a question like this: Should the standing committees in our Legislature and the work they conduct have a reasonable expectation that they can work and speak freely without the partner of the person who is the head of our government being in the room? Should Members in the performance of their duties

in this House also reasonably expect that when they rise on a point of privilege or a point of order in this House, that the table officers who serve us should be free of any bias or perceived bias in assisting the Speaker in crafting responses to those points that are raised and very serious to Members in the performance of their duties?

Mr. Speaker, I am conflicted today because although I will accept the findings of the report, there are parts of it that I have a really difficult time with. Mr. Speaker, other Members have spoken to the integrity and the vast experience of Mr. Justice Hughes and Mr. Gerald Gerrand, and indeed they are highly respected, but I think that the findings of the report that the adjudicator did not have the opportunity to rule outside of the options and arguments that were available to him. In other words, he had to take the evidence before him and rule on that. He did not have the opportunity to bring his own opinion or anything. He could not pull something out of the air that was not presented.

As other Members have already alluded to, Mr. Speaker, the legislation has changed. It used to be that when a complaint was filed, that the Conflict Commissioner would then rule on that prima facie complaint to determine if further investigation was required and there was, that same Conflict Commissioner would then become the judge and the adjudicator of that complaint.

We, for various reasons that we won't revisit, decided that that process was not the best and that it was possible to refer this to a sole adjudicator. Mr. Speaker, in the changing of that legislation, it was determined that it not be in the government's rules or policy that the folks that were making the complaint or the person laying the complaint would be funded for any counsel. As we all know, counsel is very expensive and it would be difficult for Members to finance out of their own resources.

Mr. Speaker, none of the Members on this side of the House are lawyers, so we tried to the best of our ability, and I do thank those who were here for every day of the inquiry and worked really hard on this to participate in a process that was, in fact, not an inquisitorial process but an adversarial process. In fact, did not have the kind of guidance that would have perhaps made the kind that perhaps would have made the finding of this inquiry, may have had a different outcome, but we can only speculate.

Mr. Speaker, when all of the facts of this inquiry are boiled down, what do we have left? Mr. Speaker, we are the police of our own conduct in this Legislative Assembly. Was Mr. Roland fair to the Members in his dealings with us in this manner? Was his a standard of conduct that we can be confident in and proud of?

Mr. Speaker, I must say that in the finding of an error in judgment as a layperson and not a lawyer, an error in judgment speaks to me of something

inadvertent and perhaps kind of something spontaneous and on the spur of the moment and not something that would go on for an extended period of time like weeks or months.

The other part of that error in judgment made in good faith, I actually took it upon myself to look up what "good faith" meant and I actually looked it up in the dictionary and it means with honest intentions, an error in judgment, an inadvertent decision made with honest intentions.

It was indicated that because of the Premier's busy schedule that he didn't have time to consider the Members of this House and he wanted to make sure that the relationship was permanent. As the report indicates, he had opportunity at several junctures to share this relationship even in a discreet manner with those who were in positions of authority, such as the Speaker or the Clerk. Mr. Speaker, we did not expect that the Premier needed to take out an advertisement on the front page of the newspaper to say that this relationship had developed, but there were ways of discreetly and sensitively dealing with this, but the Premier did not take advantage of that.

Mr. Speaker, some of the other Members have made comments that I would like to respond to, but I am just going to stick to the report. I have to say, though, that this is not a spy drama. You know, as a matter of fact, there was no spying. We didn't even know the Premier was in a relationship with the Clerk until it was disclosed to us and we found out. It never crossed our minds. We never thought of it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I guess it's important that all Members who are elected to this level of public office consider what would be a normal and acceptable standard of conduct.

Mr. Speaker, I will say today that I sincerely regret the day that I supported Premier Floyd Roland in his bid for Premier and my heart has gone out of this job to some extent. It may never come back. Because I was proud to be a Member of this...I find it hard to come in here. Sorry.

I have been spending some time in my office this week because I like to be passionate about my job, I like to be enthusiastic about it. I cannot come in here anymore with that same enthusiasm because of what we have allowed to happen. I'm sorry. I only have two years to go and I will not run again. I am sad to say that my heart is not here anymore because of this.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, as well, would like to say a few brief words about the motion which I will, as well, be supporting. We are here in this Legislature today for political closure, as it were. Because the complaint

was dismissed, there is no legal obligation for us to have any say any further. The case was decided when Mr. Hughes dismissed the complaint, but it was thought that it would help us move forward for the remaining 689 days that we have left before us.

My political perspective on this whole thing starts right back when this Assembly was elected. We came here and we picked Cabinet and we started business. It's been a long, twisting and often bumpy road to get us 25 months into our term. And this is, in my mind, the last, hopefully, chapter of that bumpy road that we have now this report before this House that has been dismissed. We can talk of the content, rationale and justification all we want and Members have done that, as is their right, but the reality for us in the North is that we have very few months left. This is an important issue to put behind us. A decision has been made and now we have to look forward at the very, very many things we have to do.

I have been in this House, as well, over 14 years and there are definitely peaks and valleys in this business. It is very overwhelming at times. You wonder why you are here and what you're doing. Our job today, I believe, is to politically bring closure to this. A decision had been done. Whether we say yes or no that we don't agree, the reality is the decision is done because there was no finding. There was no other consequence or punishment being recommended by Mr. Hughes.

So I hope we can all, once we have our say here today, agree that we are going to look for the future and the things we have to do with rate reviews, energy, cost of living, housing, education, health, you name it. So I will be accepting this report and I will be looking to the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this whole situation has left a bad taste in all of our mouths and a bad taste across the Northwest Territories and it's unfortunate. As much as we have our views on certain things and as much as we don't like the situation, Mr. Hughes is a man of great integrity in my opinion. Therefore, the motion is very simple. It just says that the report of the sole adjudicator be accepted and that's what I intend to do today, is vote for the report of the sole adjudicator to be accepted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Assembly, I have waited over a year to say my piece. Now, there are a couple of roads I can take here to set the record straight for some of the information shared, some of the discussion that has

taken place behind closed doors, some of the things that the people of the Northwest Territories do not see, how things are reported in the media. The grand kickoff of this by CBC is one thing. I could go down that path. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I have held onto is trying to maintain a level of approach that this institution does deserve.

Now, I know this whole scenario is about a decision that I made regarding my personal life and it did have an impact on this Legislative Assembly. As Members of the Legislative Assembly and one of the longest serving -- there are four of us here -- and the longest-serving Members have much experience through every Assembly with, unfortunately, something of this nature when it comes to the conflict process.

I have listened to Members. Some have come and talked to me. I have heard from many people of the Territories who've said many things to me regarding the whole scenario. I must say right now, I must send out thanks to all of those who phoned me, spoke to me in person and told me that we need to get on with business; that this level of debate shouldn't have happened, shouldn't occur in this Assembly.

The fact is we are here. The fact is I made a call on my life that affected my family that, because of my position, that decision affected to a much higher degree than it would have been if I had of remained as a mechanic in Inuvik twenty-some, 14-some years ago.

How many people of this Legislative Assembly, even the ones who have served as long as I have, know a great deal about me besides the political life we have together in?

So, yes, Mr. Speaker, we went through a process. I made a decision that impacted my life, it impacted this Assembly. I know it's impacted Members, as well, to the point where I was called to speak to Members of this Assembly in a forum that is usually allowed for Members to air this type of discussion, to be weighed and measured to a certain degree. I believe I was weighed and measured. Members may not like the decision I made and the impacts it had and, believe me, Mr. Speaker, in hindsight, I would advise anybody else don't go down the path I have gone down. At the same time, I would have to say a matter of the heart is one that takes over all other matters at times.

As Mr. Hughes has put in his report to this Assembly, I made an error of judgment made in good faith because I chose to notify a family that I had started and was in for 20 years over Members of this Legislative Assembly. That is not taken lightly. Let's not forget that it was I who came forward to say this was happening. It was not discovered by anybody else. I came forward after I informed my wife and children.

We have gone down a path that will mark the record books forever, unfortunately. In a question during this process, a question was asked of one of the witnesses. What did they think that Mr. Roland gained from this? And there was a bit of a smirk and a chuckle; I don't think he gained anything. In fact, by my choice, I caused pain to those I care most deeply about, because I made a choice. I caused pain to others that I started to look at a new life with. There is enough pain in that decision alone than to have it elevated to the national scene.

Mr. Speaker, as we went through this process, I was not sure of the outcome, but I went to the Members as I notified the appropriate people and this process started off and Members gave me the opportunity to speak to them in Caucus that I felt even though Members were not happy with my personal decision, they felt that they could get on with the work that we needed to do as a Legislative Assembly. Then it culminated into the motion of non-confidence, another time we are weighed and measured. And now we are to this stage.

I accept that everybody needs to say what they need to say, so that they can put out there why they felt this had to happen. Some would like to put words into my mouth about how I should take the next steps. I will never satisfy every Member in this Assembly. I don't think any of us can say we can stand up here and say we will satisfy every Member of the Legislative Assembly. But I am sincerely sorry that a decision I made has left a mark on my family, on this institution and my relationship with the Members of this Legislative Assembly. I know the professional people that are in place that have upheld their end, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, a difficult task that is, the adjudicator, the job he did. We have come to this point and I have waited for months, still getting on with the work we needed to do to see where this would go.

We are now faced with this report and it says, yes, that I did breach section 75(a) but it was also dismissed. Would I make that same decision again? The decision would have come sooner. Would that stop some of this process? I can't say that for sure.

We have had a very adversarial process in this Assembly, but I am hoping, by getting to this point, that we will be able to move on for the interest of the people of the Northwest Territories, that we will be able to put them first and not ourselves first, and to the people of the Northwest Territories, I apologize because I made a decision for myself first. But I also know that many people in the Northwest Territories would say sometimes you have to take care of yourself. I have been told by all others that I didn't handle this in the best way, but this is no business for the Legislative Assembly.

I don't know what tomorrow brings, Mr. Speaker. I just know that I have counted on the support of Members of this Assembly, the majority of Members, and we all have to do that as a Cabinet, for the initiatives, for what we do. I am not asking Members to agree with my choice I made in my life.

Again, I do apologize that my choices caused such harm to the people and to the relationship I have with Members, but I also know there are enough Members who believe in what we have the possibility in the Northwest Territories that we can work together and move forward, get over this.

There is so much more that we could be doing. One wrong followed by another wrong doesn't make a right. There are many people who would say my choice in timing was not a good choice. I have still a longer journey to go through with my own family.

I accept the report. It stated the facts. In hindsight, as I told the adjudicator, I should have come sooner. But let's not forget that I did come forward. Nobody told me I had to. I believed at that time that was the time; now, in hindsight, yes, sooner.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I hope that once we vote on this, we can go forward and focus on the business of the Legislative Assembly and the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into my comments, I want to make a significant acknowledgement to the families that have gone through this process. They have suffered greatly, all of them. As much as the Members here have been involved, the family side of this has probably taken a significant beating that we will never understand and appreciate.

Mr. Speaker, many events have unfolded in such a way that I can't imagine any of us would have foreseen the direction it would have taken and certainly brought us to. In all honesty, in the tone of this Assembly, you don't hear enthusiasm. You hear people struggling with their words, even the six of them who wrote the initial letter to Mr. Gerrand. You can still hear the tone of struggle in the sense that this has changed the way we do business. It certainly hasn't changed the way some people feel. I can appreciate and recognize that.

Mr. Speaker, I definitely define today is not a hallmark moment of this Assembly but the truth being is that I certainly hope this is one we can learn from and move forward on. Many people have said that they will accept the report. I certainly hope that that will be the beginning of a healing, a new day, a new way forward. From my point of view, this has been a struggle and a negative tone over the Assembly for a whole year. This tone has caused many difficulties. In leading up to the release of Mr.

Hughes' report, I encouraged the Premier no matter what it said, I said accept the report. He said he was well positioned to accept the report no matter what way it went. Therefore, if I say stuff like that, we should be accepting the report, I see no reason why I couldn't be committed to that. I will be voting in favour of the report.

Mr. Speaker, the public has been mixed on what has come forward. Not everyone is completely happy with what has happened here. The report is mixed in and of itself. But there are a lot of people that want to see this Assembly close this door, close this chapter and say please don't open this door again and move forward. This issue undoubtedly has divided us. My only fear is it will continue to divide us. I just hope that those who accept the report are doing it for the right reasons. I hope those who are accepting the report are doing it because they want to. I hope those who are accepting the report do it because they think it is the right choice.

Mr. Speaker, I have said different times that these are dark days. I am very hopeful that this will be the day that we start to let the light back through the Assembly. I have come here and I have had many differences with various Members but deep down inside, I think all of us, even on the ugly days, are still great Members. I think all of us have something inspiring to provide for others, regardless of sometimes we trip over the way we do things. But I think we all provide significant value to the Assembly and to the people of the Northwest Territories.

The tone of this situation has changed the way we do business, but I think through a path of opportunity we can find ourselves again. I think through that path all we have to say to ourselves is we can believe again in each other. We can believe in what we are doing. We can believe in where we want to go, because I certainly do.

I came to this Assembly in 2003 and again in 2007 in the hope of opportunity, in the hope of great things our Assembly can do. I see the people of the North really are inspired by the stuff we can do, the stuff we can get behind, the stuff we can propel forward and say we want to move our Territory this much further forward this time. Sometimes that is not measured in miles, sometimes not even measured in metres. Sometimes it is so thin it is a slight sliver of paper that the change is so small but it can have such a profound effect. That is why people put us here. That is why I am here, because I am so excited about coming to work even on the dark days, Mr. Speaker, because I know those clouds will pass. I know opportunity will be coming before us where we can get behind the Territory from one side to the other, from large communities to small communities. I think we are all here for a

reason. I really believe in that. I look forward to what we can do.

Mr. Speaker, this cloud, I am convinced, can part today. As I said before, let's not just close the door, let's shut it down, lock it and pack it away, because I don't want to see it again. This has been a lengthy process, as I have said before, but I think we can do this by setting it aside and say, no more.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a tone of reflection. I am happy to hear that. I believe the words Mr. Roland has said are true and from his heart. I think we all know what has happened here today. I think it is about time to look forward. I think that is the opportunity here, certainly not looking back, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, overwhelmingly, my constituents have told me that they would like to see us get back to work. They would like to see this not hold us down, because they know the good work we can do here. So, again, I say this chapter must be closed.

Mr. Speaker, I have gotten to know Mr. Roland very well over the years. At many times I admire the work he does and the work hopefully he can do in the future. By saying that, that does not mean I agree with the path he chose, but I still respect what he does for his work and I still do respect his commitment to his children, Mr. Speaker. That's still very admirable.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I think we can learn more about ourselves here now about how we've dealt with this, as well as how much more we can go through in the future. The only value in this, yes, Mr. Hughes did provide some direction and suggestions and he sets the final disposition of this report, but, Mr. Speaker, I think the end value of this is the fact that the lawyers are the winners, the historians are the winners and the darn media is the winner in this scenario. No one here is this building is the winner. No one's going to go out of this room today and be championing, yay, yay, yay. The fact is, I hope when the vote comes, it's clear, decisive and over, because I think before us we can, again, shoot for a new beginning.

So I passionately believe in our opportunity here. I passionately believe in who we all are, every one of us here. And I passionately believe that we can finish today's vote and move forward and speak to the tone of why we are here and start this with not just the new beginning of less than two years, but a new beginning of opportunity for us all. Mr. Speaker, may we all get back to work with the right perspective and the right tone.

I thank the constituents of Yellowknife Centre for providing me insight on the direction and their sentiments of how they feel about this issue. It doesn't represent all of them and complete but, as I said earlier, the overwhelming number of them have said they would like to see this closed and we

move forward and on to the business of the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being a Member of this House going on four terms and 14 years in to this office, this has always been the hardest part of the job, from the 13th Assembly to where we are today.

I think one thing that we realize every time we go through this process, we all get tarred with the same brush regardless of who it was or who it is or what the outcomes are. It does affect the image of this office and I think it's important to realize we all have a major role to play in consensus government regardless if it's Members of the Executive, Members of this side of the House and Members of the executive...(inaudible)...and, more importantly, the honour and aspirations that we are here to serve. It's the people of the Northwest Territories. When we cannot even trust ourselves or be honest enough to each other to admit that something was going on, for me, that is the problem I have. I had to get an e-mail from a particular spouse to realize this was happening. I didn't clue in that this was even on the radar.

I think, for myself, to have been involved in the committee struck and going out to different hearings, being involved in the day-to-day deliberations of this House, committee structures and the role that we all play, realizing that we all have certain roles to play in the movement of legislation through this House, regardless of how we debate it, what we say in camera or basically how the outcome turns out, that it's important that the dignity of this institution is upheld. I think that's the issue for me.

Mr. Speaker, contravention of section 75(1)(a) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act has definitely been breached. I think, if anything, the outcome and the findings of this report and the amount of time and money that was put into this thing, I think, at the end of it all, yes, there is a motion before us here today. But the question is, have we learned anything from this experience. Is anything going to change in regard to how we do business? Is anything going to happen to improve the way we deal with each other as Members? I think that is the threshold of this problem; that there are fine lines drawn in the sand and certain people are on one side of the line and certain people on the other. Until we remove that fine line, we will never get over this hurdle of the dignity and aspirations of who we're here to serve and be honest and trustworthy to each other. If we know there's something going on or something's happening, at least have the ability to talk to each other. For me, that is the missing link on this

process. We didn't have to go there. I think if we were honest with each other and this issue came forward when it should have and not waited six or eight months down the road, we wouldn't have had to go through this process.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's crucially important to realize that the judgment here is fair regardless of the individuals that brought this issue forward by way of the complaint, but they also are resonating to how this happened. They made the decision to get to the bottom of this. To make an issue, but again, was it a fair and transparent process? For me, it wasn't. But again, that's the decision that's going to have to be decided by the Board of Management and look at the rules and procedures of this House and how we go forward.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it's so vital that we honestly -- honestly -- leave this room tonight with a breakthrough in relationships between that side of the House and Members on this side of the House regardless of who signed the letter or who didn't. We have to get past that. If that's what's going to happen here tonight, well, hopefully it does. But if it doesn't, for myself, I've seen too many bridges burned over the years because of personalities. I've seen too many good people get worked over or worked out of their potential because of frustration. I think it's so critical that we, as legislators here tonight, make the decision of moving forward honestly. That's all we ask: be honest about where we are going from here forward. I think it's so essential that we, as Legislators and Members of the 16th Assembly...We swore an oath when we came to this office to uphold the aspirations and dignity of this House and, more importantly, to serve those people of the Northwest Territories regardless of stature. I think we've got to do that.

Mr. Speaker, in regards to the inquiry and the commission, I, for one, feel that they did the job with the tools they had. They made the decisions in regard to the judgment of what they had presented in front of them. Yes, I think it could have been opened up a little more and allowed for more inclusion of certain people who, basically, were not able to defend themselves, but I think, more importantly, to allow for a process that's open, transparent and also the whole conclusion is to bring closure to whatever process we go through.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the decision that we all stood here today and I, again, would like to say we're all losers here, there's no winners, there's losers, and we are all losers. I think we've got to realize that and I think it's important to realize, Mr. Speaker, that we seriously, seriously take this motion for some meaning and make changes going forward for the benefit of all the people in the Northwest Territories and get over these petty battles that we've been fighting going on two years,

ever since we got into office, from the election of the Executive Council, to where we are today.

Like I say, in 14 years, this is not the first Legislature that's gone through this. If anything, every Legislature I've been in has gone through this, but the thing is that that's all people remember of those Legislatures that what we've gone through are the bad things that happen and, basically, never talk about the good things that we can accomplish without having to go through these types of events.

So, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I'd like to move a motion to amend.

**MOTION TO AMEND MOTION 4-16(4):
REPORT OF SOLE ADJUDICATOR –
ROLAND INQUIRY,
DEFEATED**

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that motion 4-16(4) be amended by adding in the following after the seventh paragraph of the motion:

“AND WHEREAS the sole adjudicator found in the report that the concerns of the complainants that prompted their complaint which resulted in this inquiry was a fair and reasonable one to be taken to the Commissioner seeking confirmation of what they believed to be wrong;

AND WHEREAS the sole adjudicator also found that Premier Roland performed his duties of office and arranged his private affairs in such a manner that he failed to maintain public confidence in his integrity, objectivity and impartiality as a result of entering into an intimate relationship with the Principal Clerk of Committees without the timely disclosure of that relationship.”

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

MR. SPEAKER: To the original motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just add a few words to the debate today.

Mr. Speaker, I, like many others here, did not know what would be included in this report. I spent some time on the weekend reading this report and I must say I had to read it a few times. I know Commissioner Hughes. He was our Conflict of Interest Commissioner. He used to walk up and

down the hall. I loved finding moments here and there to talk to him. He's a wise, well-learned, highly respected and a reputable man in the legal world, but also for a lot of work that he has done. I think we are lucky to have a man of his calibre who chose to take this project.

Mr. Speaker, in reading this -- and I think this is my own interpretation -- I think we often get asked the question, if you could spend time with one person, maybe have dinner, have coffee, who would you chose? I would love to spend some time with Commissioner Hughes to see what his thinking was -- because what I have to say is just my own opinion about what I'm reading -- I think what he's trying to do in this report is give us a chance to have a big group hug. I don't mean to make light of this, but this is what I'm seeing. He took pains to show that he listened to all of the six Members who filed the complaint. He made it clear that the Members had the right to file those complaints, and for those who are concerned that those Members were not represented by counsel, I don't think there should be any worries about that.

He quoted all the Members. He found a lot. He got a lot out of the testimonies of the Members unrepresented. Any lawyer who practices in the legal world, we are always scared of appearing before non-represented lawyers because a good judiciary listens even more carefully to those who are not represented. So I'm glad, Mr. Speaker, that the report found that the Members had the right to bring those issues forward. As has already been stated, the Commissioner looked at all of the facts and really, basically, came down to say, okay, you're right to raise this complaint, yes, there was a breach, but this really comes down to a man's judgment.

On page 37 it says, and I quote, on the bottom of the paragraph, "The emotional strain that he had been through" -- referring to Mr. Roland -- "was evident when he gave his evidence." He says, the Commissioner says, "There is neither a book nor a set of guidelines to follow in order to determine when to make the disclosure of such a relationship. As he said, he and Ms. Bisaro concluded in their discussion 'there is no real right time to do this.' In my assessment finding the answer to that dilemma all comes down to the application of one's own judgment." Commissioner Hughes is saying that it's on man's judgment, there's not a book, there's no rule or regulation that says when is the timing good. Yes, he made an error in judgment, but it was made in good faith. He's telling us you had the right to raise the issue, but it was done in good faith and on the last paragraph he's sending a message to us, on page 38, "I would hope", and this is the message that I'm working with and I think this is the message the Commissioner is sending me, this is just my own interpretation, maybe if I have dinner with him 10 years from now he will say I got it wrong. I read

this a lot and I think he is sending us all, the whole House a message. I think that's a message that a lot of us want to live with today and he says on page 38, I quote, "I would hope that the tone of that debate will reflect the civility which prevailed at this hearing, and that when the Assembly opens in the New Year it will be for an amicable and productive session."

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that we had one of the most renowned and reputed legal minds that looked at our question, he took our questions very seriously, he looked at all the evidence and he said at the end of the day it comes to one's judgment. He could have done better, maybe worse, but it was made in good faith and get on with your work. That's how I read this report, I believe that's what the people say. I believe Mr. Roland said right at the beginning of the year, when he said he has to answer to his family and his God and that he will do that for the rest of his working life and personal life.

Mr. Speaker, as many Members have said, we have so much work to do for the remainder of the two years, I do hope that this is a closure. I don't like the word closure, I think it's an evolving process, but I think that this is a good point to move forward and to try to get the work done for the rest of the term for the people of the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. I'll allow the mover of the motion closing remarks. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank all of my colleagues who chose to speak to the motion today. As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, I will accept the result of this inquiry and I respect it as well. This motion is the end of this matter for me and I think and I hope that I speak for all the complainants when I say that.

I want to quote, if I can, Mr. Speaker, one final section of Mr. Hughes' report, which stood out immediately for me when I read it, and I quote Mr. Hughes from page 35 of that report: "The fact is he" -- the Premier -- "did not make the disclosure until he was satisfied that his relationship with Ms. Russell had cemented into a permanent one. What of course was wrong with that was that his primary responsibility to his colleagues in the House, the democratic institution they serve and the maintenance of public confidence and trust of those he was elected to lead took second place during that period of time."

It is true, Mr. Speaker, that this process has taken some of our time, it's taken some of our resources, but I want the public to know and I take issue with what some Members had to say that work hasn't been done by Members of this Legislative Assembly over the past year. Work has certainly been done, Mr. Speaker, and a tremendous amount of work has been done both by my Cabinet

colleagues across the floor and Regular Members of this side of the House who go to committee meetings and do the work on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. Good work has been getting done. Unfortunately, this issue has clouded things somewhat. It's been a black cloud that's been hanging over the building and I'm certainly glad that the report is here, that we can put this to rest and, as many Members have said, move on.

Mr. Speaker, I accept the fact that the Premier's breach of the act and his error in judgment were conducted in good faith. There are no winners that emerge from this process, and other Members have talked about that, only damage to the integrity of our institution and public confidence in the leadership of this Territory. We all need to make sure that we all take the steps that are necessary to restore that integrity and that confidence that the public has in this institution and this government.

As this matter draws to conclusion, only the Premier can determine the way forward and I'd like to thank the Premier for offering up an apology earlier in these proceedings and I accept the Premier's what I believe was a heartfelt apology to the people of the Northwest Territories and to the Regular Members on this side of the House and to his Cabinet colleagues as well, Mr. Speaker. I thank him for that. Only he can determine what needs to be done to ensure that the people we represent in the institution we serve no longer take second place to anything.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it abundantly clear that we have to work together, and, as was mentioned by other Members, the actions of any Member have an impact on all the other Members of this House as -- I believe it was Mr. Krutko alluded to it -- we all get painted with the same brush. So I just want Members to realize that when something's happened and you make decisions or you take an action, it could potentially have a negative impact not only on your colleagues, but on the institution in general.

So I wanted to make sure I mention that, as well, and, again, there has been much good work done by this government, by the Regular Members here over the past year while this has been out there, and I wanted to again publicly thank Mr. Hughes, the Premier, his counsel, the complainants who signed the initial letter and, like I said earlier, my constituents and the residents in the Northwest Territories who have lent their support to me throughout this process and to my family. This is a trying thing on everybody, Mr. Speaker. I spent all weekend thinking about today and it certainly is draining. I've obviously got many other things I can be doing at home other than thinking about this motion coming up today and trying to put some closure on this and move this forward.

So, again, I just wanted to thank everybody that's involved. I know it's been trying on everybody and I do believe we have lots of opportunity here to work together and to move this operation forward in a positive direction. Again, I wanted to say thank you as well, Mr. Speaker, for your work as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. We're ready for the vote. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, I failed to request a recorded vote. I'd like to request a recorded vote on the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is requesting a recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Ramsay; Mrs. Groenewegen; Mr. Beaulieu; Mr. Hawkins; Ms. Bisaro; Mr. Yakeleya; Mr. Lafferty; Ms. Lee; Mr. Miltenberger; Mr. Roland; Mr. McLeod, Dehcho; Mr. McLeod, Inuvik Twin Lakes; Mr. McLeod, Yellowknife South; Mr. Krutko; Mr. Bromley; Mr. Abernethy; Mr. Menicoche.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed to the motion, please stand. All those abstaining from the motion, please stand. Results of the motion: all those in favour, 17; those opposed, zero; abstaining, zero. The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Item 18, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 4: AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

BILL 5:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
COMMISSIONER'S LAND ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 18-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010; Tabled Document 19-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010; Committee Report 1-16(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Annual Reports; and Committee Report 2-16(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Auditor General on Contracting for Goods and Services in the Northwest Territories, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole
of Bills and Other Matters**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I call Committee of the Whole to order. We are in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 18-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010; Tabled Document 19-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010; Committee Report 1-16(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Annual Reports; Committee Report 2-16(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Auditor General on Contracting for Goods and Services in the Northwest Territories; and Committee Report 4-16(4), Report on the Review of the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: 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 would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. There's a motion on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 3rd, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
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

- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act
- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 18-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 (Operations Expenditures), 2009-2010
- Tabled Document 19-16(4), Supplementary Appropriation No. 3 (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2009-2010
- Committee Report 1-16(4), Report on the Review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Annual Reports
- Committee Report 2-16(4), Report on the Review of the Auditor General on Contracting for Goods and Services in the Northwest Territories
- Committee Report 4-16(4), Report on the Review of the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 3rd, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 16:48 p.m.